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FAMILY REGISTER
OF
JOSEPH ROGERS UNDERWOOD
1834—1850

(Typed copy made in 1948, from manuscript copy made in 1892, by Bryd Rogers, from the original. Present location of original not known.)

FAMILY REGISTER.

(1.)

1834
Sept. 25th

I have purchased this book for the purpose of registering those occurrences which transpire in my family which may be considered important by any of its members. It is my wish that my wife & children keep a diary of events, & that they will insert conversations & opinions which interest & entertain them. This book may be made a history of our lives & as such will present an example of good or bad to those who peruse it, provided everything is faithfully & truly put down. I regret that I have not had such a register regularly kept since my marriage.

J. R. Underwood.

Joseph Rogers Underwood was born in Goochland Co. Va. on the 24th of Oct. 1791. His father was named John Underwood--his grandfather named Thomas (1a) Underwood--his great grandfather was an emigrant from England who came to Va. when a boy late in the 17th or early in the 18th century. His grandfather & great grandfather married ladies named Taylor. His father married Frances Rogers, daughter of George Rogers, the son of John Rogers the son of _____ Rogers the son of Giles Rogers an Englishman who came to Va. about the time the colony was settled. The Rogers family lived in King, Queen & Caroline counties Va. The Underwood family lived in Hanover & Goochland. George Rogers married Frances Pollard the daughter of Joseph Pollard & Priscilla whose maiden name was Holmes. The wife of John Rogers father of George was named Mary Byrd. J. R. Underwood was given by his parents to Edmund Rogers his uncle who brought him to Kentucky in the spring of 1803 & Educated him. In May 1813 he was badly wounded in Dudleys defeat. In March 1814 he settled in Glasgow as a practicing lawyer having made (2) his first speech at the bar in Bowling Green the preceeding Feb. in which month he received \$2.50 in silver, the first fee he ever got from a man named John Carrier. In 1816 he was elected to the Legislature & represented Barren Co. four years successively. In March 1817 on the 26th day he married Eliza M. Trotter, the daughter of John Trotter, the son of Wm Trotter who died in Scott Co. Ky. Wm Trotter father was an Irishman The mother of Eliza M. Trotter was Chalia Rice the daughter of David Rice the first Presbyterian preacher that came to Ky--his wife was named Mary Blair. J. R. Underwood moved from Glasgow to Bowling Green in Nov. 1823. In 1825 he was elected to represent Warren Co. He was also elected in 1826. In 1828 he was a candidate for the office of Lieut. Gov.--But was not elected. John Breathitt his competitor succeeding. In Dec. 1828 he was commissioned one of the judges of the Court of Appeals. On the 21st of Feb. 1835 he resigned this office. In August 1835 he was elected to represent the 3rd Congressional District. In (2a) Aug. 1837 he was elected to Congress without opposition. On the 27th of Feb. 1839 he was married (a second time) to Elisabeth Cox. In Aug. 1839 he was re-elected to Congress. In Apr. 1841 he was re-elected to Congress having been nominated by a convention against his wishes & without his knowledge. In Nov. 1844 he was elected an Elector to choose a President & Vice President. He was elected to the same office in 1824. In Aug. 1845 he was elected to represent Warren Co. in the Legislature & chosen by that body to preside as Speaker. On the 12th of Feb. 1847 he was elected to the Senate of the U. S. The following are the names of the children of J. R. Underwood.

- 1st. Eugene Underwood born in Glasgow 4th of April 1818. Married in Nashville to Catherine Thompson on the 13th of Oct 1846.
- 2nd. Lucian Underwood born in Glasgow 1st of Mar. 1820---died in Bowling Green on the 3rd of Mar. 1824.
- 3rd. Julia Underwood born in Glasgow 23rd Apr. 1822---married John T. Cox on the day--- of ---.
- 4th. Calvin Underwood born in Bowling Green 7th of June 1824 (3) died at the house of Thos Rogers in Warren Co (Hazlewood) on the 9th of April 1827.
- 5th. Eliza Underwood born in Bowling Green 26th of January 1828 about 2 oclock A. M. when the town was firing guns etc. on account of the arrival of the first steam boat on the preceeding evening.
- 6th. Jane Underwood born at Hazlewood on the 28th of May 1830.
- 7th. Joseph Underwood born in Bowling Green on the 10th of May 1833---died on the 5th of Oct 1833 in the room where he was born.
- 8th. John Trotter Underwood born in Bowling Green on the 5th of May 1835 in the lower room of the "L" part of my house. Note--On her death bed & a day or so before she died Mrs. Underwood requested her husband to name this child Joseph. The name of the child has been written in the Bible where the names of the children are registered- J. J. Underwood so that he may take the name of John or Joseph or both when he is grown. Sweet boy! He never lived to select his name. He died on the 22nd day of June (3a) 1838 in the house of his birth when his father was absent in Washington City. His aunt Malvina M. Todd took care of him from the death of his mother. He was^a beautiful child but uncommonly delicate.

Family Register

1834

Sept 25

" 26

" 29

" 28

The Rev. Nathan Hall preached in the Baptist Church this evening. The family went to hear him. He is a forcible & impressive speaker.

The Rev. Benj. O. Peers left us this morning for Lexington. He has made a tour through the Green River Country delivering talks on the subject of education. He was invited to take charge as Pres. of the Southern College & was willing to do so provided a sum would be raised sufficient to erect suitable buildings--purchase apparatus etc. The minimum was fixed at \$6000. in addition to the property now owned by the college Upwards of \$4000. have been raised.

I spent a great part of today with Thos. Rogers who is very sick & believes that he will not recover. Eugene was sent to Capt Cradocks to borrow (4) row \$425 for Mr. Rogers to enable him to purchase Jos. M. Lapsleys land. Capt. C. lent the money & I became surety for its repayment.

Twice last night Jane exclaimed in her sleep "Dont, I'm most down in the grave," & to day she asked her mother "What does God make me die for?" Her Mother said God made her die to take her up to Heaven. Jane replied "it was a bad God to make her die for nothing." She is a singular child & makes us of many expressions indicative of strange conceits. Not long since she saw a turkey stretch one of its wings & legs back & immediately asked "Is the turkey going to pray?" Dr. Waggoner of Frankfort staid with us last night--he talks of moving to this quarter. Today Julia & Eliza were playing & got a little angry. Julia slapped Eliza on the head & broke her comb. Sensible of their fault both the girls cried. Julia wept with real sorrow. Eliza told her that she had rather the comb had been broken all to pieces than Julia should make herself sick crying over it. Julia said she rather broken her own comb than Eliza's. I hope the girls from this in- (4a) didnt will see how improper it is to get angry & strike each other.

- Sept 29th There was considerable frost last night, but vegetation does not appear to be much affected by it. Mr. Underwood left home for Frankfort this evening. There he will be engaged in his official business six weeks or two months. Our separation was a cheerful one. Jane continued to call "goodby" till her Father's fast trotting horse got him out of hearing.
- Oct. 1st Eugene left us last night in the stage with the expectation of meeting his father at Mr. Bell's where he intends taking his father's horse & visiting his uncle E. Rogers--his father taking the stage.
- " 2nd Heard of the death of Mr. Gibbs today which I regretted very much. He was a pious man, a member of the Presbyterian church & an excellent citizen. Eugene returned today from Edmonton with Maria Gorin from Glasgow, also a colt from Edmonton. Eugene in attempting to ride one of his father's blooded colts received a severe fall & was senseless for sometime. This is a most lovely evening -- it has been cloudy & raining for several days -- the clouds dispersed with 2 hrs before sunset. The evening is mild and calm.
- " 6th
- " 8th
- " 21st Jane waked up this morning, & said "Mother are you dying? -- if you die I want to die with you. Visited my mother yesterday evening & there unexpectedly met my brother whom I had not seen for four years. Mr. Hall & family staid with us last night. Mrs Pope, Mrs Hall's mother was there--a lady of 85 years of age. Mr. H. had been in B. Green for several days holding a protracted meeting. He is animated & solemn speaker. His sermons seemed to make a deep impression on his audience. Last night & the night before there were a number came forward to be conversed with & to pray with Christians that their souls might be saved. Old Mr Barkley was buried today. Mr. David & Miss Funston are to be married this evening.
- Dec 1st. Reached home after an absence of two months & find the family well with the exception of Isaac. Travelled all day thro the rain. Staid last night in Glasgow. Yesterday to M. W. Henry's new ferry saw him & a negro man Gabriel making arrangements to put the ferry into operation. Gabriel was laughing at a wagoner who seemed to be afraid (5a) to cross the river. Today Gabriel is a corpse, having been drowned. Mr. H. & Gabriel were out in the river in a canoe raising a rope, & managed so as to turn the canoe over. Gabriel could not swim. Mr. H. had his greatcoat on & with difficulty swam to a bush, got hold of it & was saved. Gabriel belonged to my brother Warner who is absent in Texas. I wrote a letter at the request of Harry--Gabriel's brother, giving information of the above occurrence to their mother, thro Miss Elizabeth Underwood of Russellville.
- " 3rd.
- " 11th. Returned home today from Wm H Skiles where I went yesterday evening in company with J F Todd. I rode on my young horse "Experiment" purchased of E Rogers at \$180. I engaged 1500 lbs of pork of Mr. Skiles at the price of \$2.75 per cwt. My daughters Julia & Eliza commenced learning to play on the piano a few days ago under the tuition of Miss Louise Lodge of Boston. Paid the Quigley's \$50.25 for a pair of harness bought for me in Phila. The Rev Benj. Temple staid last night at my house. I wrote to him to come up & make Gov. Morehead a deed for six lots in B. (6) Green, or rather to make the deed to the President & Director of the Bank of the Commonwealth the assignees of the Gov. who had made an assignment to settle a large debt due them with property. Temple made the deed & I was requested to attend to the business for Morehead & did so. Mr Bennett a Baptist preacher of more talent than is usually found among those of his denomination is in B. Green. He preached to day & will preach tomorrow (Sunday). He is engaged in collecting funds to sustain a missionary establishment. We have had several delightful days for the season--very clear & not very cold. The black cow had a pided calf last night. My
- " 13th

Dec 16th

daughter Eliza requests me to put down that Mr Jones the teacher of the Female school & all his scholars have been turned out of the Baptist Church because the scholars marked the walls. This happened a few days ago. Shortly after Christmas the Female Seminary buildings will be ready for the accommodation of the school of Mr Jones. Eliza & I are alone - Jane is asleep in the trundle bed -- my wife & Julia are at Church to hear Mr. Bennett. Received of Wm H. Skiles 1509 lbs of pork (6a) purchased at \$2.75 per cwt. Weather wam & fearful that the pork will not be good. Mr Gossom made us a present of a China pig. Attended a meeting of the citizens of Bowling Green last night to consult on the subject of supplying the town with water by a cistern & pipes. Distributed \$23.93 $\frac{3}{4}$ among my servants giving three dollars a piece & paying the men for one tenth of the crop of corn etc that being the share I allow them for pocket money. Miss Lodge has assigned her scholars the tune which they are to play at the examination.

" 18th

Today I had a discussion with the Rev. Wm Warden as to what it was my duty to do in the following case. He is bound with me in a bond for the redemption of the notes of the Bank of Green River in circulation. I redeemed six or seven hundreds Dollars in the hands of Taylor to whom I had to give my note for \$130. or \$140. After doing this I wrote to Mr Warden what I had done & stated if he should help me pay the note to Taylor I would let him have a part of the notes of the Bank which I got of Taylor & upon the same terms I got them. (7) I got them at half their amount. I surrendered the notes thus taken in from Taylor to the Bank in payment for property purchased & thus put it out of my power to comply with the promise I made Warden, but I hold at the time notes on the Bank which had been presented & protested for non-payment, & I contended to let Warden have the amount in these protected notes supposing they would be better for him & that they would comply in spirit with my promise. I charged interest on the protested post notes, Mr Warden doubted whether they would carry interest & was not willing to allow it unless Judge Graham to whom the matter was referred, should decide that interest could be recovered. I would not leave it to Graham to decide without reserving the right to appeal to the Court of Appeals, & the question of morals was how could I atone for the violation of my promise in case I could not pay Warden for \$100 U. S. paper which he offered me with the protested post notes of the Bank & interest on them, which was the only way I was willing to let them go. He contended in substance that I should take his (7a) \$100. & put in its place \$200 in notes on the Bank of G. River altho they might cost me in market \$200 in silver. Thus I should loose 100%. I contended that I was not bound by any principle of morality to take his \$100. upon such terms, & that all he could require of me to do in conscience was, to compensate him for any loss injury, trouble & expense which he may have incurred in raising the \$100 for me upon the faith he had in the fulfillment of my promise. We left it to Graham to say what morality required at my hands & I agreed to perform. Graham decided on Monday the 22nd that the post notes bore interest from their protest & that suspended the necessity of settling the question of morals. There was no consideration for the promise I made Warden other than friendship to show that I did not want to speculate on him & make him pay the full amount of the notes I had redeemed or taken, in from, Taylor by suing on the bond of Warden or getting another to do it for me, & a wish that he should help pay my note to Taylor because I thought it possible I could not conveniently raise (8) the money itself. I leave the question here for casuists to settle. Last evening there was a ball at Mr Vance's tavern. Maria Gorin & my

Dec 25th

daughter Julia were invited. The girls were very anxious to go, but my wife & I thought it best they should not & sent the carriage with young Harney & Fanston back as it came. Julia had a hearty cry about it & begged me to indulge her. Today A. W. Graham paid me \$100 which he owed me on amount of monies collected on notes assigned him & others as my sureties for their indemnity. He owes me a good deal more on the same amount & promised to pay soon.

Dec 26th My brother Warner got home to day from Texas where he says he has procured land. He speaks of moving to that country. Mrs. C. Rogers (our Mother) Mary Jane, & Mary Blair spent the day with us. The weather for the last ten days has been very bad constantly cloudy & more than half of the time raining.

1835

Jan 1st The New Year set in with a beautiful day.
 Jan 2nd Weather suddenly changed & we had the first snow which covered the ground.
 " 3rd Mr & Mrs Jones who have been living with us since November moved (8a) home today. Their house is situated on S. E. side of the public square. This morning I was telling my daughters July, Eliza & Jane that they must love each other, & when their Father & Mother were dead, & they were grown up to be women they must remember how they all lived together when they were little & how their Father & Mother used to provide clothes & food for them & they must help one another when their parents are gone. Jane seemed greatly distressed & at length burst out crying & said with great emotion "what did you make me cry for, what did you say that word for" This morning before I got out of bed Eliza who was lying with me commenced with the state of Maine & went regularly thro the states & territories taking them as they adjoined each other & told me the capitol of each & on what river it was situated. Eliza could spell very well at four years of age. Jane is past that & doesn't know her letters. Jane is as sprightly as Eliza but cannot attend to things. Such is the difference between children.

" 20th (9) Eliza awoke in the night & seemed very uneasy - I asked her what was the matter - She said "Mother I'm afraid I am not a Christian. I'm afraid if I should die now I would go to the bad place - I'm afraid I do not read the Bible enough. Jane asked me this morning why we could not be here & in another place like God.

Feb. 1st. Today I reached home having left it on the 8th of Jan. for Frankfort where I delivered an address in the House of Representatives to a crowded audience on the 15th of Jan upon the subject of colonizing free people of - slaves. I went to Lexington on the rail-road. The cars were moved by horses. I returned to Frankfort & went to Louisville as agt. of the stockholders of the Bank of Ky. residing in Warren with a view to procure the location of a Bank in B. Green. I put my horse on board the steamer "Waterloo" & took a passage for B. G. & arrived at the Double Sprgs. today at one o'clock. The passage for myself & horse cost me \$12.00 & I purchased grain for the horse. We were 20 hrs in getting from Louisville to the mouth of Green River.

" 2nd. (9a) We came up Green & Barren Rivers at the rate of 5 mi. an hour in the day time & laid by at night. I handed to the Gov. my resignation of the office of Judge of the Court of Appeals to take effect in the 22nd of Feb.
 " 7th Today the Steamers Waterloo & Osage left the Double Sprgs. for Louisville. Yesterday it snowed the greater part of the day today the wind has been from the North & the cold has been intense. The mercury has been in the bulb of the Thermometer all day. This evening Eliza was sitting in a reflecting, serious mood & at length said "I want to be an author" on hearing this Julia said "I should like to have some great name." Our little Jane talks much about God & asks some puzzling questions.

" 8th

1835
Feb. 8th

A few days since she asked if God made the elephants & threw them down to us. Today she said "I hate God" I asked her why -- she answered "because he makes me die" I told her that God would make her live again, & then she would die no more. She said "but God wont let me live any more in this world," & seemed distressed at the idea. Her (10) Mother then undertook to explain to her that her body would be in the grave to be raised at the last day. She also attempted to explain what Heaven meant & what kind of a place it was, & spoke of golden streets & saints walking there. Jane immediately asked "How can anybody walk in Heaven when their body is in the grave," Last night some wicked person entered our kitchen in the absence of Frank who usually sleeps there & put a tray, bowl, & two sifters in the fire. There were some circumstances showing it was done thro malice rather than to make a fire to warm by altho it was intensely cold. I this day sold to Fortunatus P. Davenport a negro man named Isaac. I reflected much before I came to the conclusion to do this act. Isaac was a drunkard. He had often promised me to reform, but would not. My rule is to give my slaves a tenth in value of all their earnings to be spent as they please. I do this over & above feeding & clothing them. I am in principle opposed to dealing in slaves. But being convinced (10a) that Isaac owing to intemperance was neither fit for freedom here nor colonization in Africa & that he would be better with a master than without one I resolved to sell him to anyone he might select who lived in the country convenient to his wife. He selected Mr Davenport & I agreed to take \$505 from him when I could have gotten \$650 from others if correctly informed. Mr. D. promised to keep him near his wife & to sell him back to me at the same price if he was compelled to part with him & I wanted him. I have thus got clear of a great vexation resulting from the miserable vice of intemperance & which I found it impossible to check or restrain so long as I kept Isaac in B. Green. I feel like the \$505 are a trust fund in my hands for the benefit of the African race. Mrs. Whitaker of Logan dined with us today With this day my judicial career terminates. On tomorrow I begin a new life as a lawyer & politician for I shall be a candidate for Congress.

Feb. 21st.

1835
Mar. 1st.

(11)
Today the weather is clear & cold. The earth & pond have been frozen for some days past. This morning the boys were skating upon my pond. The whole month of Feb. with the exception of a few days has been very cold. The Waterloo--Steamer left the Double Sprgs. on the 27th A M - having arrived there the second time after a detention in the Ohio of 8 or 10 days by ice. She is expected up again as soon as the water will allow it.

" 2nd

This day declared myself a candidate for Congress in the Courthouse in Bowling Green.

" 9th

This day addressed the people in the Courthouse in Scottsville as a candidate for C.

May 6th

Returned home today from Brownsville by Bear Creek crossing Green & Barren rivers both of which were very high & rising. Found my wife in bed quite unwell & a little boy, being our fifth son & eighth child, over in the cradle. The little boy was born yesterday Tuesday the fifth - which is the anniversary of Dudley's defeat in which action twenty two years ago I was wounded Edmund Rogers who raised me was born on the 5th of May 1762.

1835
May 17th

(11a)
For the last ten days I have had an active political campaign as a

May 18th

candidate for Congress, having addressed the people at Scottsville, Mrs. Herndons in Logan, Russellville, Three Sprgs in Warren. Tomorrow E. Hise (my Competitor) & myself are to address the people of Simpson in their courthouse in Franklin. I fear I shall not be able to get there owing to the illness of my wife. Rode from home to Franklin this morning Found that the houses of Messrs Finn & Myers in Franklin were burnt down last night. Finn a merchant is said to have sustained a considerable loss. Today E. Hise & myself addressed the people of Simpson Co. I made the first speech & in the course of it spoke of the dangers likely to result from permitting the President of the U. S. to remove officers & to fill vacancies thus occasioned at his pleasure, without assigning any reason for the removal or trying the officer for any specific violation of duty. Hise in his reply in substance charged me with attempting to deceive the people (12) in my address to the people & he said that I held out the idea that the President would remove Legislators & judges I was sitting in a chair to his left as he was standing up speaking & when he imputed to me the above opinion I interrupted him & said "Mr. Hise I said no such thing" he rather faced me & replied "you did" I said "I did not," He repeated "you did, sir" I said "it is false." He thereupon struck me with his fist in the forehead above the left eye as I was sitting in the chair & before I could rise he gave me a second blow on the head. He struck so awkwardly that I was not even stunned by the blows. I rose as quickly as possible & as soon as I got to my feet I knocked him back with my fist, & gave him a kick in the abdomen as he was going. He kicked at me but did not touch me with his foot. We were at this stage of the combat, separated by the crowd who said we should not fight The occurrence produced great excitement in the Courthouse I turned to the crowd & begged them to be composed & we would go on with the discussion While I was appealing to the multitude, H. Grider, Esq. exclaimed "Underwood (12a) be on your guard, be on your guard, he is approaching to strike." I turned toward Hise who was to my right on the Judges Bench. He made no effort to approach or to strike me that I saw. The people were much quieted & as neither of us was much hurt, we proceeded with the discussion. Hise in reference to the occurrence which had just taken place remarked that I said the President claimed the power to remove all the officers of the Government & that was broad enough to include Legislators & Judges. I do not recollect whether I said all the officers or not, but if I did I only meant the Executive officers who compose "the Government" in Genl Jacksons sense of the term, & Hise must have known it. He was therefore practicing a down right deception upon the people in trying to make them believe that I held out the idea that the President would remove Legislators & Judges & I think I was right in correcting him at the time.

1835

May 24th

On last Sunday my son Eugene met me in Glasgow with a letter from Dr Briggs my family Physician stating that my wife was more (13) unwell than when I left her, & that she wanted to see me that night. I employed Dr Rogers to go home with me to consult the Physicians. We left Glasgow between 9 & 10 that night, rode all night & reached home a little before sunrise that morning finding my wife dangerously unwell.

May 25th

Monday. -- In consequence of the situation of my wife, I cannot go up to the Courthouse with Mr. Hise & discuss political questions with him according to advertisement.

1835

June 11th

12th

13th

16th

21st.

24th

29th.

July 6th.

7th

17th

18th

19th

19th

Left home today & went thro the rain & staid all night at old Mr. Gotts. West to a sale of Thos I Morriss estate in Barren Co & in the evening went & staid all night with Robt Renick Went to the Allen Sprgs. & there addressed the people. Hise present. Hise & myself spoke alternately from two oclock till near Sun down in Glasgow today. Got home today - finding Mrs. U. worse than when I left her. When I left home she was thought to be recovering rapidly. She was then riding out daily. She has not been out of bed for the past week. Wrote to the people of Barren Co - apologizing for not attending sundry political meetings appointed by (13a) Hise, in consequence of my wife's situation I also wrote to F. Gorin doubting whether I should be able to resume the campaign. On this day as the last hope of restoring my wife I carried her to the Chameleon Sprgs. She went in a large carriage obtained from Mr. Robb. On this day I addressed the people of Monroe Co at Tompkinsville being the 1st day of their circuit court. Staid last night at Col. Hardins -- leaving the springs yesterday morning. Staid last night at J Quigleys & got back to the springs this evening found my wife no better. She received me with a smile & said she knew I would come. I promised when I left her to come back this evening. For the last ten days-day and night- I have with great anxiety waited on my wife. She died this morning about half past ten oclock. I sent Eugene to B. Green with a note to my brother Warner, directing him to make arrangements for the funeral. On this morning Warner came to the Springs with two barouches & a dearborn wagon. Frances Rice, Susan Bacon & my sister Gorin went (14) in Mr. Quigleys carriage. The coffin which was plain & neat made of cherry plank was opened in the big room of my house so that my sisters Lucy Ann, Malvina, Louisa, my children & other relations might view the pale features of the corpse for the last time. All my children were present except the babe. Eugene, Julia & Eliza wept bitterly I could not restrain my tears. I took Jane in my arms & carried her to view her dead mother. She looked on but did not cry. The features of the corpse were not distorted. Long & continued disease had reduced my wife very much, but still there was a serenity & calmness in the face even after death. The corpse was taken to the Baptist church where the Rev. Mr. Calvert delivered an appropriate address to a large audience. It was then removed to the graveyard & interred followed there by a large crowd. I returned home afterwards with a broken heart. Wrote the following letter to my brother-in-law Wm. D. R. Trotter - "Dear William On yes-(14a) terday evening your sister was buried in the palings which enclosed the graves of our three little boys. She died on Friday the 17th at half past 10 oclock A. M. I believe I cannot spend this afternoon more sacredly than by giving you in detail an account of her last illness. Eliza was taken ill on the 3rd of Apr. Her disease seemed to be of a bilious character. She was pregnant & in that situation her ~~hix~~ health has generally been bad. On the 5th of May she brought us a little boy. The birth was premature, the child being what is called a seven months child. After the birth of the child we hoped her health would be restored & she did get well enough to ride out in our barouche by being propped with pillows. Her rides however were short, & I had to carry her to & from the barouche in my arms. On the fifth Monday in June as a forlorn hope I removed her to the Chameleon Sprgs. She made the trip in a day upon a bed in an easy carriage. We stopped frequently on the way to let her rest. She died at the

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July 19th

Sprgs. You are no doubt anxious to know the operations of her mind during her last trying scenes, & I will feel a deeper interest in these than in the foregoing recital. Before leaving home she made all those domestic arrangements which you might suppose her to make under the expectation of never returning. She requested your Mother in the event of her death to take care of her daughters. Having laid aside all earthly care (except for her health) she applied herself with great attention to the use of those remedies which were prescribed for her in connection with the medical waters. She was very anxious to live not because she was unprepared or afraid to die - but because she knew that her life being spared & her health restored, she would eminently be useful to her family, & because we were just getting in that situation in which we were able to live more comfortably than we had done. She loved me & the children most affectionately & had a strong desire to see them raised. I always knew her feelings toward us by her conduct & she sometime expressed them. A few days before her death she held my hand & with inexpressible affection beaming in her countenance said to me "I love you." Some days before her death I sent for her Mother, Eugene & Julia. They came to the Springs & staid till she died. Your Mother was anxious (15a) to hear her views of eternity & of Christ & desired me on some suitable occasion to bring her out. Your Mother did not like to see her so much engrossed with the idea of getting well when she was reduced so low that it was manifest to her friends she could not recover. I however felt no uneasiness about her future state, for she had so often expressed her feelings & faith to me that I was convinced if there ever lived a pure christian on earth she was one. I determined that your Mother should be gratified & told Eliza on the first suitable opportunity that she could not recover that she must die & that shortly, & that she ought to repose her hopes in & turn her thoughts to another world & to her Saviour. She asked me if that was the Doctors opinion - I told her it was. She then said it was all well, that she was not afraid to die, that she had often prayed for the forgiveness of her sins, believed she had been pardoned, & trusted in the merits of Jesus Christ for eternal life. These, tho not her precise words were their substance. Shortly after this she complained of a stricture across her breast & of which she had often complained, & desired me (16) to ask Dr Ford who then attended on her whether he could give her any relief. I stepped into another room where the Doctor was - told him to go with me to Eliza & tell her truly her situation, that I knew it would not alarm her in the least. When we approached the bedside, I said her is Dr. Ford you can ask him for yourself. My allusion was to the stricture but she misunderstood me, & supposed that I desired her to enquire about the Doctors opinion as to her dying soon. She looked at me with one of the sweetest smiles that ever shone on a sainted countenance & said, "My dear husband, I can take your word." She then asked the Dr. if a blister would not relieve her breast. He told her that nothing could be done for her, that she must die shortly. She heard him with the calm serenity of an angel & did not manifest the least agitation. During her last illness her mind was occasionally flighty from the excitement under which she labored, but her deductions from her premises were always rational. Her wanderings consisted in supposing things to exist which did not. She asked me twice if you were not dead, & once said to her Mother you were (16a) dead. In this

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state of excitement she talked a great deal, & her remarks displayed her character as she had acted it out thro life. On one occasion she lectured us on the subject of charity or doing good to others. Her remarks was to show that the proper employment of life was to do good. Upon another occasion she pointed out the duty of children & particularly what she desired hers to do in their intercourse with each other. Mutual kindness & love was the rule she desired to enforce. On the third night before she died she sang very sweetly the two first verses of a hymn, the words of which I could not distinctly hear during her singing owing to the weakness of her voice. After she ceased I asked her to repeat the words for I desired to know them. She repeated the two first verses of that admirable hymn which begins thus.--"Far from my thoughts vain world begone, Let my religious hours alone" etc.- On Wednesday evening she was struck with death to all appearances. Her eyes were fixed, she ceased to breathe, & we supposed life was extinct, but this (17) proved to be only a spasm, from which she recovered & lived till Friday when she died easily & composed. Her voice continued audible so that she could be heard within half an hour of her last breath. Her last ~~words~~ words were "Glory to God." I did not hear them distinctly. A female in attendance less agitated than I was said that was the expression. Throughout her long illness she evinced a remarkable patience & fortitude. Thus your sister is gone, & I have lost in her the greatest comfort of my life. Her little boy is living & doing well. She requested the morning she died that he might be named Joseph. A few nights before she died she saw the little boy in a dream & talked to him in that soothing affectionate tone of a mother which has always sent a thrill to my heart - she said "Oh, the pretty little boy - kiss thy mother -" etc. etc. Your mother will take our daughters. Uncle Rogers family are well.

With affectionate esteem
Your afflicted Connection
J. R. Underwood.

Rev. Wm. D. R. Trotter.

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(17a)

A great press of business has prevented my writing anything here for some time. I a few days after writing the foregoing letter to W. D. R. Trotter, I went to Logan Co. for the purpose of attending various political meetings appointed by E. Hise. I left home on Friday the 24th of July & staid all night at Dr. Jas. W. Wilson's. My sister Malvina went down to Russelville the same day for the purpose of seeing our Aunt Betsy who had been sick for some time. We found her recovering as we thought. She shed tears in holding my hand when speaking of my recent affliction. On Saturday morning before breakfast I left - R. & went to Elkton for the purpose of meeting some political friends there. I returned from Elkton & staid Saturday with Mr. Jno Smith of Logan who gave me a letter which E. Hise had written to him, in substance charging me with hostility to free government & equal rights & with a design to Elect Danl Webster a tory for the purpose of subverting them. I caused this letter to be published in order to expose the meanness of the man who could resort to such a low trick with a view to im-
(18) pose on Mr. Smith & thereby secure his vote. On Sunday I was going to Franklin by Adairsville & stopped to see Mr Gotlier where

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I learnt for the first time that the cholera had broken out in Russelville the day I left - & that my Aunt Elizabeth had fallen a victim & would be buried that evening. I changed my route & went to Mr. James Wilson's, where I attended the burial of my aunt about 4 o'clock P. M. & then went to Adairville that night. She was buried at the same graveyard where the body of my sister Jane lies. Three gentlemen only rode out with the corpse of aunt from Russelville - Mr. Hull, Mr. Curd & Mr. _____. Dr. Wilson did not come out - being sick & also nursing his daughter who was sick. My aunt was buried in a decent coffin covered with velvet. The consternation produced by the cholera was great. Much the largest part of the population left Russelville & the deaths during the continuance of the disease exceeded one hundred. On Monday the 27th July I addressed the people in Franklin. I was asked several questions at the close of my speech by Wm. J. Williams, a political opponent which I answered with the happiest effect. The balance (18a) of the week I spent in Logan delivering a speech. Hise did not attend the appointments he had made & I could not ascertain the cause with certainty. It was said he was sick, that he was nursing the sick, that his Mother or wife had died with the cholera -- all was rumor. I ascertained however on Sunday before the Election commenced that he had left Russelville for the upper part of the District. I reached home on Sunday the 2nd of Aug. & staid during the Election in Bowling Green. As soon as it was over I went to Brownsville & there attended the Circuit Court. The third week I should have gone to Simpson but on Sunday the 15th I rec'd a letter informing me of the illness of my old Uncle E. Rogers, & that he desired to see me. I started for his home & reached there Monday night. Found him better & recovering. The last two weeks I have been industriously engaged attending court in B. Green. The multitude of things which have pressed upon my mind & attention since the death of Eliza have prevented to some extent a settled gloom from overwhelming me, - the anguish of my soul has been interrupted by the foul assaults made upon (19) my character for political effect. indignation and resentment produced counter feelings & business has left me no time for melancholy reflections. I endeavored to withdraw my mind from contemplating the extent of my loss, & the impossibility of repairing it on earth. I tried to forget the happy conversations, the delightful anticipations & cheerful smile of Eliza when in health. I endeavored to throw a veil over her active exertions in discharging all domestic duties. But the excitements of the canvass - the calumnies circulated against me, & the engagement of my profession could not effectually smother & suppress the bitter waters of grief. When alone I would find myself dwelling upon the past without being sensible how my attention was drawn from politics & business, & it required an effort to give up the remembrance of former days, & hours of joy never to return. The children which I have is my great stimulus to exertion. To bring them up & render them happy, to teach them how to live, & to make them useful are the motives (19a) which support me. I have experienced the good & the evil of this world. Its charms are less exquisite, its pains less acute than they were twenty years ago. I have subdued my passions & brought them under the influence of reason. I have not extirpated passion. The man who attempts to divest himself of all passion makes war upon nature & is a fool. The man who does not learn to control his

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passions is a dunce. In the course of the canvass I have at times felt a melancholy despair of the republic. I have been oposed by men who seem to me as completely divested of everything like respect for truth & honesty, as if the affections & sentiments of their minds & the conduct of their lives were under the exclusive dominion of the devil himself. I have seen these vile wretches exalt when their falsehoods seemed to be producing the desired effect. The only pain which they felt resulted from being defeated in their villainies. The condition of society is awful when there is such laxity of moral sentiment that scoundrels care nothing for exposure provided their infamous schemes are successful. I have seen honest ignorance led by artful knavery led to the brink of destruction. I have seen prejudice & bigotry blind the understandings of men, so that they could not perceive the plainest truths. I have mourned for the delusion of the ignorant & uninformed & exerted myself to spread the light of truth. I have felt unutterable contempt for those political knaves who have no object but self aggrandisement who have no love or sympathy for their fellow man, & who address themselves to the prejudices, passions & suspicions of bad and ignorant men for the purpose of making them servile tools with which to accomplish their infamous designs. I know many honest men of the party which has opposed me, & I think I see how they have been influenced to sustain Genl Jackson in his unlawful exercises of power. They will yet be convinced that our forms of government, that our free institutions, cannot stand unless the President of the U. S. is made to submit (20a) to & to act in conformity with the constitution & laws of his country. Jackson has in a shameful manner both before & since he was President violated the constitution & laws. The tame acquiescence of the people has induced me to fear that they were nearly ripe for the rod of a despot. The result of the election in this district has been gratifying to me & I am resolved to repay those who sustained me by faithful devotion of whatever talent I possess to the service of the country, & by so doing I trust I shall convince those who honestly opposed me of their error.

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I am now on board the steamboat "Coquette" in the Ohio river about 100 miles below Wheeling Va. being on my way to Washington. John Bell Esq. late speaker of the H. R. & his family are with me. Leisure affords opportunity of bringing up the principal incidents of this journal & which ought to have been inserted before this. Having come to the determination to break up housekeeping after my wife's death on the 29th of Aug. last, I sold my (21) live stock, household & kitchen furniture on a credit of six mo. The amount of sales exceeded one thousand dollars, being a larger sum than I supposed the property would bring. I learned by the result that it took more money to place a family in a comfortable situation than I had an idea of. I had nothing superfluous & could have found use for many things I had not & yet the millions of earth would have thought me abounding in luxuries, & so I was comparing my condition with theirs. Those things essential to the support of life are neither costly nor numerous. A single suit of clothes suitable to the season, with a change of linen coarse yet wholesome food & a dry shelter are sufficient to make the man happy whose well-balanced mind make the most of the circumstances which surround him & which are often beyond his control. While the absolute control & ownership of the world cannot confer happiness on him whose of power grasps after everything. Avarice & ambition never say

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"Enough". The latter part of Sept was spent at Glasgow & (21a) month of Oct. was spent in Russellville & Elkton attending court at those places. I made a good deal of money & received the congratulations of my friends at the result of the election, & the assurance of many opponents that they were not greatly dissatisfied at the result. I have learnt however not to trust the fair words of all who utter them. Shakespeare teaches that a man may smile in your face & be a villain & your deadly enemy. I have met with flatterers whose compliments had no more concern with the sentiments of their hearts, than had the lip service of some professing Christian denounced in Holy Writ, with those pure emotions of devout piety which infuse holiness & joy in the soul, & spread the happiest influences all around. Candor is the virtue which above all others sets off a man--Hypocrisy is the meanest vice which degrades & disgraces our nature. It is the offspring of selfishness & cowardice. On the first day of the present month I left home & spent the night at Chameleon prgs. It was the first visit I had made there since Eliza's death. On entering the room where she died my feelings were excited as it her (22) corpse had been placed before me. There was the bed on which she expired. Her last word was in my ear. Her last look was present with me. Memory pictured every incident, & the past reality was again before me in a sensible form. I again saw Eugene & Julia embrace their dying mother. On the day following I went to Brownsville Court. On Tuesday I went to Belle's, on Wednesday morning took the stage for Louisville where I staid a few days then passed on to Frankfort & remained there near a week writing briefs & attending to business. On Friday I went to Lexington on the R. Road in company with Judge Robertson. The car was drawn by two horses--at the rate of seven miles an hour. Mr Bell & family went up with us. On Saturday the 14 Inst. Mr. & Mrs. Bell Gov. Morehead, Chief Justice Robertson, Mr. Denton, Mr Yeatman & myself dined with Mr. H. Clay & Lady at Ashland. Mr. Jos. Gorin, a brother of Mrs. Belle & son-in-law of Mr. Clay was also one of the party. We set down at half past two to an excellent dinner & the hours we spent at Ashland passed very agreeably. (22a) altho I do not remember a single idea advance by any of the company worthy to survive the day it was uttered. On Sunday last Mr Bell & family & myself got into the accommodation line at Lexington at a quarter before seven A. M. & reached Maysville--a distance of 63 miles before dark, travelling over the finest road I ever say--Sometimes at the rate of 10 miles an hour. I went to bed at Langhorns Inn Maysville, was waked up at night--got on board the "Coquette" & expect to reach Wheeling tomorrow morning if no accidents happen. Reached Wheeling this morning about day. Between sun-down & dark last evening an accident happened which alarmed most of the people on board very much. The boat struck a snag which penetrated the floor just behind one of the wheels & ranged up thro the floor on the inside of the cabin just under the births & carried away four berths, & ran into the ceiling of the roof. The cabin was on the upper deck & the snag was broken off down at the wheel & the boat went ahead carrying about 20 ft of the snag with her. I paid in going from Maysville to Guindott \$3.00 & from Guindott to Wheeling \$5.00 for my fare. How will it be twenty years hence! Left Wheeling in the stage at 9 oclock. Mr. & Mrs Bell went to Pittsburg. Dined in Washington Penn. near (23) which Gov. Retner lives on a farm of

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180 acres of land as I was told which he cultivates with his own hand. Supped in Brownsville on the Monongahela, crossing a fine bridge. Supped in Cumberland on the Potomac. Here the national road terminates. This is a thriving town, & property has risen in price lately very rapidly.

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Dined in Hagerstown, & supped in Shepherdstown having diverged from the main route to Baltimore at Boonsboro where I rested about three hours which was very refreshing having traveled night & day since I left Wheeling. This is the 7th day since I left Lexington, Ky. How much sooner will the distance be traveled 20 years hence! This evening I passed thro a touching & interesting scene. Capt Henry Swearingen died in Glasgow in the winter of 1817 or 18 & left by his will a large estate to his wife, then young & beautiful to whom he had been married only about 6 months. I administered on his estate & in that capacity corresponded with the widow many years till she married Henry Berry, Esq. by whom she now has 6 children. She had none by Capt. S. Mr & Mrs Berry live in Shepherdstown & after supper I called at their house to see them. Mr. Berry had gone to bed fatigued & indisposed from a long ride during the day Mrs. (23a)

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Berry was seated with her two oldest daughters & her female friends in her little parlor engaged in needle work. Perhaps I ought not to have called at so late an hour but supposing I should leave town next morning I had no other time to appropriate. I selected Mrs B among the ladies & extending my hand asked if I was right in taking her for Mrs. Berry. She said it was her name, taking my hand with apparent doubt. I told her who I was. With firmer grasp she gazed on me a moment & then asked emphatically "is it possible this is Mr Underwood!" I assured her I was the man to whom she had often written. She raised her hands & exclaimed with unaffected feeling "Oh I'm happy to see you." She looked at me a moment with deep concern & agitation & retired saying "Pardon me until I inform Mr. Berry" & introducing her companions as she went. I had scarcely seated myself when she returned & advancing to where I sat exclaimed "Oh I'm so glad to see you." & with the exclamation leaned on me & kissed me. Never did man receive from woman a holier kiss. It was a tribute of love, a libation of the soul sacred to the memory of her first husband. My presence called to her mind a thousand fond & faded images & gave (24) them the freshness of passing realities. She felt at the moment what she had been as wife of the brave & chivalrous Henry T. Spawing who distinguished himself in the last war. She felt grateful for the munificence & affection displayed in his will. She looked upon the children of the 2nd marriage as scarcely legitimate & such was the intense excitement & deep emotion of her bosom, that the waters of feeling exuded from every pore. Her whole face was covered with dew. I thought "the heart that once truly loves never forgets, But as truly loves on to the close, Like the sun-flower turns on her God when he sets. The same look that she gave when he rose." The ladies who witnessed the foregoing scene seemed astonished at the interest of Mrs. B. One of them supposed her warm embrace the result of former intimacy & friendship with me, & asked when she had last seen me. When told that we had never met before, astonishment rose to amazement. I thought 'I alone had knowledge of Mrs. B's feelings & actions. Dined today with Mr & Mrs Berry. They are amiable people & he is a member of the Md. Legislature. Rode this evening to Harpers Ferry at the junction of

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the Shenandoah with (24a) the Potomac. Left Harpers Ferry this morning at 7 oclock & went to Baltimore a distance of 82 miles on the railroad. Dined at Elliotts Mills. Got to Baltimore in time to go to Washington on the railroad but preferred staying all night & did remain at Beltzhooovers Tavern where they put me to lodge in a room without a fire. The scenery at Harpers Ferry is nothing like so grand & sublime as I expected to find it from Mr Jeffersons description. It is picturesque & striking, but insignificant compared with the scenery which the rivers & mountains of the West afford. The stupendous perpendicular cliffs of the Kentucky are objects which make a much stronger impression. Went to Washington this morning a distance of 40 miles in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Took my seat or rather selected a seat in the H. of R. The practice is for members of Congress in getting to the city to make selection of seats & write their names on desks before the seats selected. This rule is not fair as it gives the members arriving first an advantage of choice which they are not entitled to as no member should be expected to attend sooner than the day before Congress assembles. The seats should be distributed by lottery with regard to the time of (25) a member's arrival. Left Washington & went to Va to visit my relations. Ate breakfast on board the steamer going to the mouth of Potomac Creek & dined at Alsops in Spotsylvania Co. Borrowed a horse of Mr Alsop & visited Stephen Crutchfield who married my cousin Sarah Ann Alsop. Staid last night at Mr Crutchfields & today visited the farm in the county of Caroline formerly owned by my grandfather George Rogers, & after his death by my uncle Thos. Rogers. In my childhood I spent many happy hours at this place carressed by my grandparents, undles & aunts. I went to school when a little boy from my grandfather's, & I have a very distinct recollection of all things about the farm when it was owned & occupied by him & my uncle. They kept the dwelling house in good repair. So they did the outbuilding. The orchards, the gardens the fences & everything under their management showed prosperity & comfort. My grandfather & grandmother died & were buried on the farm. My mother was like wise buried by the side of her parents. My Uncle sold the farm in 1810 or 11 and moved to Kentucky. I had not been there since 1809 & as my relation Mrs. Crutchfield was only six miles distant I felt it a duty to visit the graves of my ancestors. The scene was so altered that (25a) it made a deep & melancholy impression on my heart. The farm was now occupied by a tenant of its proprietor, & like most tenants who do not own the fee simple, he had suffered everything to go to ruin. The windows of the dwelling house once filled with transparent glass were now filled with old rags & pillows to keep out wind & rain. The weather boarding in some places was off & the plastering within being in the same condition there were cracks in the walls thro which the whistling winds might freely enter. The dairy was converted into a stable & the kitchen & servants house turned into a tobacco house. The skeleton of the Barn was there, but the weather boarding was partly off & the posts rotten by exposure. The stables were all gone & not a vestige left. The enclosures around the house were destroyed. The garden was paled in & that was the only fence in sight of the dwelling house except the farm fence to the East. Most of the apple trees were gone, & those which remained were unpruned. The

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fine rows of mulberry trees had been cut down. The delightful cherry orchard presented a few dead trunks standing. The old oak at the East end of the house was gone not even a stump left, & two dead Lombardies were (26) standing the the North fitting monuments of the desolation around them. The decayed meat house near one of the Poplars was the emblem of starvation instead of plenty. The stumps of the tobacco crop which had been cultivated were within ten feet of the dwelling house. The contrast between what I saw & what I remember threw on me the robe of sadness as I approached the house. The tenants wife-for he was absent, invited me in & extended her hand in token of welcome & handed a chair. I entered the room fronting my grandmother's chamber. It was the eating room of the family & the first picture which my memory drew was the breakfast table & those around it, & among them a hearty little boy eating the crusts which my grandfather could not mange for want of teeth & therefore passed to me. I was so full that I could not speak & tell the object of my visit. At length in a low & catching voice I made out to tell the woman that I once lived there & that curiosity had induced me to visit the place & I desired permission to ramble where I pleased. She gave it, & I left the house, doubting whether she had discovered the feeling which affected me. I walked to the garden. The side walks & cross walks (26a)

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& flower beds & shrubbery were all gone. They had disappeared like the hand of that amiable aunt who devoted so much time to their culture & to my instruction. A straight walk led thro the center of the garden to the back paling & on either side stood some large boxes (an evergreen.) which I recognized. I next went to the grave yard. The stone wall which was built around it, was thrown down in several places, & now constituted no protection the graves. To the North stood a cedar tree & near it ground ivy (an evergreen) had spread over the N.W. corner & side of the enclosure. The head & foot stones of three large graves were visible. Those said I, indicate the spots where my grandfather & grandmother Rogers & my Mother are laid. A rush of a thousand juvenile scenes burnt in my mind. They are gone like the venerated beings whose graves are before me, was the succeeding reflection. My bosom heaved & tears flowed. I could not tell which grave was my Mother's or grandmother's. I was not present at the burial of any of the persons. There was another grave which indicated the grave of a child. I supposed it to be that of an Uncle who died in infancy-a twin brother of E. Rogers. I regretted (27) that I could not point with certainty the graves of my grandmother & my mother. My strong emotions having calmed I returned to the house. As yet I had only been in one room. I asked permission to go into all of them. Mrs. Stanley the tenant's wife--gave it. I opened the door which led me out of the breakfast room into the large Hall in which the grown daughters of Mrs. Stanley & their spinning wheels were. As soon as I entered the avenue to the stair steps & also to the fruit cellar, & the door which opened into the little bedroom in the N. E. corner, a flood of feeling overwhelmed me. I could not conceal it from the penetrating eyes of those rustic girls who looked at me with amazement as if I were a maniac. Embarrassed by the situation I deemed it prudent to give up the visit to the bed-chamber, where the healthy slumbers of rosy boy-hood has so often refreshed my tired limbs. I made a bow & left the house. On mounting my horse I rode over to the widow Goghills, she being the only living

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person within five miles that ¹ had known. The old lady was well-glad to see me, & her sons were anxious that I should spend some days with them. I passed by the Mill once owned by my grandfather & returned to Mr. Crutchfields. (27a) Oh time! what havoc! what changes dost thou make in the condition of men & things! I have felt a multitude of joys & sorrows since I was the wild school boy rambling in delight over the farm I have this day visited. And in less time than has elapsed since the house of my grandfather was my dwelling place, the earth will cease to be my home, I hope for immortality in a better world. Left Mr. Crutchfield's after spending a very pleasant night, & after breakfast returned to Mr Alsops, there took the stage & went on to Hollodays where I staid till five P.M.

Breakfasted at Mills in Goochland. Hired a barouch from him, & reached my father's house in it about one oclock. A ddeep snow fell to day. I found my Father in a small cabin (about 14 ft squard with a dirt floor) which smoked very badly. It would be called a miserable negro cabin anywhere in Virginia. He was dressed in a coarse cap made out of the skin of some animal, a very ragged old cloth coat, & apair of pantaloons of white coarse linen, but the linen was black with dirt, an old waist-coat, & dirty cotton shirt & dirty woolen socks. Brutus, his servant & the only one remaining with him was about (28) to iron him a clean shirt. His bed & bedclothing were wretched. My father was preparing some warm water in a skillet to wash his hands- his face needed it more than his hands but he used it in washing his hands only & then he put on his clean shirt. There were one or two old chairs in the room & a small coarse table, & an old trunk- a pot & skillet & a few other articles of little value. The stock of provision consisted of two squirrels hung by the fire-place, the tail end of a hog chive, a large parcel of apples thrown under the bed on the floor, & a parcel of walnuts lying in a corner of the room. There was some cabbage standing in the yard near the door where they had grown & the fence around the cabin enclosed an acre or two of ground on which there were some thrifty looking apple trees. There was a large house within the enclosure containg more apples, some corn & fodder, & probably some cider. I did not go into it. Thus situated I found my Father an old man who will have completed his 69th birthday on the 22nd of Feb next. I felt a sentiment of horror & compassion perfectly indescribable. The man who drove me down in the Barouch seemed lost astonishment to see me enter such a hut, & salute my Father, for he had learnt on the road that I was a member of congress, & that I was expected in (28a) the neighborhood. We stopped at several places along the way & where my conductor informed the people where I was going they seemed to be concerned for me. Two individuals, one named Richard Clark came to me & expressed their sorrow at the condition in which I would find my father. Clark invited me to spend the night at his house. I had not been in the house long till my Father spoke to Brutus & directed him to get something to eat for me. My Father said they had no meal, & asked if I had any small change with which to purchase a little. Without speaking for I could not I handed him some little pieces. He said he had rec'd my letter containing \$20.00 this day altho it was written in Oct. He gave a small piece of money to Brutus & directed him where to go to buy some meal that I might have some bread for dinner. Brutus

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asked my Father for his shoes to wear, as those he had were too much worn to keep the snow out. My Father surrendered his shoes & Brutus started for the meal. I opened my trunk - took out a pair of double-soled new shoes & gave them to my Father. He said he prized them very highly. Brutus returned with the meal - baked some bread, fried a squirrel & a part of the chive for my dinner. After it was (29) done, it was served by putting the skillet on the table & one plate (I believe there was but one in the house) & I helped myself out of the skillet with the same knife & fork which Brutus had used in cooking, & I saw no others. There was no table-cloth & the cake of bread was put upon a tin cup. My Father made no apologies & did not seem embarrassed by the circumstances in which we were placed. I resolved to take every thing with a good grace - to do nothing & say nothing which might mortify him. I sat down to dinner with the reflection that there were thousands of poor people in the world in much worse conditions, - helped myself out of the skillet & found the shive & squirrel very palatable. Not long after I had dined Mr. Clark (who was now quite tipsy) came to my Fathers & invited us to spend the night with him. My Father accepted the invitation for his bed was hardly big enough to hold us both. Clark gave us supper & lodging but became very drunk, & sang silly songs & talked nonsense greatly to my annoyance. His chief topic was the honor & pleasure he derived from entertaining a "congressional character" in his own house, a thing which he said had never happened before (29a) in his life. My Father & myself slept in the same bed. When he was undressing he told a negro woman of Mr. Clarks that he would give her a gallon of cider to wash his socks & overalls & to bring them in so that he could dry them before the fire. She did it. The circumstance made me feel deeply, as it convinced me he had not a change of clothes. Oh, God! what a world is this in which we live! My Father & his father both have represented Goochland Co. in the Legislature of the Commonwealth. When I can first remember my Father was one of the finest looking men I ever saw, & altho he was never rich he owned a farm & made out to live decently. But he was fond of cards & consequently of idle life. He imbibed the feelings of a gamester, altho I believe he was never impaled by their knavery & fraudulent tricks. He confided in Chance & he yet retains a sort of superstitious feeling that Chance or fortune, or luck will do great things for him & raise him from the depths of his miserable poverty without his doing anything for himself. Such men do not perceive the invariable relations which God has established in the moral world, between causes & their effects. (30) They will not learn by wisdom & experience. I have put down the foregoing facts in relation to my Father for the benefit of my children. Let each of my children who read the statement remember that his or her Grandfather was a very poor man & reduced to great want, & learn not to boast of wealthy ancestors. Let them look at the condition in which I am now placed & let them ask themselves how it is that I am better off in respect to property & station than my Father. The answer is, I depended not on Chance or Luck but used the faculties of body & mind which God gave, seeing if I exerted them they must necessarily, according to the established laws of providence, produce an abundant harvest. Let my children do so likewise & they will prosper. Left Mr. Clarks after breakfast, got a horse from Dr. Dumright & visited my Aunt Dandridge taking to her some articles left her by the will of my Aunt Elizabeth, returned in the evening

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to my Father's, there met with my Brother Henry, not much better off, owing to intemperance than my father. He went with me to Sam C Finches where I staid all night on the stage road. Got in the stage & went to Richmond. Paid my Uncle Thos. Underwood \$200. left him by my Aunt Elizabeth. He has done very badly. (30a) Dined with Mr. Jas. Brown. Dined with Mr. John Wickham. Mr. Leigh Senator of Virginia in Congress one of the guests. We had a sumptuous dinner & the house exhibited more richness of furniture than any I believe I was ever in. What a contrast between my Father's hovel & Mr. Wickham's mansion. Supped at N. Pollards. Left Richmond in the steamer Patrick Henry for Washington via Hampton Roads, Old Point, Rip Baps etc. Had a pleasant trip - greatly pleased with River & Bay scenery. Reached Baltimore about 1 oclock P.M. Rambled about till 5 oclock & at half past five got into the Rail Road car & came to this place. - Washington. In my rambles I went to the top of Washington Monument. It is 200 ft. high at least & overlooks Baltimore & environs. You ascend on the inside by a winding stair resting on the walls of the monument & a perpendicular column in the center around which it winds. At the top of the monument I found the names of a great many visitors written with chalk on the walls. These sought distinction in that manner, thus evincing a love of fame common to all mankind, & most of them will never be brought into greater distinction. Yesterday I received a letter from Elizabeth E. Underwood, wife (31) (of Hanover) of my Uncle James Underwood giving a detailed account of her poverty & wretchedness & requesting that Mr. J. J. Crittenden a relation of hers & myself would unite in sending her \$5.00 today we sent her by mail \$10.00.

On going down the steps of my boarding house this morning there being a coat of sleet on the steps & pavement my feet slipped from under me as soon as I touched the pavement. I fell & hurt my back very much. Congress met on the 7th inst. Nothing of consequence has been done yet. The organization of the house (not yet completed) & the appointment of the various committees preparatory to business is all that has been done. A man of business has not time to spare to write down the daily occurrences of his life. I could write a volume of comment upon the persons & things I have seen, & heard within the last month. On the eve of Christmas I went to a party at the Presidents. Staid about half or three fourths of an hour, in which time I satisfied my curiosity & then left the house before supper. I heard other guests say that a splendid supper was served up after I left there. I was in the celebrated East Room. It is now gorgeously furnished, & the letter of lies written by Thos. H. Benton Senator from Missouri, about it will (31a) long be remember to his disgrace but not to his mortification. The opinion I have of his character is that he is too mean to blush at his own crimes & he scorns the world because he knows that he is universally despised. I do not know his person. I have never seen him, I do not care if I never do. There was a great crowd at the Presidents. The music was delightful & was the only thing which to me had the least charm. I was at an evening party at Sec. Cass on the 31st. The press was even greater than at the Presidents, because the rooms were smaller. People assemble at such parties for show & not for any one rational enjoyment. You are fatigued to death standing. Conversation is out of the question, at least conversation of any useful subject. Badinage is alone suitable to such occasions & that is rather insipid at my time of

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life. After rubbing against the women (who with a few exceptions were rather homely) until I was disgusted with the necessity of doing it, for there is no possibility of avoiding it, in what might be called a "genuine squeeze," I left the Secretaries at an early hour before supper & retired to my lodgings. It is with regret that I cannot find time to put down any reflections in passing down James River especially that (32) train of thought & feeling which resulted from viewing the place where the life of Capt. John Smith was saved by Pocahontas & the ruins of Jamestown. Today I rec'd a letter from my daughter Eliza the first she ever wrote me. I will retain & preserve it for her. I also got a letter from Julia. These letters are highly gratifying. Julia informed me that her Aunt Gorin was very unwell & that her Aunt ^{Malvina} had gone to see her. I am apprehensive that the next intelligence I receive concerning Louisa will announce her death. It was thought she was afflicted by dropsy when I left Ky. Last Sunday I went with Mrs. Kennedy my landlady to the Catholic Church in this city. It was the first time I ever entered the doors of a chapel where this body of Christians worshipped & curiosity was, I confess, the principal motive which carried me. Mrs. K. on entering her pew knelt & seemed to pray most devoutly. So did many other members of the congregation. With many it seemed a mere form. The pictures of Christ & other paintings of historical scenery & personages connected with the early ages of Christianity are well calculated to excite the imagination & passions. From the use of such paintings & images the idea has (32a) arisen that the Roman Church is idolatrous. In this I suppose injustice is done them. But I noticed many things which in the age of Christianity ought to be abolished. For instance as the congregation approached the speakers desk or pulpit they bow in front of the images & paintings as tho they were saluting a living person. On entering the house Mrs. K. dipped her fingers into a vessel containing a liquid of some kind & I believe crossed her breast. The Priest or an officiating officer during part of the service reads or speaks in a language unknown to the congregation. He is dressed in a peculiar manner, attended by pages, goes thro numerous ceremonies of kneeling etc. etc, which wear the appearance of juggling & seem to appeal to the superstitions of the audience for toleration. The whole has too much the appearance of propitiating Heaven by a necromancer's charm. If these things were put aside I see nothing to condemn. A better behaved congregation I never saw. The Pastor read us a sermon, quite orthodox it seemed to me, & abounding in good sense. I have been told that the priest assigns some good reason for every ceremony however absurd it may seem to the stranger. It may be true that all their ceremonies are associated (33) with some historical event which gives them an interest & charm to those who understand the allusion. But to those who have no key to unlock the mystery & such was my case - they cannot be viewed in any other light than that of dazzling absurdities. There is a pageant about them which induced the beholder to look on as he would a circus a pantomime. Today made an argument in the Supreme Court of the U. S. in behalf of Wm. Chiles in the case of Boone's heirs against him & other appeals from the Ky. circuit. Mr. Clay & Mr. Crittenden were council for Boone's heir & Mr. Hardin & myself for their opponents. This is my

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first speech in the supreme court. Last night I went to a party at the Presidents with Mr. Thos. Swearingen, his wife, his two sisters Hannah & Virginia. There were probably a thousand persons there. I never before witnessed so great a crowd on any festive occasion. The press in going to supper was so great that a lady was hurt. At all events was carried off in the arms of a gentleman apparently in the act of fainting. I was as much as I could do to protect my charge the two Miss S's. We were sometimes driven ahead by the press behind without the possibility. (33a) There is no rational enjoyment in such masses of human beings congregated to eat & drink & chatter. On yesterday Mr. Harden of N.Y. & Mr. Cushing of Mass. had some thrusts at each other in debate of an acrimonious character. This afternoon I went to the Presbyterian Church in Washington & witnessed the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The service recalled the image of my departed wife. I have often looked on her devotion & her participation of this feast with the greatest interest. She was a sincere, unpretending, & I believe sensible Christian. She loved to do her duty in all things. She partook of the sacramental emblems in a meek, yet dignified manner, & was always delighted with anticipations of Heaven. She was so far convinced of the insufficiency of this world to make her happy that she has often told me she would not live her life over again. Before she died she had her children baptized & her heart consecrated them to God most fervently. My visit to church this afternoon recalled the religious conduct of my Eliza & in every thing that was said & done, I could almost imagine her presence acting her accus (34) tomed part in the congregation. I feel as if she was immortal and now in a state of glory. The world to me is fast losing its charms. If there is a predominant wish in my heart at this time it is to finish my race in conformity to the will of my Creator and then to be reunited with Eliza in Heaven, with immortal bodies imbued with perpetual vigour and with immortal minds harmonizing with God expanding this eternity and devoted to the praise, the service and the contemplation of the amazing and stupendous works of Deity. That will be happiness and there is none short of it. I have not heard from my children in B. Green for 10 or 12 days and feel a little uneasy on that account. To raise them properly and start them in life, and give them good impulses in the beginning are now the main objects before me. To do good to my country & mankind are objects of more importance than the personal welfare of my children, & I intend to labor for their advancement, but here I fear I shall accomplish little owing to the corruption of times & the selfish & unprincipled men who now control the destinies of the Republic, or to my want of discernment in perceiving the proper course to pursue. I shall exercise my best faculties & (34a) leave the issue to Him who governs the universe. On Thursday last witnessed the launch of the Columbia Frigate of the Navy Yard. I was on board of her when she glided into the water. There were many thousand persons present, among them the President and many members of Congress. This evening I composed the following song for Miss C. Kennedy in hopes that it might suit a beautiful tune she plays called the "Bonny Boat."

"The Bonny boat is on the tide, and ready now for sailing
 Aboard my boys, thro foam to glide, no faltering or wailing,
 It is life's cruise, away we go, most happy may we find it
 But if disasters whill-wind blow, why then we'll never mind it
 The unseen Pilot steers the boat, and regulates its motion,

He makes her sink or makes her float, Upon a stormy ocean,
In Him confide, Our messmates love, our wives our sons & daughters
And safe we'll reach the Port above, thro life's tempestuous waters."
It snowed today in Washington. The past winter has been extremely cold.

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May 2nd

In the morning of the 1st left Washington & went to Harper's Ferry on a canal boat. Staid all night with Gen. C. F. Mercer, J. Chambers of Ky. & Senator Morris of Ohio; at Mr. Ragan's. At 9 o'clock next morning set out for Winchester Va in a railroad car (35) & arrived in Winchester at 45 min past ten o'clock—distance 32 miles which we traveled in one hr & 30 mi—stopped to water 15 mi. Went to the Episcopal Church with A Renske of N. Carolina & Jas Harlan of Ky. Returned to Taylors Tavern where about 100 M. C's set down to a most excellent dinner. At 3 P.M. got into the car & returned to Harper's Ferry in the canal boat & got back to Washington about sundown distance 52 mi. & on the evening of the 3rd went with Mr. Morris of Penn. to the May Ball. Those three days were spent in relaxation & pleasure Congress having adjourned for the purpose of fitting up the Hall for the summer. The members of Congress were invited to pass up the canal & go to Winchester. We were most hospitably entertained & not permitted to pay anything. The trip was truly delightful. The scenery on the Potomac & Harper's Ferry grand. Went with Mr. J. Harlan to Mr. Washington's & escorted some ladies to another May Ball. I waited on Miss Roberto Young a beautiful girl in her teens, & he conducted Mrs. Washington. The little girls at the Ball were dressed with taste & splendor & danced beautifully. A daughter of Mr. Woodbury, Sec. of the (35a) Treasury, was crowned Queen. Mr. Adams Ex-President & several heads of Departments were present. Mr. Adams's two granddaughters, one 8 & the other 5 danced admirably. These May Balls are very brilliant affairs & abound in innocent amusement. Twenty three years ago on this night I slept in a British prison ship suffering from a severe wound received in Dudley's defeat. I laid on the floor without covering, & with no clothes on but shirt & overalls having been stripped of everything else by the Indians. What a contrast between that night of my life & the 5th of May 1836!

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Yesterday being Saturday, I left Washington in company with Miss Roberts, Miss Roberta Young, Jas. C. Harlan, M. C. from Ky. & Mr. McGoffin of Harrodsburgh, Ky. for Alexandria, Mr. Vernon etc. We went to the steamboat wharf just below the Bridge in a Hack, then we got on board the steamer J. Johnson & passed to Alexandria. Passage 12½ cents each. We then chartered a stage & 4 horses to take us to Mt. Vernon for \$6.00 & back to Alexandria. Visited the tomb of Washington, examined the summer house, dwelling house, garden, etc. Found the premises in a rapid state of (36) decay. The dwelling house in the best state of preservation. Last winter the greenhouse was partially destroyed by fire. Many oranges & lemons were on the trees that were not burned. I picked up some pebbles near the old tomb & cut a locust stick near the new one to preserve as relics. Mr. Vernon is beautifully situated on the Potomac. I wish its improvements would be always kept in a condition as flourishing as the fame of the great man whose ashes repose upon it. I fear the world will never see such a patriot again. We were treated to wine & cake by an amiable looking woman called Mrs. Washington who lived upon the estate & an acquaintance of Miss Roberts. Spent the evening in Alexandria at the house of Miss Roberts father where I saw two daughters of Mr. Fowle a wealthy merchant. Staid all night at the

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Tavern of Mr. Newton. On yesterday afternoon I went with Miss Roberts to see Miss Georgianna Slocum to whom I delivered a card from Col. John Chambers. Today I came in the steamboat to Washington with Miss Young, leaving Alexandria at 8 oclock. Met Thos. Corwin, Thos. M. Kennan & Morris, members of Congress (36a)

Learnt from the Green River Gazette rec'd. today that Mary Blair Rive a cousin of my deceased wife died at the home of my Uncle Thos. Rogers on Friday night 13th inst. Mary B. lost her mother when she was quite young & was taken by her aunt Mrs. R. & raised. She was I suppose in her 16th or 17th year, & has been consigned to the grave when she was ready to begin life. I left her in health. How transitory are all the things of earth!

Reached Washington City today in company with Jas. Harlan of Lexington, Ky. We ascended the Ohio river to Pittsburgh & thence in stages went to Baltimore & thence by the railroad to Washington. Since I left Washington in July I have witnesses many things worthy of a record here, but like millions of important events, especially to their actors, they will soon belong to the most of things forgotten upon Earth! I have not time to register them, thus my life is fleeting away amid incessant engagements so that I cannot find leisure to leave a memorial behind me of things which most deeply interest me. I spent the summer & fall in vindicating my political course in stump speeches, attending to my professional business & in selling lands as agt. for John Wickham, Henry Berry etc.

(37) The matter which employed me most on the Stump deserves to be mentioned. I made a speech last May in which I noticed the condition of the political parties & stated that a certain class of politicians should be denominated the "Sop party" being a name more suited to their infamous principles & corrupt practices. I caused the speech to be published & circulated. The expression "Sop-Party" gave my opponents great offense. Some of them refused to speak to me in consequence & others wished to make it cause of personal quarrel. No one charged me with giving an improper vote. No one denied the truth of the facts stated in the speech, & yet many of them were very vindictive at the idea that I had stigmatized them as a Sop-party. Most of my stump orations were directed to allaying this excitement & to explain who were & who were not embraced by the term Sop-party. In all this I saw that trifles often excited the passions of men as much as things of importance, & hence it should be the care of a wise man not to overlook trifles. We should regard all mankind as our brethren, & thenact upon the Christian principle of not offending a weak brother. Our usefulness as well as our happiness depends in a great measure upon the feelings of others toward us. We should therefore (37a) be cautious in speaking the truth, if it is offensive. We may remain silent when speaking would offend, unless the subject be of such importance that speaking with offense, will do more good than silence. Nothing however can justify the practice of telling lies to please. When ~~the~~ the truth gives pleasure, speak. I am now at Hagerstown, Md. I reached this place last Friday evening, & have been detained ever since (this is Sunday) being unable to get a passage on the stages westwardly so great is the crowd. After the adjournment of Congress I went

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to Goochland for the purpose of seeing my Father who was 70 yrs old on the 22nd of last month. I found him in the same hovel where he was when I visited him in Nov. 1835. His situation instead of being improved was much worse. He is now helpless with age & disease & everything indicates that he will not live much longer. The money which I have sent him from time to time seems to have been imprudently wasted. I asked him to suffer me to take him to Ky. He said he had been badly treated & defrauded. It was obvious that his mind dwelt with intense (38) anxiety upon the recovery of his farm where he had lived many years & where his children were born, & which had fallen in to the hands of his creditors. My Father has much pride. He has a strong desire to be eminent. He is deficient in judgement. He sees clearly the end he desires to attain, but he overlooks the means by which it is to be attained. There are thousands like him in this respect. I sent my Bros Henry for our Father's use \$50.00 in a ck. last winter. I gave my Father \$20.00 in gold. I gave Henry \$20.00 to be applied to my father's use, & I placed in the hands of my old schoolmate David Mims \$40.00 to be applied to the use of my Father. In July last I gave my Father \$50.00 as I passed thru Goochland on my way home. Thus in 8 months I have appropriated \$180. to provide for him, besides giving him a number of clothes out of my wardrobe. I have felt grateful to God that it has been in my power thus to administer to his wants, but I have been much mortified that his imprudence has required the assistance & at the manner in which the funds I have given have been wasted. I have also felt some dread (38a) of the censure of the world. I have sometimes fancied that I should be charged with meanness in suffering my father to pass the remnant of his days in a dirt cabin. Notwithstanding the many proofs I have had of the worthlessness of the world's opinion. I cannot fully divert myself of all sensibility to it. It is not desirable to be exempt from all emotion at the censure of applause of mankind. I have done for my Father the best I could. I have done that for him, with which I shall be content from my children, should I be placed in my Father's condition. My Bros. Henry has unfortunately contracted habits of intemperance which disqualify him for business. I am told he has done better this past winter than theretofore. He told me if I could furnish him a capital of \$200 he could by establishing a little store at our Father's, support my Father & himself & would do it. I thought the scheme would prove abortive & did not enter into it. I gave my Father & Henry as much as I thought prudent & put \$40. in the hand of Mims who I thought would act best with it. During the last winter as an M.C. (39) I led a busy life. I constructed the tables for B. Payton which made part of the appendix to his minority report. My other acts appear of record, & it is unnecessary to mention them hear. Thru the winter my son Eugene & daughters Julia & Eliza have written me many letters. I derive more heartfelt satisfaction from their correspondence & society than anything else. If they should only be intelligent, honest, industrious, neat, kind & prosperous & Jane & my little son should likewise possess these qualities I shall probably pass an agreeable old age. If my children turn out badly I shall be miserable. During the winter I occasionally visited two ladies both single & both past their teens. They were agreeable companions, & sometimes thought that one or both would have no objections to coquet with me. They were intimate with each other. On leaving Washington I wrote on the

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back of one of my visiting cards the following verses & left a blank for the name of one of them just as it is left here. I then enclosed the card & verses in a letter directed to both of them, & wrote across the seal (39a) "not to be opened except in the presence of both." I stated in the letter that I was unable to decide between them that I therefore left it to their deliberation how the blank should be filled, that if they rejected the discussion & refused to insert one of their names my future life would probably become a blank & my actions as wild as my verses. I then told them to be serious, I felt grateful to them for their polite attentions, & that if I never met them again they should be remembered with sincere friendship. I did all this to amuse them, & at the same time to convince them that I had not the least idea of courting either. I never expect to find in woman what I have lost in Eliza. She made an impression upon me the first time I saw her altogether unlike that produced by any other female, & I believe it never can be produced again with me. I have not since her death looked at a female & thought of marriage but instantly the image of Eliza presented itself, Her amiable qualities took possession of my mind, & by contrast placed the woman before in the background. As long as this is the case a second marriage would be miserable, & I cannot help wishing that it may (40) continue thru life. I enjoy a pleasing melancholy in the recollection of my wedded life which is more agreeable than anything I should probably find in a new wife. But I am running from the verses. They follow

Should you be pensive & alone
When I'm o'er the mountains gone.
Oh then remember me.

Then though the keys & wake the chords
And breathe a song of dulcet words
In thrilling melody
On Merten's bank mid sweet wild flowers
There shall I wear my tedious hours

In many a reverie.
And as the birds on sprays above
Carol their notes of happy love
I'll think— of the
And Merten's waters pure & clear
As maidens heart & beauty's tear
In rolling to the sea
Without one dashing wave of strife
Shall be the emblem of life
When wedded love to thee.

Note. Merten is the Indian name of the river on which I live & signifies the stream of happy lovers.

(40a) On efforts to amuse the ladies I wrote the following lines which I thought of sending but I could not frame a letter to suit me so never sent them.

Who could have thought my rosy wright
The parting hour would end in sighs?
Who would have dreamed, my westward flight
Would start a tear in thy bright eyes?
I scarcely hoped a heart so young

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Would harmonize with years like mine
 Altho I knew what poets sung
 Of aged oaks & tender vines.
 There is a mystery in love
 A wayward power by which we're driven
 The secret is confined in Heaven
 On earth it is enough to know
 Whatever the cause, it melts the heart
 I feel its hallowed current flow
 As fate desires that we must part.

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In going to Goochland I passed thru Richmond where I went to see my relations. I gave the wife of my uncle Thos. U. \$5.00 & told her to give it to her eldest daughter & tell if I should return to Richmond next fall she must make a present to my eldest daughter. (41) I heard that my cousin was unwell & knowing the family was very poor I adopted this plan to give without wounding their feelings. I purchased a dress (cost \$4) for my old relation Mrs. Stark & directed T.U. Dudley to send it to her.

Aug. 30th

On Friday night last I reached Washington with my daughter Julia. My object is to have her education finished in this District, & have her near me, that I may give her advice, & have her society during my stay here as a member of Congress. I have been re-elected without opposition, & at this time I am of the opinion that I shall not offer again. I intend, however, to make no pledges on the subject

I am convinced that a political life operates against my interests in a pecuniary way, & I am apprehensive that my exertions to reform the abuses of the Government to stay the tide of corruption & to overwhelm the knaves in power, will not avail. I think it probable that I can do more good by preparing for publication an elementary work on the subject of human rights & the first principles of government, with a view to enlighten the young men of my country. If I can discharge my duty to society as well, or better I am sure I can be more useful to my children by (41a) retiring from public life, & I am therefore strongly inclined to do it. If however it shall seem to be my duty to the country to make personal sacrifice, I will again & again represent the people should they permit. It is my fixed resolution the balance of my life to act upon the principle, that my time, my talents, & my life, belong to God, & that it is my duty to employ them in such manner as will produce the greatest good, believing that such a course will ultimately produce the greatest sum of personal happiness. Our journey here the stage was upset about ten miles East of Lexington Sunday morning. Julia & I were bruised a little. I get have a black eye in consequence. It was a careless piece of conduct on the part of the driver. In April last Capt. Robt. Craddock of Warren Co. who was actively engaged throughout the Revolution departed this life leaving a will by which he emancipated all his slaves—about 15 in number & left to each a considerable property. The rest of his estate he devotes to purposes of education, & constitutes me the trustee to apply the fund according to my discretion & for my trouble allows a commission of 25%. It is believed that the fund which will fall into (42) my hands under the will in case the executors do their duty will exceed \$20,000. The faithful application of this fund to benevolent purposes intended by the testator will occupy a portion of my time,

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& with other engagement which may devolve upon me as executor will constitute a strong motive for quitting the public service at the end of my present term.

Today being Sunday I walked to Georgetown from my boarding home to see Julia. I found her at the Episcopal Church. I walked to Miss English's with her. I took her a letter from her cousin Mary Jane Rogers which Eugene enclosed to me in his letter informing that his little brother Joseph was recovering from the measles. I fear yet that his recovery is doubtful. The issue is with God. After supper I walked into the parlor at Mrs. Rondendorffs & saw on the table a letter directed to me in the handwriting of my brother Henry post-marked Belham Sept. 29. The seal was black & I immediately supposed that it contained information of my Father's death. I retired to my room before opening it. My conjecture was right. The following is a copy of the letter. "Sept-29-1837. Dear Brother - The (42a) most painful moment of my life is perhaps this—to inform you that our Father is dead. He died this morning about 2 oclock—he died like a man—with great fortitude, very little pain & perfectly in his senses. Write me whether you will come by when Congress adjourns.

Your affect brother

H. M. Underwood

I had written you a long letter a few days ago, but withheld it, calculating in this event. Every attention was paid to him that could be.

I cannot say that this event afflicts me. I never saw a man reduced to such misery as my Father was. He had lost everything but character., I have never heard of crime being imputed to him. He loved truth. He loved noble actions. He was liberal & benevolent so long as he had anything to gain. He had many faults resulting from erroneous view of things. He was eccentric. He was too fond of amusement thru life. He neglected his business in pursuit of it. He spent his property, & for many years has lived in a small log cabin with a dirt floor. I wanted him to go to Ky. & live with (43) his children but he would not. I supplied him with money etc. He was 70 yrs old the 22nd of last February. His health has been very bad for the last year & he suffered much. I expected his dissolution & feel reconciled to his removal from a state of suffering to the rest of the grave. The God of our being will dispose of him hereafter as he deems best. I remember the days of my boyhood when the gray hairs of my Grand-father were contrasted with the dark locks of my Father, who was once of the finest formed & handsomest men I ever saw. They are both gone & I am at the head. I feel the change which time has wrought in my limbs, my opinions & my feelings. I have lost the proud aspirations of 21. The deep sensibility of 18, & the animating hopes & splendid day dreams of younger years. I have so often drank of the cup of bitterness, that is has benumbed my faculties & produced the calmness of stupor. The importance of the world & all things in it has diminished in my estimation to such an extend when compared to the rest of creation (43a) that I look upon its mightiest transactions as momentary trifles. They have no value when separated from the ideas of eternity & immortality. Connected with these, & regarded as controlling the everlasting destiny of man they possess value but for themselves the things of earth have few ingredients in them worth living for, when our faculties are most capable of enjoyment, & none

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when old age, poverty & disease, have deprived us of all capability of enjoyment. It is then best for men to die. My Father had reached that point. I confide in God & will not murmur.

My father represented the county of Goochland several times in the Legislature of Va. He was a man of very popular turn. He told anecdotes very pleasantly & possessed an abundant store of them. His father Thos. Underwood had often likewise represented the same county. From what I recollect of each their desire to please & serve the people was very great, & their patriotic intentions were never doubted.

Note: On the 20th of Oct. 1837 when in Richmond I visited the State Library (44) & when there I got hold of the old Revolutionary journals & examined them for the purpose of ascertaining how often my Grandfather Underwood had been a member of the Virginia Legislature. I found that he served as a member in the following years—1777-78-80-83-84-85-86-87-89- & 90 being a period of 10 years. How long & when my father served I had not time to ascertain, but will do it hereafter, if I can. My grandfather Thos Underwood was born in the 6th of Nov. 1740-& died on the 29th of Jan 1815. Jane Underwood his last wife died 13th Apr. 1821. My great grandfather had two wives. My grandfather was son of the last wife. On last Friday evening I reached Capt. Ferguson's on Lickinghole Creek, Goochland Co. Va, from Richmond having left Washington City in the steamer Thursday morning. Staid all night at Capt. F's. Next morning went to see my schoolmate David Mims, where I met my brother Henry having seen him the evening before at Hager's Taverns. After dining with Mims I went to the little cabin where my Father died, with my brother. The (44a) absence of its aged tenant, the reflection that he was dead, the black-smoked clap-board loft—the worn out old furniture, the coarse bed on which he died—everything around me conspired to throw strange feelings upon me. I did not shed a tear, & therein I acted in a measure unusual to me. My feelings of excitement, whether of anger, grief, admiration or any strong sentiment commonly manifest themselves by tears. But I gazed around me without weeping or speaking for some-time. A thousand recollections, reflections & anticipations rushed together thru my mind. All that I had seen or heard of my father, all my conduct from infancy upward when with him, the futility of human hopes, the weakness of man's judgement, the poverty & disappointment which supplant wealth & calculation, the end of man, what he might be hereafter the mysterious providence of God, the question of our immortality, & the final eclair-issement in the morning of the resurrection, galloped simultaneously thru my mind, producing a strange intellectual excoite-(45)ment which seemed to overpower & suspend animal sensation. There was no division of estates among heirs to intrude. The property my Father left was not worth \$20. Memory & imagination brought the past & future together. I at length aroused myself from the reverie, & conversed with Brutus, the servant who waited on my Father many years, as to his wishes in regard to his future residence. He preferred remaining in Va. to going to Ky. Just before night I walked over to Mr. Woodsons who married my cousin Jane Dudley & staid all night at their house. I think my cousin Jane a fine woman—I did not see her husband—he was absent at a Va frolic or dance. Sunday morning went with Bowling Dandridge a cousin to Hanover Co. I staid Sunday night at my Uncle Jas. Underwoods where my grandfather Underwood lived, died & was buried. I visited his grave. He & his last wife are buried side by side. East of the garden. No stone tells where they lie.

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The sunken earth designates the spot where they are buried. I found Mr. Jno Dandridge & his wife (45a) my aunt Polly, at Uncle Jame's. I walked a mile with them in the evening, & promised to dine with them next day. On Monday after breakfast uncle James & myself rode over to Mr. Dandridges where we dined with Mrs. Doswell who told me her maiden name was Groathmay, a relation of the Groathmays about Louisville, Ky who are related to me. My uncle James & Mr. Dandridge are very poor. Their tables are not bountifully supplied, no, not even plentifully. They also have been reduced to want by bad management & bad habits. My brother Henry borrowed a horse from Mrs. Clark to ride down to Hanover with me, & after getting the horse made a half dozen unsuccessful applications to different persons to borrow a saddle. Failing to get the saddle he gave up the trip. Old Brutus rode the horse bare back from house to house, my brother taling it a foot except when I allowed him to ride my horse borrowed from D. Mims, & footed it in his stead. A saddle was asked for at every house we passed, but they were all out of the way, other borrowers had generally been too soon for my brother, who nothing discouraged would (46) always flatter himself that he would have better success at the next place, until at length despair overtook him, & he turned back after a two or three mile walk. The incident proved to me that the poor assist each other in proportion to their means greatly beyond the assistance afforded them by the rich. The wants of the poor induce them to look upon everything which they possess as common property and as they know from sad experience it will not be long before they need aid, they willingly surrender anything they have expecting remuneration when they are destitute, & then they enter the homes of their compeers & ask favors as tho they had an unquestionable right to demand them. The rich man relies on his independance, on his ability to purchase what he needs. He therefore will not ask favors & finds an apology for not conferring them in the fact that he is too proud to beg or accept them himself. My brother who had had no property for years, applied to his neighbors not much better off than himself, apparently with the utmost confidence, & answers he got really proved they could not accommodate (46a) him with use of a saddle. If he could have found one at any of the half dozen houses where he applied he would have claimed it as a matter of right resulting from the lex-non scripts of the poor people of his parish. My Brother felt the sting of poverty. On Monday evening I returned to Mr. Mims & staid there all night. I found my Bros. H. waiting for me. Tuesday morning—this day—after breakfast we left Mims to visit the scenes of our early childhood. It is my birthday & I set it apart to ramble about the place where I was born forty six years ago & to visit my Father's grave which I had not yet seen. We crossed the creek in which I had fished & washed when a boy. We went to the grave of our sister Mildred who died when she was 3 or 4 yrs old. I was not at my Fathers when she was buried. My Brother showed the grave. It was on the brow of the hill overlooking the low lands in a cluster of oaks, wild cherry & ash, all small. Grapevines rad run to the tops of the trees & the ripe grapes were still hanging on them. Plum bushes were mixed in the little grove which had sprung up around the grave. It was an (47) appropriate resting place for the body of the child. From the grave we went to the spring, now not used. Thence to the site of the family mansion in which all my Father's children were born. There was no house there but the excavated earth still showed the

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cellar over which the home was built—& a mound at one side which still showed the mouldering remains of the fallen brick chimney. The garden & yard fences had disappeared without leaving a memorial. I recognized an ancient black-heart cherry tree, as one of the beloved of my boyhood. Its trunk of 3 ft. diameter supported a few green leaves & many dead branches. From the site of the old mansion house we went to the cabin where my father died, & there we rested an hour. We then went to the grave of my father situated on the land once owned by a man named Parish, & now owned by a man named Branch. There are other graves containing members of Capt. Parish's family near my father's. His is detached from the rest. A mulberry tree stands between them. My father's is to the north of the mulberry & near the edge of the lot which seemed to have (47a) been left for the graveyard. The cultivated land came within a few ft. of the grave. We looked on in silence for some minutes. I spoke & said to my Brother (in a few years the spot where our father lies will not be known—the corn-fields will extend over it." I saw the tears start from his eyes as he turned & walked away. I followed him. We went to Mr. Samuel Finches & there dined. In the evening we went to Capt. Ferguson's—the stage stand, where my trunk was. I gave my brother twenty dollars, four shirts a waistcoat, socks & stock out of my wardrobe, for he seemed to be destitute & he left me under promise to meet me next morning at Goochland Court-House.

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Left Ferguson's this morning in the stage for Richmond. Before leaving settled with D. Mims as to the manner in which he used the \$40.00 left with him for my father's use. He fell \$11.11 in my debt & not having the money executed his note. Found my brother at the Court house. I there assigned to him a note & deed of trust executed by my father to J. Dandridge on which \$44. were due, & (48) which note & deed of trust had been transferred to me by D. Drumright to whom I paid the money to save the land on which my father died as a home for him as long as he lived. Thos. Argyle & Co had furnished articles during the summer to my father to the amount of \$38. I assigned Mims note to the firm in part payment, & gave my Brother my claim upon the land upon his agreeing to pay the balance Mims had charged me with a cow & calf worth \$18.00 to give milk for my Father. I gave the cow & calf to my Bro. Henry. These things done, I traveled on to Richmond in a crowded stage. Among the passengers there was a hand-cuffed & chained convict destined for the Penitentiary. His crime was horse-stealing. He smiled at the anecdotes which the passengers told & seemed careless of his fate. I reached the Bell tavern in Richmond safely, & then wrote what may be found under dates 24 & 25. I have stated the facts truly, so that my children may see how I acted towards my father & what a world they live in. It will be of service to them to reflect on the facts.

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Nov. 26th

On last Thursday I took rooms at the (48a) Union Hotel in Georgetown. Today my daughter Julia dined with me. In the evening we went to the Presbyterian church where she joined her schoolmates & returned home with them. We spent a pleasant day together. She was employed a part of the time in getting her Bible lesson. I read the story of Samson & the Philistines for her. We read a good deal in this Register & both of us manifested our feelings by shedding tears. They were sweet tears & I loved my daughter more because she shed them. I will state briefly how I spent the last month. I staid two days in Richmond. I visited Mr. Brown, Mr. Wickham, Mr. T. U. Dudley & Mr.

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Stark while I remained. Gave the old lady a quarter Eagle. From Richmond I came on to Washington and next morning set out in the cars for the North. I reached Phila the same day about ten o'clock P.M. & staid all night at the Merchants Hotel. In the morning after breakfast set out for New York & reached the city in the evening. In N.Y. I remained a week. My quarters were at the Astor House—a home (49) of more reputation than it deserves. During my stay in N.Y. I visited the theatres at night & perambulated the city during the day. I visited the Navy Yard at Brooklyn & examined the M— Frigate laying there fitting out for the Exploring Expedition. Capt. Armstrong is a native Kentuckian & was very polite in showing & explaining everything. I was introduced to Commodore Jones who is to have the principle command & direction of the expedition, at the Astor House. I went to the Union Race Course on Long Island on two days of the races & saw the horses contend for the 2 & 3 mile purses. It took four heats to decide the 3 mi race & three heats to decide the four mi race. Finer running was never before seen. I happened in New York just at the time when the greatest excitement prevailed in relation to their election. I went to the pools on the first day of the election, to see how it was conducted. I saw a multitude issue from Tammany Hall in the night, & with music & various kinds of badges, & buttons, march to the Astor House, where Felix Grundy was for the (49a) purpose of getting him to address them. He declined & apologized to them from a window. He tickled them by saying that they were very able to manage an election without his assistance. I visited Harlem—going on the railroad & passing under the tunnel. I examined one of the finest Liverpool packets. I visited the Electric Magnetic railroad exhibited in a room. I explored the new Custom house, & passed thru the one now occupied for the purpose of seeing the various departments, & how business was conducted. I met with Francis Granger on my return to N.Y. from Boston & had a political conversation with him. The result of the election was then known. I went with Mr. Granger to wait on Col Johnson Vice Pres., then in the city. We found him surrounded by his friends in slippers & a shirt which could hardly pass inspection. Our visit over we went to a oraniological shop where busts are made, & exact likenesses taken by covering the head & face with a composition which makes a mould fitting the face etc., precisely. Here we saw the rough head of Col. Johnson before it was polished. We then went thru the most extensive (50) retail fancy dry goods store on Broadway just to see how business was carried on. Mr. G told me that one of the men employed in the store had not other business but to show his politeness & attentions to customers & he attributed the success of the House very much to the skill of this man in making a polite bow & saying a neat speech to the ladies. The crowds of shops men women & children, hacks omnibuses, & the array of stores shops & goods, & the everlasting rattle & tramp taken altogether presents a scent to the eyes & ears of a stranger in N.Y. which he can never forget. I went to a Presbyterian Church on Sunday & heard a good sermon. Alexander S. Brown a son of Mr. J. Brown of Richmond went with me. I left N.Y. Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock for Boston—reached Providence next morning about breakfast time passing thru the widest part of Long Island Sound & a part of the Atlantic in the night, being well accommodated in a fine Steam Boat. At Providence got upon a railroad & went to Boston in little more than two hours. Put

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up at the Tremont House. During (50a) my stay in Boston I visited the male & female public schools, their houses of correction, & for taking care of the poor & the penitentiary. I went to Dorchester Heights, & there had my first view of the ocean. I went to Bunkers Hill Monument, & to the dock where the tea was submerged at the breaking out of the revolution. I visited the Navy Yards at Charlestown, examined the Ohio (74) in the dry dock & the Columbus (74) on the wharf. Delighted with the appearance of the little boys on board the Columbus, enlisted for the service of the Navy. Went into their school room. Examined the State house, public libraries, merchants news room, and exchange. Went to their markets, etc, etc. On Friday evening attended by invitation a whig meeting in old Faneuil Hall. Mr. Webster, Mr. Bell of Tenn. & Mr. Graves of Ky. made a short speech. Mr. Ogden Hoffman of N.Y. followed in a short address. About 200 after the meeting adjourned repaired to the Tremont House where a sumptuous feast was provided & where Gov. Everett joined us.

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(51) We remained at the festive board till after two o'clock in the morning. Mr. Webster presided & gave us a succession of brilliant speeches & sentiments. Gov. Everett delighted us with a speech, & we had a succession of handsome speeches & sparkling toasts from many of the company. The triumph of Whig principles in the state of N.Y. stimulated & infused life & joy into everyone. On Saturday Mr. Bell, Mr. Graves & myself visited Salem on the invitation of Mr. Philips their representative in Congress. We attended a town meeting in Salem & made speeches to the multitude assembled. We were received with unbounded enthusiasm. Sunday night we went to Lynn & made speeches to one or two thousand people who gave us a hearty welcome. I found here that the people of Massachusetts regard the Sabbath as terminating at sundown, & it is a common thing for them to hold political meetings Sunday evening. While the Whigs of Lynn were holding their meeting preparatory to the election on Sunday evening, their opponents of Boston were holding a meeting at the same (51a) time in Faneuil Hall. On Monday Mr. Graves & his wife, Mr. Shields of Tenn. & myself visited Lowell. We met the people in the Town Hall Monday evening & Mr. Graves & myself addressed them. They gave us a flattering reception. About 150 repaired to a sumptuous supper after the speaking was over & we remained at table until after 2 o'clock in the morning. Yankee wit & humor flowed much more freely than the wine. I never heard a succession of more brilliant toasts, prefaced with witty remarks, & yet no one was intoxicated with wine. We had some amusing & Original poetry half-said & half sung by the author. On Tuesday we examined the manufacturing establishments & returned to Boston. Mr. C. Cushing M.C. met us at Lowell & invited us to go home with him. As we could not do that he went to Boston with us. While in Boston I dined at Gov. Everetts, at Mr. Samuel Appletons, & at Mr. Abbot Lawrence's. Their entertainments were splendid. I met the celebrated Mr. Otis, now upward of 70 at (52) Mr. Appleton's & Capt. Maryatt the novelist at the same place & at the Gov. Everetts. At Mr. Lawrences I met Mr. Tudor the merchant who sent the first cargo of ice from Boston to the East Indies. I had before examined the ice houses where the ice is packed before it is shipped. From the ice houses I went to Mr. Cushings to see his garden & green houses. His establishment manifests unbounded wealth. The Boston men seemed pleased that Western men should visit them, & were polite, and hospitable and obliging. They carried us every where & showed us

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everything we wanted to see. I found more among them worth seeing than I have met with in any other place. Their institutions tend more to improve & dignify human nature, & to make men really happy than the institutions of any other people. They have succeeded better than others in making life comfortable, notwithstanding their cold climate & poor soil. But I intended merely to state facts- not to comment. I dined at the Tremont with Mr. Goodrich the author of the school books, under the name of Peter Parley (52a) In going to Salem I saw Nahant Beach. At Salem I saw the spot where the first church & first school house were built in North America, so said Mr. Philips. He also showed me the hill where the witches were executed. On returning to Washington I staid but a few days in Phil. While I was there I visited the Navy Yard & the stupendous line of battle ship Pennsylvania, said to be the largest ship in the world. I also went to the Fairmount water works, Garrard College, now building, & the Mint. I likewise breathed the inspiring air of Independence Hall. I was in the room where the Declaration of Independence was signed. What a congregation of men was there then! From Phila., I came to Baltimore, visited her Cathedrals & looked at her monuments, & went to her Theatre where I found empty boxes. I also went to the theatre in Phila. Col. Johnson reached Phila before I left there. He was invited to the Chestnut St. Theatre & attended. He was repeatedly cheered & hissed. The buzzars greatly outnumbered by the hissers & a cry (53) was raised once or twice to turn out those who hissed. I expected a general row, but fortunately none took place. I have no time for comment on what I have seen. I have been greatly instructed by my visit North. I have received this evening a pleasing letter from my daughter Eliza dated the 17th inst. informing that all is well at home. This has been one of my happiest days.

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Dec. 2nd

Today I went to Washington & purchased for Julia material to make her a clock. I saw several members of Congress, among them J. Harlan to whom I paid \$50. the amt. of a draft drawn on me by C. M. Cunningham Esq. of Harrodsburgh in pursuance of my directions. He gave that sum for me to the Rev. Thos. Cleland as compensation for preaching, preparing, & superintending my wife's funeral sermon. I had intended to reward Mr. Cleland in a different manner. I designed giving him books, but to execute my intention required some delay & in the mean time I received a letter from Mr. Cunningham (for which he is (53a) entitled to my grateful thanks) that induced me to hasten the discharge of my obligations to Mr. C. by the payment of money. Mr. Harlan brought me a letter from Mr. Cunningham dated 21st Nov. 1837 in which he says "a few days since I advanced to Dr. Cleland the sum directed by you & his letter acknowledging its receipt under date the 15th inst is herewith enclosed to you" Dr. Cleland's letter is in these words: Dulce Domum Nov. 15-1837

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Mr dear friend.

Your note accompanying \$50 as a donation from the Hon. J.R. Underwood was duly received. Will you please say to the judge that for this act of generosity & liberality I feel under peculiar obligations. I thought I had been amply compensated by the strongly approbatory expression of the judge himself, in conjunction with the public voice generally, so far as it has come to my ear. I do

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feel a peculiar pleasure in the hope that it has and will do good. When it was delivered by his request, I had no thought of its (54) publication, and when he requested a copy for that purpose in the evening after its delivery in order to do away with any further hesitation of my part, or as an additional stimulus to my compliance, he very pleasantly, & as I took it jocosely observed, using the common technicality of his office. "I am indebted to you already a fee for the service performed & if you will comply with my further wishes, I shall feel myself under further obligations." But little did I think it was to turn out after this manner, namely, to receive for this poor service the most liberal "fee" for a funeral, marriage, or anything else pertaining to the perquisites of the ministerial office, that I ever received during its continuance of upwards of thirty four years. I therefore most cordially enter it on my "Memor Beneficiorum" kept many years for such purposes. And you will be so good as to express to the Judge on my behalf my grateful recollections with my best wishes for his welfare here & final happiness on a change of existence. And in conclusion, can only say from my heart, that (54a) could I only have evidence that this public labor of love & friendship was only blest to the spiritual & eternal benefit of our friend himself, it would crown the whole in my poor heart with a joy inexpressible & a satisfaction which the pleasures of this world cant afford.

addressed to

C.M. Cunningham, Esq.

Very affectly. yours.
Thos. Cleland

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Dec. 3rd.

Today went to church at the Episcopal & Presbyterian churches. Julia did not go to church. She had the headache. I went to see her this evening. She said rather plaintively "Oh I should be so glad to see them all at home. I wish little Joseph was here." Met Mr. & Mrs. Fulton at Miss English's. Wrote a letter of thanks to Mr. Cunningham. Dined today at Mr. C. Cox's after going to church with him. Introduced to his wife & sister, & Mr. Fisk, Engineer on Canal. During the past week I was at two evening parties, one at Mr. Washingtons, the other at Mr. Gillie's in Washington, both given on account of the (55) marriage of young Mr. Gillies of the Navy with Mrs. Rebecca Roberts of Alexandria. Pleasant entertainments both. I also spent an evening at Commodore Morris in Georgetown. Fine family his. Made a call this morning on Geo. C. Washington. He showed me the Diary kept by Genl. Washington from which it appeared that he noted in a little blank book every day the state of the weather & such occurrences of his life as interested him. I saw the last words, it is believed he ever wrote. They were notes of the weather & yet the great hand which penned them gave an interest to them, of no ordinary character. The world has never produced the equal of Genl. Washington for good sense, strong & clear perceptions, correct judgement, pure motives & elevated aims. Nor has the world produced any one who accomplished as much with such limited means. Take him altogether he is my paragon among men. His memory will be embalmed in the heart of every patriot & time which dims other things will (55a) impart to his fame increased splendor.

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Dec. 12th

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I witnessed a little incident worthy of record here when I returned from Richmond to Washington in October last, I passed Mt. Vernon on board a Steam Boat in the day time. There were many passengers on board & we collected on deck to view the house & grounds where the Father of his Country had lived & died. As I had visited them I undertook to satisfy many inquiries made by those who had never before had even a distant view of the place. I pointed out the situation of the tomb. Seeing the deep interest felt I could not help adverting in a remark to the blessings we enjoyed as the result of Washingtons labours, nor could I withhold my gratitude for so great & so good a man. The transition was natural to the expression of a hope that the recollection of his services, & the cause in which he labored might ever operate to unite honest hearts in the love of a common country & to cement the union of the States under one national Government. While I was speaking I saw a plain, hardy looking country man (56) who listened with attention, & who was looking out at the houses on shore. He felt deeply. The tears glistened in his eyes as he looked & though, altho he did not utter a word. Such sentiments are the bulwarks of American liberty. They give efficient action to our Armies & Navy. This evening I went to the Episcopal church to hear a converted or Christian Jew speak of his traveling thru many parts of Asia & Africa, but his narrative consisted of his personal transactions, & sufferings & escapes & ransom from captivity. There was nothing of that wisdom in him, at least none came from him, which we might expect of a man who explores, observes the soil, the climates, the manners, habits, the businesses, pursuits, & the institutions of countries & nations with a true philosophical eye. This Israelite convinced me of the truth of this thought—that some men see a great many things, & yet they learn very little from them. So some men read & even remember the contents of a great many books, & are about as wise at the conclusion as they were at the commencement (56a) of their labors. The fewest number of men are gifted with the talent of making proper reflections & a sensible application of what they see & hear. There is such a thing as knowledge without wisdom.

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Dec. 13th

We had some exciting matters in the House today. Mr. Fletcher was excused from serving on the Ways & Means Committee, on account of a printed speech said to have been made by Mr. F. in Boston, charging the majority with abject subservieny to Executive Dictation. Mr. F. denied his responsibility for the publication said to be his speech. Said he never saw it till after it was printed, etc. Mr. Adams made a very angry & I thought a very imprudent speech, throwing imputations upon slave-holders, without the least delicacy, & upon the committee of foreign relations, because composed of a majority from states holding slaves, growing out of the reference proposed by him of sundry memorials against the annexation of Texas to a select Committee.

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(57) Made a morning call on C. Cox Esq & partook of his eggnog & cake. Many gentlemen called, among them the Hon. T. M. McKennon from Washington who is one of my greatest favorites. I regard him as a most benevolent, honest, sensible man. He represents the district of Washington, Pa. Dined at Commodore Morris's with my daughter Julia at 4 oclock. We remained till 9 oclock. The Commodore's is a very interesting amiable family, & he is a very intelligent gentleman.

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1st
Went this morning with Julia & Miss Elizabeth Cox to the President's. Saw the pageant of a New Year's levee for the first time. The girls much amused apparently at the show, the crowd, the ceremonies etc. There was a mingled shrewdness & sweetness in the look of Miss C. as she gazed on the scenes passing before her, which delighted me to behold. Mr. Clay & Mr. Webster were there. I saw Mr. Clay with my own eyes & spoke to him. Mr Webster I did not. Altogether it is a poor affair to see one or two thousand people, men, women, boys & girls, pass by, bow to, & shake hands with a fellow creature (57a) in compliment to the station he fills. The world has always, & will to the end of time have its shows & this is one of them. The world is in a great degree governed by them. There was no intense feeling in the crowd in greeting Mr. Van Buren, such as the heart renders to the man who has rendered great public services. Had Washington been before the crowds, tears of joy & admiration would have burst from the eyes of those who took him by the hand. With Mr. V. B. the sentiment manifested was the simpering dandyism of the ball-room. Staid at the Presidents a little more than an hour, & then returned to my lodgings & wrote part of my speech, after taking Miss C. to her home & my daughter to her school. At 4 oclock went to Mr. G. C. Washingtons & there dined with a party of gentlemen & ladies. Miss English, my daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Carter among them. A very pleasant party it was. About 9 oclock I returned to my room. Thus I spent the 1st day of the year. I wrote a letter to my daughter Eliza immediately after returning from the Presidents. (58) I went with Julia to the theatre this evening, being the first visit to such a place she ever made. Vanderhoff performed Macbeth. The theatre has to me nearly ceased to be a place of amusement. I am more frequently disgusted than pleased with what I see there. Spent the evening at Mr. C. Cox's. He gave about thirty gentlemen a fine supper, & plenty of good wine & cards to amuse themselves with. It was an old-fashioned social party which went off with good cheer. I once played cards to excess & bet high. I have reformed. I now play for amusement sometimes, but limit my bets to 12½ cts a game. There is consequently not bitterness of feeling over what is lost or won. It is a waste of time to play cards at all. Went to the theatre tonight. Miss Marie Brown went with me. Vanderhoff performed Hamlet very well. We were alarmed by a smell indicating the burning of something, & a smoke which induced the belief that the theatre was on fire. Great confusion & squealling. A rush to the door. Lady fainted (58a) Since I made an entry in this book I have been very busily engaged. I have seen, heard, & felt much in the last month. On the 9th inst. my speech delivered on the 21st Dec. was published in the Intelligencer. On the 10th late in the evening I received a note from Mr. Kendall enquiring whether the speech was correctly reported, & the facts truly stated. Mr K's note was dated the 10th but I did not get it till the 11th owing to my absence. In the evening of the 10th I went with Genl Mercer of Va. Williams of N. C., & Mr. Shepherd of N. C. to a party given by Mr Fowler of Alexandria I returned to Washington late at night & staid at the boarding house of my companions. I did not return to my lodgings in Georgetown till the evening of the 11th when I found the note of Mr. K. on my table. On the 12th I called on Mr. Crittenden & conversed with him on the subject of my statement in relation to Mr Kendall. I also called on Mr Rope, Mr. Chambers &
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Mr. Harlan of Ky. From these conversations & my own reflections I became satisfied that I had not stated the facts correctly (59) in regard to the "moulding & touching" letter of Mr. K. I was greatly mortified & saw at once that I had placed myself in a situation in which I might be suspected of practicing the very thing which I had attributed to Mr. A. & which I had condemned in unmeasured terms, declaring that the propagation of calumny for political effect deserved the execration of man & the curse of God. Under the circumstances I deemed it a duty to make in the presence of the House of Rep. an explanation which I did on the 13th. I determined to pay no attention or to give no response to Mr. K's note because members of Congress ought not to enter into a correspondence with any one for words spoken in debate further than to ascertain the truth of their assertions, & when the truth is ascertained, if they find their statement incorrect they should explain & withdraw them in the House where they error was made. Having ascertained I (59a) was incorrect in my first statement. I made an explanation on the 13th. On the 27th an article assailing me appeared in the Globe which altho under the Editorial head I attributed to Mr. A. I think I ought to notice that article by an address to the public so far as to vindicate my motives & to show that I had grounds upon which to charge Kendall with endeavoring to connect the murder of Sharp with political considerations provided I shall ascertain by an examination of the files of the Argus, as I firmly believe there are good grounds. If on examination I find nothing to justify the charge then it will be my duty to repeat in silence for the hasty statements I have made & which have already placed me in a very unpleasant situation. I am already admonished to be more careful than ever how I recur to old transactions & to undertake without reflection to state how wickedly other have acted. I have a feeling of contempt for the character of Kendall, but still I am bound to do him justice in every particular. I am bound now more than ever to (60) examine & ascertain whether I myself have not been deluded by prejudices & thus acted hastily & unjustly toward him. I have written many letters to Ky. for information, & shall act hereafter as may seem to be proper when I am fully informed. Last month I became a subscriber to the Georgetown Assembly Balls. The ticket for the season cost \$10. I have attended one ball. It was a pleasant party & I amused myself by looking on at the enjoyments of the young & gay, more than by participating in them. On yesterday I dined at the Presidents. The party consisted of the President, the Secretary of State & about thirty Whig members of Congress. Today Julia spent with me. We went to church in the forenoon. The rest of the day was spent in my room. I wrote to Eliza. The weather is quite cold--the river is frozen over. It is the severest spell we have had during the winter. I sent \$7.50 to John C. McFerran this morning to pay for clothing. I paid his tavern bill \$2.50 before he went to college. These and other sums I may advance for him. (60a) I told him he might repay or not as he pleased when he became a man, that I should make no charge against him or his father. I am alone in my room--it is past 8 o'clock & my mind during the evening has often recurred to an idea which for months past has very often been in my thoughts. I will here state it. It may be of immense importance to mankind & some one may bring something valuable out of it.--if I should not. At all events it will do no harm to state it here. If accident or sudden death should call me from the world those who read this

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may possibly make something out of it. I now have at the cabinet shop a little machine constructing to test the value of my idea. I have for many years—indeed ever since I studied mechanics at Lexington, Ky. at the University—amused myself with mechanical speculations & inventions. I have had several models of machines made, which turned out of no value, & there may be nothing in what I am about to state (61) but it seems to me there is much in it & I shall not be content until the experiment is fairly tried. Last summer in passing from T. Rogers to the public square in Bowling Green as I passed Dr. Beauchamp's residence one of his sons was amusing himself in a swing. Without being assisted by anyone on the ground, but by merely rising & sinking he kept the swing in motion, & would ascend until the swing was nearly or quite horizontal. I had often seen persons thus keeping swings in motion, but on looking at Beauchamp's son, a new idea struck me. I said to myself there is the principle of the long sought after perpetual motion practically manifested. How is it that the boy without touching the earth, or without anyone shoving him, continues to fly thru the air & rises to the level of the beam which supports his swing? It is done by his throwing the whole of his weight by sinking as the swing descends as near the cross pieces on which he stands as possible. Thus throwing the weight as far as he can from the center of motion of the beam on which the swing revolves. (61a) Whilst he is descending, & by rising up when he is ascending, & thus taking the weight as near the center of motion as possible. From observing the boy I drew the following inferences--if the seat of a swing be ten feet from the center of motion & you place a weight of 100 lbs on the seat, & then elevate it until it is as high as the beam or center of motion, & then let it go, the principle of gravitation would carry it down with increasing velocity until it reached the point immediately under the beam, it would then ascend with decreasing velocity until the momentum acquired by the descent was expended, when it would again commence descending & so it would continue to vibrate like a pendulum first on one side & then on the other of the vertical point until finally it would rest. But if the 100 lb weight could by any means be raised five feet from the seat, & attached to the arms of the swing half way between the seat & center of motion at the very moment that the swing became perpendicular then the momentum acquired by the (62) descent to the vertical point of operating point operating upon the weight in its ascent now placed only half the distance from the center of motion would cause it to ascend above a horizontal line drawn thru the center of motion ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ & if at its highest ascent it would again be instantly removed to the seat or the distance of ten feet from the center of motion the power of a perpetual motion would thus be put in operation by the principle of gravitation operating upon inanimate matter. It seemed to me that the actions of the living boy upon his swing did no more than change the position of the weight by rising and sinking & the principles of gravitation kept him in motion. I asked myself was there no way to give the descending weight the benefit of the long lever & throw it upon a short one while ascending without using animal action? After much reflection there seems to me there seems to be there is a way to accomplish it & I have given directions to construct the model to Mr. King of Georgetown. My plan is this—place two swings (

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(62a) side by side on the same beam ten ft. or ten inches long—let an arm be extended horizontally from the top of each swing about half the length of the swing & let these arms be morticed in the arms of the swing so that when you pull the horizontal arm downward you must necessarily throw the weight in the seat of the swing forward. Now half way between the weight & the center of motion in the side pieces of the swing have joints so that when the weight has been projected forward & comes to descend & passes the vertical point, & begins to ascend the joint like a hinge will begin to move & throw the whole weight on a point but 5 ft or inches from the center of motion. There is no difficulty it seems to me by means of such a joint to secure the benefit of a long lever while the weight is descending, & a short one while ascending. The joint must be made to resemble that in a man's knee so that you cannot bend the arms of the swing beyond a straight (63) line one way, to wit when the weight is descending & yet allow them to bend while it is ascending as far as to form a right angle with the upper half of the arms. It will be necessary to have two swings thus constructed side by side, & to have their horizontal arms connected by means of strings or ropes around a roller, so that they may operate upon each other & make the weight of the one while descending & raising the horizontal arm thereto, attached so operate as to pull down the horizontal arms of the other & to throw forward the weight on the other.

Feb. 16th

Last Saturday dined at Brown's Hotel with a large company of Whigs. Dinner given in honor of Messrs Prentice & Wood of Miss. Dinner ticket cost \$5.00. Dined sometime before that at Boulanges in honor of Mr. Black of the same state for \$7.00. Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, Judge White, Gov. Davis, etc., were at the party at Browns. We had many fine sentiments & speeches. Mr. Prentice in his speeches displays a fine (63a) memory, much reading, readiness at illustration a sound judgement & brilliant fancy. He has many properties of an orator. Mr. Webster altogether is the greatest man I know. Mr. Clay is probably his superior in a knowledge of men and the business affairs of society. He is undoubtably superior as an orator. But for the learning of the books & for dinner speeches Mr. Webster excells any one I know. His volume of mind is greater than Clay's. On the 13th inst passed a very pleasant evening at Mrs. Mosher's at Georgetown. Last evening mingled with a large party at Commodore Morris', dancing & music at both places. I danced at Mrs. Mosher's but did not at the Commodores. Carried Julia to the Commodore's—got there before 8 o'clock & were the first guests in the house. We left a little before 12. Most of the company came a little before nine & left about two o'clock as I heard. What an absurdity! They had (64a) much better have gone at 6 & left at 12 o'clock. The irrational dissipation of life is mis-called enjoyment! Julia danced once. Tomorrow I am invited to a party at Mrs. Houstans who plays most admirably on the piano as I learnt when I dined at her father's Genl Smiths.

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This day my daughter Julia spent with me. We went to church in the forenoon. In the afternoon she read the narration of James Williams formerly a slave & which was published by the American Anti-Slavery Society. She said the cruelty practiced upon him was horrible, & he ought to have run away from his master long before he did. I was wholly passive & watched the effect the little

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book would have upon her young mind. She picked it up without my directions. I am satisfied from observing her that slavery is at war with the best feeling of our nature, & that it will be overturned. It ought to be but colonization is the remedy which we ought (64a) to adopt. Since ¹ last wrote anything here the world seems hurrying on its changing scenes with unusual rapidity. I have been pushing along thro the bustle noticing what was worthy of observation, & reflecting in my own mind upon the instability of all things here. I was at the party given by Mrs. Hunter. Her children were christened & dedicated to God according to the forms of the Episcopal Church, before the larger portion of the guests assembled. The evening went off with music & dancing. On the 22nd. Feb. Julia & I were at a ball in Georgetown. There was also a birth-night ball in Washington. I carried a Miss Newton to the ball with Julia, & I could not get the girls away before 2 oclock A.M. On the 24th Mr. Graves killed Mr. Cilley in a duel. On the 26th the burial took place attended by an immense concourse of people. The president was among the number. The Judges of the Supreme Court refused to adjourn for the purpose of attending Cilley's (64b) burial because he had fallen in a duel. They went on with the business of the Court as tho nothing had happened. On the 15th I finished a paper which I intended publishing vindicating myself against a charge of mendacity preferred against me by Amos Kendall Postmaster General, on the 27th of Jan. last. I consulted with some of the Ay delegation on the propriety of publishing the paper which I read to them. Most of them indeed all but one concurred with me that it was proper & that one thought that I would be greatly harassed by responses to it, & on that account only thought it best to desist. I think however that it is required of me to make the publication. The statements which I made relative to Mr. Kendall were made honestly believing them to be true & my object is to show that they were so, with the exception as to the date of his moulding & touching letter about which I was mistaken & gave it on that account an improper direction. Today I attended the funeral of Mr Carter another member from Maine who has died since the commencement of the session.

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The day was bad & the funeral very thinly attended (B64a) compared with the vast multitude who waited on the ceremonies performed over the dead body of Cilley. The burial of a duelist by Congress was something out of the ordinary course of things. It took hold of the imagination of the crowd. It was like the hanging of a felon & the multitude rushed to see what was to be seen & to hear what was said. I intend my simile to go no further than the effect produced upon the minds of people by the novelty of occurrences when they are important. There is a wide difference between the death of a duelist & an executed felon. The duellist assumes the ground that according to the nature of things in which all ~~human wrongs~~ ~~these~~ ~~rights~~ rights are founded, he may wage private war to avenge his wrongs where the laws of society afford no satisfactory redress for the injury he has suffered, and that he may rightfully depend upon the exercise of his own faculties & judgement in determining how far, & to what extremities he may go to obtain satisfaction. This ground being assumed, if it can be maintained, the consequence is, that the duelist places the institutions of (65) society at defiance, & assumes the right to prescribe a code for himself in opposition to code of society. I will not argue the question whether this can be done in any case consistently with morals & duty. I will say however that it is an extreme case only

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which can justify the practice of duelling, if there be any case which will do it. It should be a case so strong that it would justify rebellion against the government, if the Government were to attempt to enforce it upon the citizen. The door should be effectually closed against all other hope or prospect of redress, before anyone should take the redress of his wrongs in his own hands.

Julia started with me to the funeral. We were to go by previous arrangement to Col Croghan's & there take his daughter Angelina in our hack to the burial. The day was so bad that I found Angelina unprepared to go, & I left Julia with her. I dined at the mess-room of Calhoun Yesterday received a letter well written - from my daughter Eliza. The spelling & composition (65a) were very fine for a child of her age. There is a deep snow on the ground. It has continued to snow the greater part of the day. The Potomac was frozen over till the 6th of this month. I have been housed all day. At a party not long since Miss Sheaff said to be a young lady of taste & reading, gave me a sprig from her bouquet of flowers. I wore it in my bosom during the evening, carried it to my room where it died, & afterward wrote the following lines, a copy of which I gave to Miss S.

On today we rejoice - tomorrow deplore,
This bud when just torn from the parental stem
And placed in my bosom, I prized it much more
Than pearl of the ocean, or Earth's brightest gem.

Emblem of wedlock! thy fragrance departed:
Thy beauty has faded, thy green leaf is sear.
A virgin most blessed, a spouse, broken-hearted;--
The morning's sweet dew-drop is changed to a tear.

Thy crimson young blush, like the star of the West.
Illumined my heart with a halo of joy;
(66) Thy light is now gone, & my spirit oppressed,
Feels that it loved then, but to blight & destroy.

Yet still blighted bud, it is a sweet pleasure, my maid,
To mourn o'er thy early love sacrificed doom;
The flowers of life are a "fast fading treasure"
And love as we press them their odor & bloom.

I have gazed on Venus a clear mild evening from the heights of

Georgetown with peculiar delight. It seemed to hang in the Heavens just over my far away home. Since I have transcribed the foregoing I will here insert two other little pieces which I wrote in consequence of little incidents transpiring at the parties to which I have been invited & which I attended. I love at times to throw my thoughts into jingling measures. It is amusement to me, & will serve to show my children the character of their father who desires to put down faithfully in this book his follies as well as his wise thoughts & acts. They may criticize all & avoid what is wrong. But to the verse--

(66a)

Will you go Lassie go, beyond the blue mountains,

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And drink with me there of the pure crystal fountains,
 That gush from the hills & flow on to the River,
 Where beauty & grandeur blended forever?
 We will toil in the morn in a garden of flowers
 And rest when fatigued under odorous bowers;
 Sweeter pleasures we'll find when the happy day ends,
 In thy music & ways, & the presence of friends.
 Balmy sleep shall succeed thy melodious numbers,
 And angels assist me to watch o'er thy slumbers.
 As the sun gilds the east you may rise from repose
 With thy heart like the lark & thy cheeks like the rose.

Having fancied a negative answer to the question proposed in the first stanza I wrote the following.

Proud girl, adieu, my heart for you,
 No more shall sigh.
 I cannot brook that chilling look
 Of thy bright eye.
 I know full well its witching spell
 Of smiles & love.
 With slaveries chains binds many swains
 Who cannot move
 On freedom's wing aloft I'll spring,
 (67) O'er earth to roam
 Till smiles as sweet as thine I meet
 And bear them home.

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I have been much pleased with the female society of Georgetown. Next to the fireside enjoyments of the sweet prattle of children in the presence of their mother, I rank the pleasure of conversing with a virtuous, intelligent & handsome female. I am delighted with the beaming countenances of beautiful girls excited by their first entrances into company as women.

" 23rd

In the Daily National Intelligencer of this morning my reply to an attack upon my veracity made in the Globe of the 27th Jan. came out. All my life I have anxiously desired to merit the character of a truthful upright man. I have been particular in my statements, where the conduct of others was concerned; & I enjoin upon my children never to misrepresent the motives & actions of others, but never to shrink from fearless exposing both when it (67a) becomes a duty. On these principles I have acted toward Amos Kendall.

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On Sunday I went to the Presbyterian church & took a seat in the pew of Mr. Dunlap, a bachelor of my age. Miss Sheaff & Miss Cox came to the pew & were of course admitted. After the sermon I should have walked home with the ladies had Mr. Dunlap given the hint. I depended on him for the etiquette of Georgetown, but he walked quietly across the street to the tavern - I following, leaving the ladies to find their way from the church as they came. On reaching the tavern I remarked to Mr. Dunlap that I was waiting for him to propose to walk home with the ladies. He said it is not too late yet. I said it was. He said no & proposed to overtake

them. I declined & he went. After night I composed the following Epistle which I addressed to him.

My dear friend.

Perceiving that you have perpetrated an act of dangerous gallantry, & apprehending the most lamentable consequences I (68) take the liberty of attempting to guard your young heart by throwing around it a poets fortification. As it is love affair only a battery pf verses may possibly save you & prevent a surrender to the arms of the enemy.

Sincerely & affectionately yours.

Oh take not a wife till the romance of life
Has lost all its charms for the heart gay as thine
For Hymen's tight noose binds a bundle of "blues"
To every young gallant who kneels at his shrine.
The fruits, it is said, in a neat ~~fr~~undle bed
Are sweet as a cherub who sleeps on a cloud.
But let them awake (absolutely I quake)
Their squalling & balling are horribly loud.
Oh take not a wife, etc.
Your darling with health & the comforts of wealth
May rest on your bosom inspiring delight
But poverty vexed, she's completely unsexed
And jumps into trousers & raves thro the night.

666-----

I have had several good laughs at the foregoing conceits. Circumstances have thrown me into the company of the (68a) muses of late more than usual. It is time to make my bow & quit. I have been blessed with a very clear perception of things, & my mind is actively & perpetually engaged with its own thoughts resulting from its own perceptions. My own ideas are so vivid & afford me such pleasure that they drive out of the mind the thoughts of others. I do not attend as much as I ought to past events to be learnt from history. I am constantly looking at the present & commenting upon it & deducing consequences.

Mrs. Stewart wife of Commodore Stewart of the Navy placed in my hands today a pamphlet containing the trial of Col David Henly before a Court Martial in Boston commencing on the 20th Jan. 1778 accused by Lieut. Gen Burgoyne "of a general tenor of language & conduct ~~was~~ heinously immoral as an officer & unbecoming a man, of the most indecent, violent, vindictive severity against unarmed men & of intentional murder." Gen Burgoyne in commenting upon the conduct of Col Henly says - (69) "An army is not to be borne in a free state but upon the principle of defense against an outward enemy, or the protection of the laws. The officer who makes himself the arbiter of the law is guilty of the most shameful perversion of moral duty, & his impunity would scarcely be thought a very comfortable presage of the growing liberties of the country." This is a fine sentiment of Burgoyne's. The manner in which the American people have tolerated the outrageous conduct of Gen. Jackson, & the mean submission to his arbitrary & illegal proceedings have occasionally filled me with despair in regard to the perpetuation of Republican Government. I have a horror of Jackson's character. It seems to

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be a compound of ignorance, Mendacity, Brutality arrogance, hypocrisy, physical & moral courage, & energy of action. Such men are to succeed in their schemes because they use all means, no matter how base, & because the mass of mankind seem to be struck with awe & paralyzed by astonishment at (69a) their conduct & submit without resistance & because they enlist in their service all the unprincipled who can be purchased by the prospect of plundering their fellow-men according to law, taxation, salary, & office - such creatures are as numerous as dangerous & as successful as cunning. Walked to Col. J. Cox's & spent the evening with him, his wife & his daughter. In the trial of Henly a question arose whether Gen. Burgoyne as prosecutor had a right to address the court in a speech & comment on the evidence. This right claimed by Gen. B. was denied by Lieut. Col. Tudor the Judge Advocate but the court decided in favor of Gen. B's right to remark on the evidence. This decision seems to have been founded on precedents in the British Army stated by British officers on their word of honor. The court decided that the charge against Col. Henly was not supported.

" 10th
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Last night attended a political caucus the (70) object of which was to fix a day for the meeting of a national convention for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency & to take measures for the establishment of a Whig press in the city of Washington to promote the cause of that party. To night I am to attend a meeting for the purpose of devising plans to aid the pecuniary means of the Colonization Society. Today I paid ten dollars for the purchase of documents to be distributed throughout the U. States, & ten dollars more in payment for speeches to be distributed among my constituents. I received a letter today from F. Gorin Esq. giving an account of his wife's health & my children. He says "Eugene is a fine young man, & one that you need not be ashamed of." Last night I attended the Colonization meeting. Mr. Clay presided. A Committee was appointed to prepare an address to the public. The committee consists Mr. R. R. Gurley, Mr. E. Whittlesey of Ohio & myself. I propose to open a subscription. It was done. I gave \$50.00 (70a) Went to the Catholic Church today with Mrs. Mosher & her daughters. Took Julia with me. It snowed & after service we were detained on that account. Mrs. M. requested a neighbor to send her & the girls to her house in his carriage - it was done. I took it off with an umbrella hoisted I met Mrs. & Miss Cox returning from the Presbyterian Church. I fazed about & walked home with them or rather to the gate. I gave Miss Cox the following verses written at her instance. I saw her some evenings past at her brother C. Cox's where I had been invited to meet Mr & Mrs Stewart of Baltimore. Poetry becoming the topic of conversation I mentioned the productions of Amelia in Louisville Journal & promised to furnish her some. She wish some of my own from which I supposed she had heard of my writing verses for Miss Sheaff. I prepared these which contain some fancy & sentiment if not much harmony,

" 11th

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"The sweet opening flowers indignantly spurns
The withered old stalk which stands by its side,
(71) The homage it asks & the love it returns
Must come from its equal in age & in pride
The hope were in vain that a beautiful thing
In life's rosy morning should languish on me
As that Autumn's rich fruit & blossoms of spring

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Should flourish together upon the same tree
 I know there are climes where the vertical sun
 Mingles blossoms & fruits upon the same stem -
 And so it may be - of a thousand, that one
 May unite youth & age undimmed as the gem.
 That fate is not mine: in the world I am born
 I love, but am loved not, Alas the sad truth
 The smile of a triumph on the cold look of scorn
 Rewards my devotion to beauty & youth.
 I breath not my love with the language of sighs,
 And yet tis a secret that every one knows.
 There are lights ever glowing in beautiful eyes
 Which shine in the heart & its passions disclose.

- " 16th
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 May 1st.
 Dined today with the Rev. Mr Young, President of Center College Ky. at the house of Mr. St. Clair Clark. He gave me a favourable account of my son Eugene. Mr Young is a sensible intelligent man, as well as a devout Christian. Mr. Clark is the former (71a) clerk of the House of Representative & now a lawyer in the City. He is a relation of Mr. Young.
 Went to Northview where Miss 'English' school was assembled to celebrate the day. My daughter Julia looked rosy & handsome. She returned home in the carriage with Mrs. Saunders & Miss E. Cox. Went to the races, ten horses started. Bet a few dollars & won. A gambler wanted to bet with me. I declines He wished to bet high. I have long since ceased to bet with a view to profit I bet little sums with friends where the winner & loser will not feel the amount & I believe I shall quit that. Yesterday & today I staid in my room writing out my speech on the Cumberland Road. Weather rainy & disagreeable. This is the anniversary of Dudley's defeat. Invited to Mrs. Moshers but did not go in consequence of the rain. Spent the evening at home. Wrote to Eliza. Went to 'aroline Allan's concert on the 4th & took Julia & Miss 'atkins. Went to Church twice. In the evening went to Col. Carters (72) Got a letter today from Eugene which pleased me much - hope he may make a good & great man.
 " 3rd
 Went to the House this morning expecting to make a speech about the investigation of the duel between Graves & Cilly now pending before Congress. I had obtained the floor for that purpose at the adjournment. I carried the Constitution & Jefferson's manuel & my object was to show that Congress had carried the doctrine of privileges greatly beyond the Constitution, & to prevent the adoption of a proposition offered by 'ibley of New York, proposing to bring other persons up for trial besides Graves & reported against by the select committee. In doing this I should have endeavored to prove that the whole proceeding from beginning to end was ridiculous. My plans were all frustrated by one of those unforeseen visits of Providence which often mar the operations & schemes of men. The death of Jacob Lawler was announced & the house adjourned after adopting the usual resolutions & fixing tomorrow for the funeral. I had not heard of the illness of (72a) of Mr. Lawler till I heard of his death.
 " 5th
 Attended the House & heard the funeral discourse delivered by Mr Reese. Delivered my speech on the duel between Graves & Cilly. Altho Providence did not allow me to speak at the expected 8th, my labor of preparation was not thrown away. Providence cooperated with me at last,
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- 12th enabled me to speak better than if I had spoken on the 8th. Carried Julia to Washington to see Mrs Rumsey & Miss Wing. The House sat till after 12 oclock this night discussing the 'reasury note bill.
- 13th Julia & I staid last night in Washington---she with Miss "ing, & I at my old boarding house. On the 11th spent a pleasant evening at Commodore Morriss. Sunday. Went this morning to the Presbyterian Church & heard a good sermon on conscience & the acute pains it is capable of inflicting. Went from Church with Miss E. Cox's & her brothers C. Cox's where I dined with four other gentlemen--to wit Mr. J. Ringgold, (73) Mr Bamford, Mr Bell & Mr Spencer. After dinner these gentlemen, Mr Cox & myself went to the Catholic College & walked thro the grounds & visited the Museum Library, Dormitories & refectory. Mr McTherry treated us to a glass of domestic wine made at the place. We found crowds of students playing fives in two ball alleys & heard various musical instruments sounding. Sunday afternoon with Catholics is devoted to every sort of lively amusement. I returned to Mr Cox's with Mr Spencer---there took tea, then walked home with Miss Elisabeth. On yesterday I settled the bill of John C McFerran at College. I paid for him \$37.88 over the amount which he paid on going there which was \$50. He will start to West Point in a few days. Went to the Navy yard to witness a Regatta or boat race. Five boats started. A large crowd of laides & gentlemen were present. I walked with Messrs Corwin McKennon & Harlan members of Congress & talked (73a) on the way of the proceedings in Phila. of burning the abolition House.
- 21st Today I received the second letter which Jandever wrote me, & in it she enclosed a painting of hers of some roses. The whole was very crdditable to her & delighted me. I am in hopes she will make a fine woman. I saw to day a Mr Crutchfield of Spottsylvania, Va. He told me he had bought about 1000 acres of land in Va & wanted to sell me some notes of his at a discount as he needed money. Went to City Hall to see Maberry & Cox to obtain information to benefit Col Croghan. Today my board is lesseded to \$7.50 per week & I dine at Mrs Rouckendorff in future.
- 27th Went to the Episcopal Church to day & heard a most excellent sermon. The preacher spoke of the evidences in favor of the truth of the religion of Jesus Christ, expounded on prophecy, miracles & on the internal evidence resulting from the purity of the doctrine, & lastly he undertook to prove the truth of the doctrine experimentally, & contend- (74) ed that every one who would practice the precepts of the Bible would inevitably be convinced of their truth & divine origin. He insisted therefore that no noe had a right to deny the truth of the religion of the Bible until he had faithfully conformed in practice to its precepts & thus brought it to an experimental test. This was a new idea to me. It has a good deal of weight in it.
- 28th Went this afternoon to the Georgetwon College to see Charles L. Brown to whom I delivered a letter from his father, & advised him to remain at school until he obtained a first rate education. I told him his father's situation & that he would have to depend upon his own exertions to make his way thro the world. On yesterday I sent John C. McFerran to West Point. I gave him \$25. to defray expenses. A few days before I gave him \$1.00 to purchase gloves & \$11.25 to pay a tailor's bill. I purchased & gave him a book which cost \$2.25 I believe. I have given him & paid for him some other little sums, but do not remember to the precise amount. He (74a) went to college in Jan. last & with the exception of \$50. I have supplied all his wants. I believe I have mentioned herein the most important advances making near to \$100 which if he chooses to repay when he is a man he may, but I shall never ask

him for it. He gave me a cane the other day & seems to be grateful to me. After parting with C. L. Brown I got into the road in the rear of the College & went by Col Cox's to see Julia. The college walks extend up to the road & just as I left the college grounds to ascend the embankment & got upon the turnpike at the branch, a company of 6 or 8 priests in black gowns & mitred caps passed by. I saluted them & they me. I saw a young man standing in the road on the top of the embankment looking down upon us. I had to go up to the place he stood. As soon as I got up he asked me who & what the priests were. I told him & we walked on together toward Col Cox's. There was a one horse cart just before us -- the driver stopped & gazed a moment at the priests, & then asked me who (75) they were. There was a woman in the cart sitting upon bundles of fodder -- stowed away to feed the horse. She looked inquisitively upon the priests also. The man & woman seemed to be man & wife. I answered the man by stating that they were Roman Catholic priests - a set of men who could for a fee forgive sins & pray a soul out of hell after the body was dead & the spirit damned. I desired to see what effect such an answer would have upon these country people apparently traveling in their cart to market. The man said "I wonder if they are fools enough to believe they can do such things". The woman said "I am like the little boy who thought it was the best chance to confess & pray to God & save the money." No Catholics these, thought I, & on we went together. Col Cox came out & hailed the owner of the cart & began to chaffer for eggs & butter. I stepped in - found the carpets removed the floors very nice - the rooms new - arranged & Miss E. dressed tastily for an evening party at Dr. Warfield's. She & (75a) I were left to ourselves. She played a tune on the accordion, I complimented her on her performance at Gen. Smith's on the evening of the 25th where she in conjunction with Mrs Hunter who plays admirably on the piano entertained a party of gentlemen with delightful music. Mr. Clay, Mr Webster, Mr Crittenden & Mr. Meredith of the Senate, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Pierce, Mr Thompson, Mr. McKennon, & myself of the House, Col. J. Cox, his son C. Cox Esqrs. Mr Spencer from the Eastern shore, Mr Ringgold, Mr Hunter, Mr Washington & perhaps one or two others constituted the dinner party. The entertainment was excellent. Mr Pierce & Mr Washington gave us good dinner songs, & the ladies entertained us with music after we adjourned from the dinner table. Having talked over the dinner scenes I left Miss E. & went to see Julia. Found her well & then came home & wrote this & the preceding page. Mr Carter gave a large party this evening. Invitations requested the company to assemble at half past six. It was observed & we broke up generally between ten & eleven. The moon shone brightly & enabled the whole party to reach home with as much comfort as if it had been day light. Sensible people will always consult the almanac in regard to the age of the moon when they give large evening parties & take care to have their parties about the full. I escorted Miss Cox home. Received a letter from Eugene to Julia -- carried it to her, & read it to her. She was so much affected by it that she burst into tears. The letter spoke of his affection for his sister, their long separation, the prospect of meeting next winter their mutual confidence & companionship. In the midst of Julia's feelings Mr Ransell stepped in. By a sudden effort she dried her tears, blushed at the situation & felt vexed at the interruption, I could see from her countenance that she dwelt upon the contents of her brother's letter & desired to indulge her feelings unreservedly with me. I loved her for the (76a) emotion manifested. God bless my children. If they

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June 6th

" 7th

- "9th will only love one another and do their duty I shall be happy. Spent the evening at Commodore Morris's. Met with a Mr Slaughter nephew of Thos. L. Slaughter of Russellville. The ladies were mostly married & elderly widows. Miss Whipple, a sprightly girl & daughter of a Rhode Island lawyer was there. Was introduced this evening to Commodore James Barrow. He is a fine looking man of his age. He is upward of sixty & has a young looking wife. He is intelligent in conversation. I always thought that Commodore Decatur treated him improperly, and my feelings were on the side of Barrow in the affair which terminated Decatur's life. A few evenings ago in a walk with Julia I met Mrs Decatur to whom I had previously been introduced & I presented Julia to her. Mrs. D. is very affable & intelligent. She has the reputation of having been one of the most interesting ladies of her day. I suppose Mrs. D. (77) would hardly speak to Commodore Barrow. I should like to see them meet. It might illustrate something of female character. Dined today with Col. Cox. Went with the family to the old Episcopal Church which before today had not been open for years. Petrikin the young preacher gave us a very appropriate sermon from a very appropriate text-- Haggai Chap. 2 - ver. 3 & 4 "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory?" "And be strong all ye people of the land saith the Lord, & work, for I am with you saith the Lord of Hosts. The preacher adverted to the building of the first temple at Jerusalem. - its destruction & rebuilding. He turned our attention to the destruction of the soul - our bodies by sin, their rebuilding by the resurrection, immortal & glorious, & concluded by saying with the apostle - "the glory of this latter house, shall be greater than of the former."
- " 10th This evening carried Miss E. Cox & Julia to the horticultural exhibition - Returned to Col Cox's before ten & was feasted on cream (77a) & strawberries.
- " 51th Last evening saw Julia - she gave me a letter to forward Eugene in which she spoke of Miss Cox & said she was "pretty & interesting but too young for a mother." Having stated that it was reported that Miss Cox & I were reported to be engaged to be married. I wrote a long letter to Eugene & enclosed his sister's. After that I went to the Episcopal Church there met Miss C. & went home with her. Staid but a short time at Col. C's. Returned to my room & found a letter from Uncle Thos Rogers stating that my little son Joseph was very low with whooping cough & to prepare myself to hear the worst at any time. Answered the letter. I feel distressed. I shall be incapable of attending well to any thing until after I hear my little boy is buried or getting well. Then I hope I shall be calm & resigned. What fluctuating & uncertainty there is in all human affairs! Evening before last I was at a pleasant party at Mrs Bronough's given to Mr Todd (78) and his bride. Music songs & the dance animated the company. This afternoon the certainty almost of my Child's death oppresses me. What a contrast! After reading my uncle's letter I felt a desire to inform Miss Cox of the distressing intelligence, & thought it proper to do so by way of apology for Julia not accepting an invitation to spend next Saturday with her. I wrote & sent the note by a servant to which she sent the following answer. "Miss E. Cox exceedingly regrets to hear of the distressing intelligence conveyed by Judge Underwood's note. She sincerely sympathizes with him & Julia & hopes their next accounts may be more favorable & that she may still have the pleasure of seeing Julia on Saturday. Miss E. will be glad to be informed
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when Wudge U. hears further news from home as she feels very much interested for the poor little boy." I scarcely expected a reply. When I read the above I felt & loved the writer as well as the dear boy who will (78a) probably never again see his Father on earth. I answered my Uncle's letter scarcely able to see what I wrote thro the tears which flowed from my eyes. In the evening I visited Julia & told her what I had learned of her brother's situation. She was much affected & we shed tears together. I told her to ask God by prayer to spare her brother if he was still living, & that I would do likewise. I did as I said I would. Nor did I omit to pray for him until it was perhaps too late. I have for years past asked Almighty God to preserve, protect & direct my children; to raise them up for usefulness, to make them a comfort & consolation to me in old age & to make them & me faithful followers & believers in Jesus Christ. If the Christian religion be not true there is no hope of immortality based upon anything like reason. All the deductions drawn from the visible facts connected with the dissolution of the body, under the guidance of reason & the laws of sound philosophy prove that there is no immortality to (79) man -- that there is no resurrection from the dead. It requires something above the laws of nature which ordinarily govern animate & inanimate matter, something different from these visible & usual facts attendant on the dissolution of the body as a foundation upon which to believe a thing in opposition to the rational deductions from these laws & facts. We have this in the miraculous power, the prophetic knowledge, the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ, proving him to be above the laws of nature, & when we reason profoundly upon it we discover that in no other way could "life and immortality be brought to light." The revelations of the Bible are in opposition to the ordinary course of nature. Can there be any truth in these revelations as emanations from God. Can reason admit a belief of revelation from God when reason acting upon the facts coming within our daily observation declares that the things revealed are inconsistent with the deductions necessarily resulting from the facts of existence of which our senses will not allow us to deny? (79a) The whole difficulty arises from placing Revelations in opposition to the inferences drawn from the existence of certain facts & the whole is reconciled just as soon as the mind can be brought to believe that there is a power superior to the ordinary laws of nature, & which power can control those laws. The natural world & the laws which usually govern all matter animate & inanimate are themselves sufficient to prove the existence of a power from which they emanated or a superior power embodied in the being called God. That established we can soon find a fitness & a beauty in revelation, & a necessity for it order to elevate us above the debasing belief & consequent selfish & miserable practices of atheism, of chance, of the want of all hope & belief of the immortality of the soul. If my dear little boy is dead, we may yet meet & live together forever!

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Three weeks ago today Julia passed the day with me. After dinner we were invited to see the Miss Osborns, the daughters of my landlord. While in their parlor I got hold of the album of one of the young ladies, (80) & there read these verses.

As half in shade & half in sun
The world along its path advances
Oh may the side the sun's upon
Be all that ever meets thy glances."

The thought was beautiful but contrary to the established order of Providence & therefore not just. I wrote under it in the album the following --

The wish is wrong. We are most blest
When storms to purify are given;
In sorrow's cloud there's sweeter rest
When faith's bright bow directs to Heaven!

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The above incident is worth recording here I have also omitted to state that I saw the Prince de Joinville a week or two since in the Senate Chamber. What, omit to notice such an important event until I have really forgotten the date of its occurrence! Strange neglect -- unpardonable apathy! So perhaps it would be considered by the devotees of royalty. The prince was the first son of a King I ever saw & his appearance made no favorable impression of (80a) the children of monarchs. His countenance was not prepossessing. He has dull white eyes & seem to labour under his country men call "mauvaise houte". That however may have been the result of his situation & his youth. It was certainly more commendable in him to act quietly than to exhibit impudence of expression in his lookd & demeanor. He has good size. I witnessed on the part of a few, I thought considerable anxiety to be introduced & to shake hands. I was rather disgusted with such manifestation. We should treat the sons of kings when visiting, politely but never manifest or feel the least solicitude to thrust ourselves upon their notice as if an introduction would reflect honor upon us. I stood at a distance & looked on. We have very many silly Republicans high in office. My last letter encourages me to hope that my little Joseph may recover, but oh, the uncertainty of life -- before night I may hear of his death. Instead of hearing of the death of my little (81) boy I received a letter from my good old uncle Thos Rogers - stating that he was no worse from which I hope he will recover. Heard Dr. Henshaw preach in St. John's church today. I spent the evening at Col Cox's. I rec'd. two letters from my Uncle T. Rogers one dated June 19th in which he says "I am truly sorry to inform you that there is no abatement of Joseph's cough. it seems to be making daily encroachment upon his feeble frame, altho he is yet still perfectly in his senses & his fine eyes are beaming with life. But unless some almost miraculour interposition of Providence the vital spark must soon leave his poor emaciated body, in spite of all the exertions of his anxious friends & Physicians. Indeed I must tell you that you must not count upon seeing him again until you meet his blissful spirit in another & a better world. Summon to your aid all your fortitude. Be resigned to the will of God. Remember that he knows better than we. do what is best for us here, & that it is therefore our duty to humbly submit to (81a) his will & determination." The other letter dated the 20th says "little change has taken place in the condition of your son - except perhaps he may be a little weaker." I suppose my dear child for whom I cherished such sweet affection & pleasing antici-

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patron is at this time dead. The tears have been streaming while I wrote this, but I will try & submit to the dispensations of Heaven as advised by my good uncle. Just as the hour for recess arrived I saw in my box this letter from my good uncle Thos Rogers --

June 22 - 1838

"My dear son --

I have to announce to you at length the melancholy event which no doubt my letters have led you to anticipate, namely the death of your little son Joseph. He expired this evening a little before six o'clock. Everything that physicians & friends could do for him has been done but in vain & it has pleased God to take him from us, & we must console ourselves with the belief that it is for the best that he should go in his innocency & infancy from this world of trouble & (82) pain to another & a better. I have time to say no more but must close this letter in order that it may be ready at the Postoffice for the mail tonight. Expect to hear from me again soon -

Your affectionate uncle.

Thos Rogers"

Thus what I supposed to be true on the 28th is verified. I have had five sons. Eugene is the only one left me. My wife & half her children rest in death. Oh, God, how inscrutable are thy ways How easy to blast human hopes! On leaving the Capitol at recess I saw Mr John Robertson on the steps & requested him to say to my Colleagues that I should go to my lodgings & not return until the next day in consequence of the death of my son.

July 28th

I am now sitting in front of my office at Uncle Rogers with my two daughters Eliza & Jane. I have been telling them a great deal about their sister Julia. Among other things I said Julia got from me all of my coppers & spent them in purchasing candy from an old negro woman at the seminary. Eliza said she then spent \$3.60 a year for candy which she might give to benefit the heathen or to purchase clothes for the poor, & smilingly said "Oh what a vile sinner she is." Jane said "no - she is as good as you are" Eliza said "Father tell us more about Sister." I told them Julia & Miss Cox were very shy of each other - Julia fearing that I might marry Miss C. & she apprehensive that any attentions to Julia might offend her. Jane said "if you marry her & she treats me well I will call her Mother. if she does bad I will call her step." Since my return from Washington I have been delighted with my daughters Jane & Eliza. They seem to be very affectionate, & are anxious to be always with me. Today I went with Eliza to the shop of Dr. Briggs & Co. & had five of her teeth extracted. The new teeth on one side seem to be making their way out on the side of the old teeth. On yesterday Ann Maria Graham was buried - a sweet & beautiful child - only child of John H. Graham.

" 30th

Aug. 1st

Mathew W. Henry died yesterday & was (83) buried this morning. He was an excellent man & a valuable citizen. There has been & is yet much sickness about B. Green. I have been too much engaged to notice here some event transpiring since the last of June. & which deserve to be mentioned. On the 3rd of July last at the request of John W. Crockett I called on John Q. Adams Ex-president of the U. S. & handed him a newspaper containing an article relating to the opinions of Mr. A. & to which I directed his attention & asked him whether the article stated the truth. I told him I did so at the request of a friend who was a religious man & a member of the Baptist Church who was influenced by a laudable curiosity. I thought & in which I participated. I told him there were many persons who regarded him as public property, & felt a

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lively interest in whatever related to him, & that I should be happy to answer any inquiries which might be made relative to the contents of the article. He read it in silence & remarked that the amount was substantially correct. He facetiously said that a sailor in the presence (83a) of my Lord archbishop was reprimanded for "damning his eyes" when he told a story. He was told not to swear. he said he did not-- that the exceptionable expressions were no more than his manner of telling the story. Mr. A. said allowances must be made for the manner of telling the story. He then read the article aloud by sentences & commented upon them as he went along. I will put & mark the sentences as he read them, & I will give his comments in his exact words as near as I can. I made a memorandum at the time. Mr. A. reads "I have long been a firm believer in the revelation of God, I have long trusted in the atonement of Christ, & during a long life I have seen the prayers of faith prevail with Israel's God." To this Mr. A. said "I think I did not use the word atonement. I do not fully embrace the Calvinistic doctrines of atonement, & therefore think I did not use the word. I am a believer in revelations. I am a Christian. I believe in the efficacy of prayer. I expressed these ideas but not in the exact words attributed to me. The gentlemen (84) & I requested him to pray for me. He called on me & desired to know my opinions." Mr. A. read "It is true I have been called by God's Providence to discharge high obligations to my country. I have been four times in Europe & spent more than twenty years of my life in foreign countries". Mr. A. said that was true - then read "I was then called to the Presidency & the four years that I filled the executive chair were the only unhappy years of my life." Mr. A. said he thought he did not use the word only as that seemed to imply that all the other years of his life happy - he meant that they were the most unhappy years of his life--that he had had trouble like others. He read "Now in old age I feel it peculiarly my prerogative to guard the liberties of my countrymen from danger." Mr. A. said he thought that language inaccurate - that it seemed a little arrogant. He said he told the gentlemen that after retiring from the Presidency his constituents without solicitation conferred on him the office of their representative-- that he considered it a duty he ought to accept -- to aid in the protection of the liberties of all. Mr. A. read "I shall soon pass away & if (84a) our country is to remain free, other & younger & stronger men must fill the break. They must be equal to any crisis & not afraid of danger, & above all they must be men of prayer & piety." ("I said that "Was Mr. A's quick & emphatic statement on finishing the sentence) "I have for many years been a member of the Congregational Church of New England. My ancestors for 200 years before me, were members of the same church. But while here I spend my Sabbaths in religious reading & contemplation & attending services twice a day - once in the Presbyterian & once in the Episcopal Church I can attend all churches with pleasure. I can kneel & hear a Catholic priest pray. I attend the Baptist & the Methodist & am delighted with the gospel wherever & by whomever preached in sincerity. I have learnt charity to all. I am a Christian & not a Sectarian." I thanked Mr. A. for his frank communication. I told him the avowal of such sentiments would give great pleasure to many who might hear of them. Mr. A. is somewhat awkward in manner, but one of the most polite gentlemen I ever knew. On Sunday morning about 8 o'clock

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Aug. 1st I separated (85) Campbell & Maury, M. C's from Tennessee - who had a fisticuff fight in the Hall of the House of Representatives, immediately after it adjourned. I did not hear the language which preceeded the blows. Maury much hurt. I left Georgetown on the morning of the 12th in the stage came to Frederick & there took a stage in company with Gov. Pope, his brother Judge Pope of Ill., a Mr. Zane & Capt. Bennett & the wives of the two latter, & traveled to Wheeling then down the Ohio to Maysville, where I separated from my company, & proceeded thence to Lexington, Frankfort & Harrodsburgh where I staid two days with Eugene, & Glasgow home where I arrived on the evening of the 26th of July.
- Aug. 2nd. Visited my sister Lucy Ann & her children today. Went thence with Mr. Skiles to Mrs. Stahl's where John F. Todd & Isaac Smith, candidates to represent the county made speeches to the people. Much whiskey drank. A quarrel between Jno Mason & Houston Feland took place growing out of the proceedings of an association of men to regulate Jacob Earnest & his associates for doing private mischief. Lynching will never be banished from the world as long as sulking villians exists & secret mischief is (85a) perpetrated. Went today to the lock and dam on big Barren River where the candidates addressed the people assembled in considerable numbers. Todd made a very good electioneering speech. He tickled the crowd very much. I examined the locks the foundation of which was not complete. It rests on timbers placed on sand & gravel & I fear the dam & lock will be undermined when a head of water is rained & that the foundation will be washed out & the lock sink in the abyss so formed.
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Aug. 4th. Addressed the people in Brownsville on political affairs.
- Aug. 9th Addressed the people in Scottsville today & the people in Franklin on the 13th 20th. Dined as an invited guest at a public dinner given on this day at Webbs alias Green River Hotel, to Jas. T. Morehead, with him the other member of the board of Internal improvement & engineers Welsch, Livermore & Eastin. The company was very large. A complimentary sentiment was given in honor of my services in Congress. I responded to it by a short address. It was the only time in my life that I have been toasted. I felt (86) very much embarrassed to reply to it & my friends told me my speech was a failure. I knew I was to be toasted & I made no preparation as to my reply. I thought I could say something on the occasion which would be appropriate. I was more embarrassed than I expected, & soon felt my difficulty; got thro as soon as I could & ended by the following sentiment -- "the people of the United States may they elect honest & talented political engineers to slack water the rapid & dangerous stream of executive dulation by constitutional locks & dams"-- my finale was received with enthusiasm & the speech & sentiment together will read better than those who heard them think. I was not however not pleased with the effort, or apology for not making a speech. Went with the Board & engineers to the locks on Barren & Green Rivers near the mouth of Barren. Returned & found Uncle Thos Rogers sick in bed. Heard Mr. Hall of Gallatin preach the funeral sermon of Mr. W. Henry from Isaiah 57 chap - 1st & part of 2nd ver. A good discourse. My daughter Jane took her first (86a) music lesson today from Mr. Patin. She shed tears when I told her she must begin her music - they were tears of anxiety rather than those of opposition.
- " 24
" 25
" 26 Staid last night at Hazlewood. Slept in the room upstairs where I lived about two years. I had many sweet recollections of the past. My sainted Eliza figured in all of them. Got home today from a trip to Allen & Simpson on business for Mr. Wickham.
- Sept. 5th
- " 13th

Sept 24th A slight frost this morning - the first this fall. It is now raining.
 Oct. 14th We have had the dryest summer & fall so far, that I recollect. The river- Big Barren is lower than I have ever seen it. I came up six days ago from Russellville to wait on my brother Warner - who has been, & is, still very sick. His physicians pronounce him out of danger, but he is very weak. I have sat up with him from 1 o'clock till about day every night since I got home. For the last month I have been actively engaged in my usual (87) routine of business - to wit practicing law, land agencies etc. I shall set out today for Elkton Indiana etc. A few days ago I wrote these verses. They were suggested by a scene in passing down the Ohio in a steamboat on my way home from Washington last July

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 The clear Ohio winds before
 Like hope's smooth path in life's sweet morn
 The boatman near his cottage door
 Pours wild notes from his mellow horn
 From teeming wheels rushed waves & foam
 With bright prismatic colors gleaming
 Like that pure light light in man's "Sweet Home"
 Where gems of peace & love are beaming.
 Behind the scene is all commotion
 Where angry surges lash the shore,
 Ahead is, Fancy's blissful ocean
 Without a rock, or tempests roar.
 Embark, dear girl, the port of rest
 Lies in the fertile West.
 I'll seek no guides in starry skies
 But steer the ship by thy bright eyes!

1838
 Dec. 27

I sent a copy to a female friend expecting they (87a) would please her. I must throw together the occurrences of the last two months & do it briefly. On the 13th of Sept last I was conversing with Eliza. She said she had made some poetry. I told her to repeat it. She said she had forgotten it. I told her to think & she would remember it. She did so & after a little while dictated the following. I transcribe them here believing they evidence a strong luxuriant fancy for a little girl only ten years old.

 "the moon reflects its silver light
 Upon the silent world tonight.
 The starry gems around appear
 Like diamonds set in the midst of pearls
 And oft is heard below the soft moon beam
 And clear shrill note of the whipporwill's scream,
 And far away in the distant dim
 Rises the rich incense of the vesper hymn."

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Should my sweet daughter live to be a woman she may be pleased to find these lines a (88) among the first efforts of her genius placed here. I went to Elkton about the middle of Oct. where I remained about a week attending court. Thence I went to the Diamond Island in the Ohio, the

channel between & the Ky. main shore was dry, so that a footman might have crossed over without wetting his feet. I explored the Island in company with a Mr. Walker who is a nephew of the Hon Lynn Banks M. C. Mr. Walker lived on the main land near the upper end of the island (220 acres of which I own) after feeding myself & horse for which he would accept no compensation I crossed the River & staid all night at a place called West Franklin. Next day I went to Harmony on the Wabash where I found excellent land & there transacted business as adviser of Robt. Craddock, with Robt. D. Owen, John Todd, & John Craddock, staying all night at Todds who kept a tavern. I then went to Evansville, having in view the making a speculation in property. I feel in with the (88a) proprietors of Lemasco. They asked me for a little more than an acres of ground \$6000. There was no improvement in the lots. I declined the purchase, not because I believed the lots would never sell for the money but because I was averse to running risks by going in debt. I think it probably in 20 years the purchase would have brought me \$20,000. Evansville will I think become the depot of the trade up & down Green river & will grow into a rival city to Louisville. From Evansville alias Lemasco I travelled up Green River by Rumsey, Skilesville & the mouth of Big Barren. The dams & locks at Rumsey & Skilesville were nearly finished. At Rumsey the water lacked about 18 inches of running over the dam & about 6 ft at Skilesville. These improvements made a delightful & strong impression upon me. I felt as if I was to some extent their creator. I felt the pride of paternity & could not but anticipate the blessings to the country which must result from them. I, as a member of the Ky Legislature presented the first memo (89) rial of the citizens of B. Green on the subject of improving the navigation of Green & Barren Rivers that was laid before that body, & altho nothing was done effectively while I was a member, yet the subject was agitated continually from that time forth & the result has been auseful & splendid improvement. I attended on getting home the Courts of Brownsville & Scottsville, & on the 20th of Nov. set out for Washington City in the stage by Glasgow where I met with Mr. Campbell & Mr. Duffey of Tennessee, & we travelled together. At Lexington met Eugene - he having gone on before me by Frankfort to pay Taxes there. At Harrodsburgh Mr & Mrs Harlan got in the stage & Mr Williams joined us at Nicholasville. We all came to Maysville together where we found Col Chambers waiting for a boat. We could have ascended in the Wacousta, but permitted them to go on in the expectation of getting a finer one, & at last we had to take passage on board the Liberty, a little affair with stern (89a) wheel, & more crowded than any boat I ever was on. We got to Wheeling in safety, & thence by stage we reached Washington without accident. I took lodgings at my old quarters, the Union Hotel in Georgetown, where we arrived in the stage from Frederick a little after night. Eugene & I went to see Julia shortly after supper. She met us with a burst of feeling & tears of gladness.

Julia spent this day with her brother & myself at our hotel. She has improved very much in her personal appearance since I left her in July. She & Eugene had much to say about home, friends, etc, with which I was amused. This evening I paid a visit to Col Cox & family. I met Miss E. My heart told me that her presence increased that attachment which I had cherished for her during my absence.

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Dec.
11th

Went with Eugene to see Mr. Van Buren. We found him alone. He conversed with us very politely. Said he had never been (90) in the West - had a strong desire to go to Ky. etc. I told him he should have extended his visit from the springs (White Sulphur) down the Ohio etc. I told him that altho we did not vote for him in Ky. we should nevertheless be pleased to see him there, & to extend to him our hospitality. Since writing anything here I have been ~~at~~ at several parties in Georgetown. I have been treated by its citizens with great civility since my residence among them. I have been to parties at Commodore Morriss & at Col Carters which were devoid of those heartless ceremonies of parade & show which take place at the omnium gatering levees of the President, or the Secretary or the Ambassador. The Russian minister Bodisco gave a splendid entertainment on the 18th where I was a guest. He acted very much like a polite gentleman, & did all he could to make his guests happy. But it was evident that they had congregated merely to see the show of platé, of fine things of new faces, of new dresses, new (90a) manners. etc. I only like those parties where all are at ease, & the heart predominates & these can only take place among acquaintances & friends. Perhaps the fact that I was raised in a new country where there was nothing like what I now witness has great influence in forming my judgement. Julia & I had a flow of feeling this evening of which I may say more hereafter. She said it should not be her fault if evil followed a step I said I might take.

1838
Dec. 30th

" 31st

1839
Jan 1st

This evening closed the year by writing to my brother Warner. Today I was invited to dine tomorrow invitation but he has a swollen jaw the effects of toothache, & will probably be unable to go. It is now between eleven & twelve oclock. Another year will soon expire. There is something melancholy in the thought. The coming year will be of vast moment. A few days will settle the most important question of my future life. (91) How have I spent this day? I arose & shaved. Then bathed from head to foot in cold water, taking ice out of the pitcher before using it. I then read a chapter in the New Testament - Paul to the Corinthians. Then made a light breakfast on tea & corn-bread. Then looked over the morning papers. Then settled with C. Cox Esq & paid him \$2185.49 for Col. G. Croghan in discharge of debts which J. S. Nichols had against the Col. 4/5 of which were for lottery tickets sold by Nichols to the Col. Then put on clean linen & went with Julia & Miss Virginia Hartshorn of Norfolk Va to the Presidents levee. Staid there between one and two hours hearing little but such expressions as "A happy New Year to you" "The - complements of the season to you" etc, etc, seeing many fine coats & smiling faces. Mr. Clay was there & so was Col Johnson both shaking hands with the people who presented themselves. Many of the company went to call on Mrs. Madison & also on Matthew St Clair Clark, but (91a) I did not. Returned with the girls to Miss English's, went to my room. Staid there till four oclock then went with my daughter Julia, Miss Washington & Miss Duffields to Mr. G. C. Washington where I sat down to a most excellent dinner. After dinner the girls danced with the old gentlemen I taking part & they were diverted at our awkwardness. No young men were there. Good feeling & hilarity prevailed. It was a family dinner, more than a feast for parade, & the heart rejoiced. Got home about half past ten oclock. Found Eugene stretched before the fire on his pallet with a swollen jaw which he had been bathing with hot water expressed from a bag of hops. He looked melancholy. I regret he could not observe the scenes of the day. I finished the day by writing this.

" 27th Mrs. Serena E. L. Croghan sent her carriage for me this morning - went to see her. dined there & in the evening went with Col Croghan (92) to the Rail road depot. I witnessed a very affecting scene in his farewell or taking leave of his little daughter. The Col. shed tears - so did the child. The circumstances under which he left home affected me deeply & they are of such a nature that it is not proper to put them down here. On the 25th dined at Gen. Smiths - with 14 or 15 others. He gave us some bear meat which John Cox Jr. had brought from the neighborhood of Cumberland. After dinner went to Mr. E. Linthicums in the carriage of Mr. Washington where I joined a party of ladies & gentlemen & remained till near eleven o'clock when I returned home. A few evenings before I spent the evening at Mrs. Moshers who gave a large party. Five or six days before Julia & I went to an evening party given by Mr. Bodisco the Russian Minister to the young people of Georgetown at the instance it was understood of his two nephews little boys who are at the Catholic College.

1839
Jan 27

The minister was very affable & attentive (92a) to his guests. The parents of the children were generally invited & a more pleasant scene I have seldom witnessed. I took in the hack with Julia two Miss Allens. Mary the sister of Thos Allan the Printer to the House, & Frances the daughter of a Virginia gentleman who was introduced to me at the party. These were two of the prettiest girls I ever saw. Not long before the party given to the children, Mr. Bodisco gave a splendid entertainment on his own account. It took place on the 18th. He & the foreign ministers were dressed in full dress according to the style of their respective courts. Eugene went with me. Between the giving of this party & that to the children I dined with Mr. Brodisco, Mr. Adams Ex president, & Mr. Clay at Col. Croghan's & I found Mr. Bodisco to be a very sensible man. At his last party I saw Miss America Vespucci, a lineal descendant of Amerigo Vespucci who gave his name to this continent. (93)

1839
Jan 27th

She seemed to be about 30 - had a stout well made body, swarthy - complexion black hair & eyes & withal not very pretty. I did not hear her speak English. She conversed in French. The newspapers have been making a fuss over her for no other reason that I know of except her ancestor. Well - we Americans like pedigrees, especially the Kentuckians in horses, & why not have the same tastes in respect to maids!

The reception we give foreigners who visit us, provided they can exhibit a pedigree tracing their descent from some conspicuous man & especially if they be recommended by the title of My Lord Duke, Viscount Marquis, etc is extremely ridiculous.

A nobleman of good sense would probably entertain for us a very contemptible opinion in perceiving our great admiration for his title, notwithstanding the republican professions & the character of our institutions. It sickens me to see an American gape at a nobleman by descent. It vexes me to think how my country men (93a) are imposed upon by foreigners, impostors, who are often fugitives from justice, & who come among us to take advantage of our credulity & folly. They frequently steal title or pedigree to help them on in their designs. Why is the descendant of A. V. to be treated with more attention than the son of a bastard. The only sensible rule is in our country to treat all persons according to their personal merit. But I'm sorry to say this is not the rule observed.

Feb. 9th

I returned to my room in Georgetown this evening having been absent since yesterday morning. Last night I was at a party at Alexandria given by Mr. Fowle & staid all night at the Tavern of Mr. Wise. This morning Edw A Rumsey M. C. made a most eloquent speech on the resolution reported by me from a select committee proposing to give James Rumsey Jr. a gold medal commemorative of his father's services in giving the world the steamboat. Never was anything said in better taste than Mr. R's remarks. They evinced a thorough (94) knowledge of the subject, the most delicate feeling as a relation, the finest fancy & diction & great power of reasoning. It was his first speech in Congress & it astonished every body. The resolution passed unanimously. Mr. Govenieur Kemble told me he voted the medal to the speech & not to the memory of the inventor. E. Rumsey is one among the amiable of the earth - modest, retiring & unobtrusive. He has lost all his children & feels as if the hand of God was laid heavily upon him. He complains of a liver disease & expects to retire from Congress - which I have heard many regret since his speech.

1839
Feb 9th

This evening about half past six oclock I sat down to dine with the President, Mr Poinsett Sec of War - found the President on the opposite side - not end of the table, & beside him all the guests were Whigs & M. O's. Sherman Williams the author of the celebrated letter to the President was asked by the President to drink a glass of wine. He declined. I did not hear (94a) his words. The President calmly remarked that he did not know he - Williams - was a teetotaler before. Mr. Van Buren is a very calm polite gentleman in his manners & not easily disconcerted.

1839
Feb 9th

Every night for the past five I have been to parties. These merry meetings, eatings & drinkings present many new faces to each other & on that account may be of some service, but take them altogether they - what are called large parties do more harm than good. They waste time & money which might be used to better advantage. But I find it difficult to slight an invitation. The giver might be offended, & therefore policy requires one to make the sacrifice. Eugene & I had conversation just now about our health, - longevity etc. He said at my age he expected to be as strong & well as I am now. I told him I doubted it very much, because I feared on his Mother's side he had inherited a weak constitution whereas on my maternal & paternal lives I could boast of a long line of ancestors who lived to a very old age. My father died (94a) above seventy, my grandfather Underwood at more than seventy five, & my grandfather Rogers at more than eighty. I now weigh 170 lbs, have very few gray hairs in my head, & see as well as I ever did. I think however it is necessary to remove objects a little further from me than formerly to make them appear as distinct as possible. I am stronger than I ever was but am not as brisk & active as I was at twenty five. A propos conversing with the President this evening about his health size etc. He said he weighed only ninety pounds when he was married.

" 27th

This evening at 8 oclock I was married (a second time) to Miss Elizabeth Cox daughter of Col John Cox Mayor of Georgetown. She was born on the 11th of Oct 1818. Her Mother's maiden name was Jane Threlkeld, the daughter of John Threlkeld & Elisabeth who maiden name was Ridgeby the only child of Nicholas Ridgeby & Jane whose maiden name was Johns. John Threlkeld was the only child of Henry Threlkeld, an Englishman who settled in America prior (95a) to the Revolution. His wife was named Mary Brown. Col John Cox was the son of Lawrence

Cox who married - Mickle Lawrence Cox was a rich Pennsylvania farmer & a Quaker.

I invited all the Kentucky delegation in Congress to attend the wedding. Mr. Clay & Mr. Crittenden of the Senate, & Messrs Pope, Chambers, Calhoun, White, Williams, Manifee, Southgatt, Harlan, & Rumsey & Graves of the House attended. Messrs Hawes & Murray being unwell did not attend.

Mr. Walter L. Ringgold & James S. Ringgold acted as my attendants, & Miss Harriet B. Morris & Miss Sarah Ann Young waited on my bride. We were married by Mr. Marbury, an Episcopal minister according to the forms of his church. I paid him twenty five dollars in gold as his fee. Col. J. Croghan, wife & daughter Angeline & Gen Jesup were at the wedding having been invited by me as relations. There were (96) many of my brides relations present. Congress set late at night & my friends of that body retired early to attend the session.

I purchased a beautiful bouquet of white flowers as a bridal present. Its odor was delightful & it was tastefully arranged by the owner of the green house who prepared it for me. T
The following is written by my wife.

It has been nearly four months since I was made the wife of Mr. Underwood during which time I have spent my days in happy serenity, although parted by so great a distance from my parents & friends, which had never been the case before, my feelings always keeping me within the confines of the home circle. I have also been a good deal separated from my Husband since my sojourn in this land of strangers which I have endeavored to bear with cheerfulness, I hope I have succeeded. He, being again a candidate for Congress and having an opponent in the field, has necessarily been much absent for the (96a) purpose of discoursing to his constituents and striving to win popular favor. My wishes of course are for his ultimate success, but I have tutored my mind to a calm resignation if fortune should prove fickle towards him & he should be overcome by his competitor. If he is re-elected, I intend accompanying him to the Dist. of Columbia where I will have the happiness of seeing my old friends for some months. This is one reason why I am desirous he should succeed, as altho he might return there in the character of a private citizen with me, yet our stay would be of much shorter duration.

I have been most fortunate in the warm reception I have met with from Mr. Underwood's relations &c. I spoke of it being a land of strangers, but I now feel it to be a home of dear friends interested in my welfare. It shall be my endeavor to repay their kindness with a corresponding affection, & in every situation in life, as wife mother etc I pray that I may be enabled to act (97) up to my sense of duty, on all occasions & thereby to obtain their approving smiles & those of my own conscience.

Shortly after my marriage I returned to Ky. with my wife, Eugene & Julia, Thos. McKennon of Penn. M. C. & John Chambers M.C. of Ky. & John W. Allen of Ohio M. C. & Miss Mary Lee were our stage companions. I came on to Louisville with my wife & two children stopping & staying a day in Cincinnati, & visiting the furniture shops there. At Louisville we took the stage & traveled in it to Bowling Green. We dined at Three Forks Bell's Tavern the day we reached home & partook of the wedding dinner, or rather the fragments which had been served up to my niece Maria Gorin who had been married in Glasgow that morning & came out to her husbands * Slaughter-Bell - to dine.

1839

Feb 27th

June 23rd

1839

June 23rd

Aug. 24th

1839
Aug 24

My arrival at my Uncle Thos Rogers in B. Green with a young wife produced a village excitement. My children Eliza & Jane felt it most. My relations no doubt (97a) anxious to see the woman who had ventured with me to Ky. All seemed to be embarrassed at our meeting which took place a little after dark. That was quite natural & what I expected. I have now been living with all my white family in the house of Uncle Thos Rogers more than five months, & during this time no occurrence has transpired to interrupt the harmony of the family.

I have observed with delight that my children & my wife manifest toward each other in all their intercourse much respect & affection, & from the past five months I flatter myself with the hope that nothing will occur during their lives to produce a hostile sentiment. Nothing of that nature can occur if they are governed by good sense.

Wise people never mar the happiness of each other by quarreling, Fools fall out & make each other miserable.

I shall endeavor to impress correct principles upon the minds of each member (98) of my family, teaching them that to love & do good to each other will promote their happiness, & that illwill, envy, jealousy & distrust will certainly make them miserable. My wife is ardent & impetuous in her feelings but withal yielding in her disposition. My love for my wife & own children has if possible increased in consequence of the amiable & correct deportment each has observed towards the other.

1839
Aug 24th

I returned from Washington as a Candidate for reelection. Until late in May there was no prospect of my having an opponent. (99) Notwithstanding the restlessness manifested in the Gazette I was getting along without an opponent, & should probably have been reelected without opposition but for a transaction which I will now briefly relate. Jacob Earnest & his son Thomas T. Earnest were apprehended & confined in the Bowling Green jail for the murder of Hezekiah Holland. They offered me a fee to defend them. I told them if they would secure me six hundred dollars I would appear as their counsel. They agreed to it & gave me their note & Jacob Earnest mortgaged me his land. Accepting the fee produced a degree of excitement against me which had threatened to prostrate all my hopes of success. Shortly after I went to a battalion muster on Drakes Creek. My friends told me it would be dangerous to address the people that I would be insulted, if not drawn off the stump etc. I declined making a formal speech but stood on my feet nearly all day & spoke to those who came about me defending the course I had pursued in accepting (99a) the fee. It would in my opinion have been a

1839
Aug. 24th

base desertion of professional duty & an unworthy coalition with popular prejudice had I refused to defend the prisoners because I might thereby lose votes. It is a constitutional principle & essential to liberty that the accused should have counsel in his defense. The lawyer who abandons the principle may accomplish the purpose of the moment possibly, but he may rest assured that his temporary success will eventuate in a permanent injury. I determined to act as I would have acted had I been no candidate. Elijah Hise, Esq. a man of some reading & a plausible speaker, who addresses himself to the worst passions of our nature, but whom I think very deficient in judgement & good sense availed himself of the excitement against me to become a candidate. He made many political speeches before announcing himself a candidate. At length he came out fairly. He based his hope of success upon (100) attacking my course in Congress. His principle objections were, that I refused to vote for Atherton's resolutions on the subject of abolition petitions, & that I had offered to amend the constitution of the U.S. in manner which would have proved detrimental had the amendments prevailed. My amendments relative to the veto power of the President & the power of removal from

1839
Aug. 24th

office, & the mode of electing the President were those which he condemned. He continued to attack my course in these particulars in all his speeches & thus he kept me defending myself when I would rather have been employed in exposing the abuses of the Administration. In the course of the contest I wrote three circulars the publication of which cost me \$145. After a bitter contest in which my political opponents disgraced themselves by propogating falsehoods of the vilest character, I was elected by a majority of 937 votes. My competitor & his friends seemed to be astonished (100a) at the result. I was not sanguine of success in as much as I would not estimate the extend of dissatisfaction produced by my accepting the fee, & I was apprehensive that the falsehoods & misrepresentations in regard to my acts both public & private would affect my popularity. In this I was agreeably disappointed, & I am now impressed with more confidence in the capacity of the people to detect falsehoods & their disposition to uphold a man against unjust attacks.

1839
Aug 24th

I had many active friends who nobly exerted themselves for me & the county, & I shall devote myself to the discharge of every duty as the best compensation I can make.

Sept. 10th

I went this evening with Mrs. U. to examine some beech trees standing on the North Bank of Big Barren River, about 3 miles north of B. Green & about a quarter of a mile above Van Meters ferry. These trees indicate from the names & dates carved upon them that the long-hunters, as they were called camped by them in June 1775. The most conspicuous tree contains the names of thirteen persons carved upon it. The letters (101) were handsomely cut with some instrument adapted to the purpose. The highest name is about nine feet from the ground, the lowest about four. They stand in the following order beginning with the uppermost-J. Neoville E. Bulger, J. Hite, W. Harmon, J. Jackman, W. Buchanan, A. Bowman, J. Drake, N. Nall, E. Skaggs, J. Bowman, Tho. Slaughter, J. Todd. The date is then given at the bottom of the names thus "1775 June Th 13" The age of the marks appear to correspond with the date & no doubt they were made at that time. About 50 yds up the river from the 1st named tree there stands a beech on which there is a name cut but not legible with the date of 1779 & the name of H. Linch carved upon it & dated 1796. The only circumstance to mar our pleasure in contemplating these memorials of the first white explorers & hunters resulted from discovering that there were the initials of some names & the names of some persons & late dates carved on the trees which we thought should have been left untouched to bear the names of those alone who slept under them in 1775.

1839
Sept. 10th

1839
Sept 10th

(101a) It was the work of desecration. In viewing the names of these early adventurers and standing upon the same ground where they had camped, a train of reflections were excited alike, pleasing and melancholy. Where are those pioneers? They have ceased to follow the Bear, the buffalo, the beaver. Their children are no more hunters. The bear, the buffalo and the beaver are extinct.

Nov. 9th

Today was one of the busiest days of my life. I arranged a great deal of business, took notes, made settlements, etc, to the amount of thousands, and last night I had a singular dream which I related to my wife. I here note it at her request. I do not place any consequence in dreams or omens of either good or evil. I think they generally indicate a state of excitement and restlessness which prevents sound sleep. They prognosticate nothing. There is not one dream in a million that is verified. I have long considered it a fortunate circumstance that I regard the most terrible and the most joyous dream as alike destitute of prophetic attributes (102) and I never perplex myself with the

1839 Nov. 9th

character of my dreams of their interpretation--but to the dream. I thought as I slept that a long table was set before me; that it was covered with a variety of delicious viands, that there was upon it a variety of cloths to make garments and that there were purses of gold and silver on it also. There was likewise upon it a machine of some sort which I could not comprehend, and of which my recollection is indistinct. All I saw I thought was mine, and I felt pleased with the consciousness of being the owner.

1839
Nov. 29th

My wife and self reached her fathers, Col. J. Cox's this evening about 5 o'clock. We ascended the Ohio River from Maysville to Wheeling in the steamer, Loyal Hanna,--we got up very well and had a large company of passengers. Among them was Mr. Clay of the Senate, Mr. Hawes and his lady, Mr. Jaseson, Mr. Campbell of Tenn. and Mr. Gentry of the House of Representatives and Judge Catron of the Supreme Court and his wife and Miss Marshall. At Wheeling, Mr. Clay, Gen. Shelby, Mr. (102a) Wright and myself chartered a stage to take us to Frederick. Gen. Shelby was the Major of the battallion in which I served during the last war. He was the first man I spoke to after I was wounded. He did not surrender with the men but hid himself in the retreat and was not taken until late that night or the next day. He was very much censured for this at the time by his men and many things were said of which were disparaging to his reputation. He is the son of Gov. Shelby of Ky. The stories told of him may have been without foundation and I will not repeat them. So far as my knowledge and observation enables me to judge of his character, he is a very respectable man. I did not see him in battle--it was on the retreat shortly after I was wounded that I saw him. Our trip across the mountains was a very pleasant one, as our coach was new and warm and we traveled only in the day. Mr Clay was treated on the road with much attention at the different villages (103) where we stopped. It was then I thought that he would receive the nomination of the Harrisburg Convention.

1839
Nov. 29th

1839
Nov. 29th
1840
Dec. 6th

I am now seated in the upper room of Col. Cox's house to the left of the fire place fronting my wife who sits opposite with her child asleep in her arms. The year is drawing to a close and I have not noted a single occurrence in this journal. The omission has not resulted from the want of interest in the events, but from want of time to make entries and comments. I have been too much engaged in the transactions pertaining to public affairs to write details of private incidents.

My conduct as a Representative of the people in Congress, I do not intend to notice, unless on rare occasions in this journal. The records of the country will show my children how I have acted in official life. I shall give a very hasty sketch of the last twelve months.

1840
Dec. 6th

(103a) I remained at Col. Cox's in Georgetown, D.C. from Nov. 1839 till the latter part of July 1840 during which time I attended constantly to the proceedings of Congress with the exception of one week during which time I was confined to my room, having received an injury or severe contusion of my right thigh by being upset in a carriage. In descending the hill from the east point of the Capitol Col. G. Croghan being with me, the tongue of the vehicle broke and the carriage was precipitated upon the rumps of the horses. Frank, the driver instead of whipping the horses forward as he should have done, reined them back with all his might, expecting to stop them. The horses kicked up--Frank became alarmed, and jumped from his box and then away went the animals, jumping and kicking to the bottom of the hill. They made a sudden turn at the bottom which capsized us, breaking the carriage a good deal and inflicting the injury upon my thigh. Col. Croghan escaped unhurt. (104) (his usual luck in danger.)

1840
Dec. 6th

During my residence of eight months at the "Cedars" Col Cox's-- I was blessed with the constant society of my wife & during that time we became well acquainted with the character of each other. We attended many parties to which we were invited & congrary to the practice of most married people, we were scarcely ever apart at levees, or other crowded entertainments. I was always happiest when she was by my side, & I took much greater interest in her conversation at such places, than I did in that of others.

After Congress adjourned I went to Richmond Va. to see Mr. J. Brown & V. W. Leigh Esq. on business. While there I was waited on by a Committe of the Tippecanoe Club & asked to make a speech in their log cabin. I declined it on account of a bad cold which had remained with me since making a speech in the House in defense of Gen. Jesop. I returned from Richmond thru Georgetown where I took leave of my wife. (104a) Her situation prevented her going home. Our separation was not without apprehension that we might never meet again on earth. She would become a Mother before the time of my contemplated return. We hawever parted under a sense of duty; & have met again under circumstances demanding our deepest gratitude to God. She is the happy Mother of a fine, healthy boy, & both of us got on in everything according to our wishes during our separation.

1840
Dec.
6th

On leaving Washington in July & went by Winchester Va where I made a speech to the people. & thence went by stages along a newly graded dirt turnpike to Parkersburg on the Ohio where I again addressed the people, & then took a steam boat & went to Bracken Co, Ky. where I had business relating to a tract of land purchased of Col Croghan. Theodore J Mosher was with me on his way to St. Mary's College Ky. a sprightly boy of 16.

1840
Dec
6th

On reaching the District I represent I resumed the practice of law as usual & made political speeches to the people in (105) each county. I attended the great political convention at Nashville & also one at Springfield Tenn. & made speeches at each. I presided over a large convention at Bowling Green Ky & made an inrductory speech, during which I presented to the multitude, six revolutionary soldiers, being the colledtable remnant of those patriotic men in the county of Warren & adjacent counties. There was a strong sensation & hardly a dry eye in the crowd when these old men stood forward on the platform, & I pointed to them & recalled the glorious achievements in which they had participated. The congregated thousands looked upon them as the Fathers of liberty of the country, & their presence on that occasion was a warning to guard against the insidious enroachments of Executive power & the gradual establishemtn of a depotism. The scene made a deep impression upon the heart. Among the old soldiers presented was my Uncle Edmund Rogers, who raised me & to whom I'm indebted for my education. (105a) The canvass for the Presidency in 1840 & the events connected therewith will be perpetuated in American History. I have had my share in the excitement of the times, but my course has been very different from that of most of the public speakers I have endeavored to reason coolly & to give them important facts. I have endeavored to demonstrate by argument the danger, that the executive power would without a change of administration ultimately dictate to all the other Departments of Government, & that we should unless saved by a change--have practically one of the most corrupt & despotic Governments upon Earth. I have been in earnest & serious. Other speakers have dealt too much I think in sarcasm & abuse. The telling of vulgar anecdotes & imaginary stories, to operate upon the prejudices & excite the

1840
Dec
8th

1840
Dec
8th

derision of the people against the men in power & their measures, has been too much practiced. The people have been amused but not convinced, & the public taste has been vitiated. Orators have thereby (106) acquired a character for talent with the multitude which is not conceded by sober, good sense & they have contented themselves with the plaudits of a shout which properly belongs to the buffoonery of the circus. Such eloquence is not worthy of admiration. Anecdotes are often introduced in a discussion with excellent effect by way of illustration. When this is the case they come in naturally & seem to grow out of the subject. The processions of log cabins on wagons & cider barrels have been somewhat disgusting to those who dislike appeals to vulgar passions, but their use has been a just retaliation upon those who 12 years ago erected hickory poles & marched under hickory bushes through the country. Such emblems will probably be used in all political contests but their potency will ever depend upon their appropriateness of the thing or principle signified by them. The hickory pole owing to the name given Gen Jackson (Old Hickory) was the emblem of his military glory in popular estimation. A peculiar interest was imparted to the log (106a) cabin & cider barrel emblems in consequence of their intimate association with the early life of Ben Harrison, his simple manner of living, & the remark coming from a friend of his opponent intended to degrade his pretensions as a candidate. A paragraphist said that for ~~EEK~~ a pension of \$2000. Genl. Harrison would live the balance of his days in a log cabin & drink hard cider, & not think of being President. The sentiment thus uttered to depreciate was turned by popular indignation to the exaltation of Harrison.

1840
Dec.
8th

About the middle of Nov. I set out for the D.C. Julia met me at Glasgow & came on with me. At Frankfort where I had business I saw Genl. Harrison at Maysville we got on board the steamer Girard & ascended to Wheeling. Dr. Marshall of Maysville & 3 sprightly pretty girls under his charge on their way to school, one a daughter of Mrs. Langhorn & the other two his sisters were on board. The girls insisted that we should ascend to Pittsburg with them. and seemed adverse to parting with Julia.

1840
Dec
8th

(107) At Wheeling the Hon Cave Johnson, Mr. Duffey, Mr Fletcher & myself chartered a stage to take our party to Hagerstown Md. for \$90 & we passed over the mountains very pleasantly only travelling in the day time & a little after dark.

We reached Col Cox's the 2nd inst. & I am now preparing to act my part in the new scenes of the approaching session & to witness the conduct of defeated & victorious politicians under the new aspect of things resulting from the election of Gen. Harrison. I entertain but little respect for mere politicians at this time & apprehend that I shall be thoroughly disgusted by the 4th. of March next after which I shall probably never again be a member of the House of Representatives having already intimated my wish to retire, to my constituents.

1841
Jan.
5th.

Today I was summoned to appear before the grand jury of the District. The object was to interrogate me relative to (107a) the obliteration of my frank by the Postmaster of Georgetown. I went to the city hall in pursuance of the summons but court had adjourned. On returning from the Hall I called to see the Hon. Sherod Williams M C. He was prostrate in bed. He told me that he did not expect to live long that his physician gave him no encouragement, that he felt as if his constitution was gone.

He spoke of death with fearful apprehension as to a future state and said he did not know how to prepare for change. He seemed excited he was in a wretched condition both as to body and mind. The following is written by my wife.

May
7th

Mr. Underwood left this morning (from Bowling Green) for Washington city to attend the called session of Congress of which unexpected circumstances have made him a member. He left this volume in my charge with the request that I would occasionally note down little occurrences in the future by which would be interesting to peruse in after years. Convenience made it necessary that I should remain in Ky. with my (108) boy this summer, but he will take us on with him to spend the long session. It is needless to speak of the trial of the separation even for a comparatively short period. I have so many duties to perform in commencing housekeeping that I hope to keep my mind free from gloomy thoughts, but the idea will often recur, of the great distance that intervenes between us, & my heart troubles. My Heavenly Father take charge of my absent husband & let him return again to bless this household. Let my boy see his father again & learn from his lips those precepts of wisdom & virtue which it will be my delight to see him practice in manhood. Since the birth of my boy I have felt all a parents solicitude for his welfare both temporal & eternal, & I pray that his Father may be spared to aid me in forming his infant mind. (108) We both consider him of uncommon promise, it remains therefore for us to give his talents proper direction. I took him with me to day to pay some visits, & wherever he goes, his fine head, forehead & (108a) eyes attract immediate attention though eight months old he gives indications of a rapid acquisition of knowledge of external objects.

1841
May 19th

A bright beautiful & joyous day after having experiences much unpleasant weather & my feelings are in happy accordance. I listen to the singing of the birds & the busy hum of active life around me, & a cheerfulness spreads over my heart & I am even inclined to view the bright side of the picture. I look forward to a happy reunion after a few weeks with my husband & the pleasure I shall experience in witnessing his approving smile when he surveys the little home improvements I have in contemplation to make. Eugene, Eliza & Julia are invited to spend this evening at Mrs. Marshalls to meet a few friends I think we shall all go.

29th

We all enjoyed a delightful drive in the carriage this afternoon out to Mrs. Crosthwaits. Little John was with us & appeared delighted. He has already evinced (109) his boyish propensity for a horse & dog. He has been on the back of a horse several times, & cries when he is taken off. He will be a daring fellow I expect.

30th

I heard this morning a most excellent sermon in the Presbyterian Church by Smith of Lexington. He also performed, the Episcopal service. His subject was the certainty of future rewards & punishments which he proved by analogy in a most lucid manner. His exordium peroration & the whole of the discourse was solemn & impressive in a high degree. He will lecture in this place tomorrow on the subject of common schools for which he is the state agent.

June
1st.

The girls & myself together with little John & his nurse enjoyed a delightful drive this afternoon. We went as much as nine miles going & returning. We took the direction of Hapsley Hall & passed many handsome

farms. These little excursions serve to invigorate us after the days heat. The carpenters are now hammering away on the back porch (109a) being the first on the list of improvements to render our little abode as neat & comfortable as possible. It is my object to unite the "utile cum dulce" & if we are not in the possession of a lordly palace we will at least try to have a pretty little "cottage ornee." The seat of happiness in our own hearts & minds, and if I could only have the constant society of my husband I should greatly prefer the retiracy of such a dwelling to the pomp and glitter of the great world. (109a) Julia & Eliza commenced yesterday a course of lessons under the tuition of their brother Eugene. If they will only persevere in it it would be of great advantage to them in strengthening their minds, maturing their judgements & giving them material for polished social conversation & writing. I consider it a most fortunate circumstance for the girls that they have a brother to guide them--older than themselves & one who is so deeply interested in their welfare spiritual & eternal.

1840
June
3rd

Little John called me "Mamma" (110) today very distinctly. He had been jabbering for several days sounds somewhat similar but he held out his arms to me & said "Oh manna" thus showing plainly that he applied the term to me. It will be ten days yet before he is 9 mos old. We took a pleasant drive today - I called & took Mrs Jno Graham with me & we all enjoyed the trip very much to Cave Mill. It gratifies me to have it in my power to give pleasure to my friends in return for their many little attentions to me.

Aug. 15th

A long period has elapsed since I wrote in this Journal. In the meantime I have been constantly occupied with family affairs & carrying on some little improvements around our abode. The appearance of everything is much changed for the better I think, & Mr Underwood who has not yet returned from Washington will scarcely recognize the old home. Some few things have occurred since (110a) I last made an entry in the book which I will not state. There was a 4th of July celebration held by the citizens of B. Green, on the banks of the river where they had a barbecue & some fine speeches & toasts. The entertainment was given by the students of Mr Hawkins High school. The day was fine & all enjoyed themselves. The B. G. Guards were there with their band of music which enlivened the scene. Julia & Eliza were at the Allen Grngs, nearly the whole of July. Eugene & myself with little John & Ann remained there about a week only, & when we left, the girls staid with Mr Lucas family. The water is fine & good.

On the afternoon of July 23rd I experienced a great surprise. I was sitting by the window with little John in my lap, - no one else was at home. It was twilight when I heard the gate open & saw a gentleman approach, with a smiling countenance & as he came up the steps of the portico I recognized my brother John, (111) who I thought hundreds of miles distant in Iowa territory. He had left Georgetown D. C. in June to seek his fortune in the West-That El Dorado of so many, & failing to find immediate employment, came down to this place to visit us till a better opening offered itself. He gave us many amusing accounts of the manners & customs of that region & says that the face of the country itself is the most beautiful & enchanting he has ever seen. The vast field of country west of the Mississippi opens a fine region for the enterprising youth of the States & in less than half a century from now, its inhabitants numbering a vast multitude will point to the shores of the Pacific as "The West". When that point is reached, & a dense population crowds its borders, what spot will be left to gratify the roving propensities of our country men? They

may perhaps borrow an idea from the Chinese & build their homes upon the water. What a magnificent country ours is, & who (Illa) does not feel a thrill of pride in being called an American!

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own my native land!"

This is Sabbath night & the two oldest girls with John & Eugene have gone to the Methodist church I am now seated by the crib rocking my boy to sleep.

1842
Jan 1st

Georgetown. My life advances my business increased & affords me less & less leisure to write in this book. I'm now in my 51st year My health for some years back has been excellent. I read & write very well without spectacles, & there are but few grey hairs in my head. In these respects I enjoy blessings that fall to the lot of but few at my age, & for which I am grateful to God. I reached home with my wife and daughter Julia, my little son John & his nurse Ann Morgan in April last having left this place about the 25th of March (112) In the fall of 1840 I notified my constituents of my desire to retire from their services & I had no idea of again becoming a candidate till I reached Louisville on my way home. There I got a letter from my son Eugene informing me that a convention had been held in B. Green - placed me in nomination, & adjourned without making any provision in case I refused to accept. F. Gorin, H Grider J F Todd & J. W. Erwin had been in the field as candidates. They were all professed Whigs, & it was the distraction which the number of Candidates was likely to produce, that caused my nomination. The nomination was unanimous & no doubt most of the gentlemen who gave it were influenced by a sincere preference for me founded upon my long service & greater experience. I felt very grateful for their good opinion of me, & as I had often been elected when I first moved in the matter I determined to comply with the wishes of the convention. Mr. Erwin refused to retire & give the field to me. I had barely time to visit the counties in the District (112a) prior to the Election. I did however make speeches in each. My competitor generally attended the appointments which I made. He failed to go to Edmonson in which county he only recd. nine votes. He declined on the morning of the second day but the information did not reach all the counties till the election was over. This election & its results was very honorable to me.

In May 1841 I left home & arrived in Washington before the meeting of Congress at its extra session called by Gen Harrison. I left my wife behind. I was gone about 4½ months. On my return I received a letter from Eugene in Glasgow informing me that my wife & son John were quite sick, & as I read the letter I understood him to say that his "mother was dangerous" I thereupon induced the stage to set out directly after supper & travel all night - but for this it would not have left Glasgow until after breakfast in the morning. I reached home about day break having spent a sleepless & miserable night on the road, & found my wife (113) and son afflicted with chills & fevers but in nothing like a dangerous condition. I called Eugene to account for writine me in so discouraging & alarmind manner. He denied having done so & called for the letter. I gave it up & upon reading it he said the expression was directly the reverse & insisted that he wrote plainly that "neigher was dangerous" So that I rode 30 miles & spent a wretched night, just because my son writes a bad hand, & made the letters nei in such a way that I took them for mo. What a misfortune to write a bad hand - in this particular my example has not

been brilliant.

I spent the fall months attending to my private affairs & in preparing to return here. I made political speeches at the Courts & attended, & exposed the duplicity of the Vice President John Tyler in regard to his veto messages & their principles.

About the middle of November I left home with my wife, daughter Eliza & little son. We travelled by land thro Frankfort & Lexington to Maysville where we got on board steamer (113a) Tioga & ascended the river to Wheeling. Our carriage & 4 horses were put on board. I rode all the way on horseback except the distance from Maysville to Wheeling up the river, & the ladies occasionally rode on horseback, one of the horses being brought for that purpose. Altogether I had a very disagreeable time of it as we had much bad weather. However we reached Col Cox's on Sunday evening before Congress met. My family except Eliza resides at Col C Cox's. Eliza is at school with Miss English - she commenced on the 20th of Dec. '41, & will probably remain there several years.

In purchasing supplies for my horses oats costs me 45 cts per bushel. Today I rode in the carriage with my wife and daughter to Washington I gave Frank a New Years present a bat, & purchased at Taylors the cottage Bible in two vol. (cost \$6.50).

This morning I wrote to my Uncle Thos Underwood & sent him ten dollars. He is reduced to great poverty - once he lived in Richmond Va in handsome style, surrounded (114) by every comfort.

I did not go with all the world to the White House today - I have very little taste for pageantry & idle ceremony & do not feel disposed to pay court to any one unless I have great admiration for him. I am civil & polite to all I meet with unless I know them to be base in principle & action, but I never intend to run after those in high places, merely because of their rank & power. I must be operated upon by the sentiment of esteem, otherwise I make no advances.

Henry Worthup called on me today & said my Uncle John Rogers heirs were entitled to more than they had recd. for my Uncle's military services.

On the 27th of Oct. last my eldest daughter Julia was married to John T. Cox the brother of my wife. My property is not sufficient for me to give them a fortune to live on without labor. Mr Cox was not of full age when he married. I told both of them before they married that I would not give them property to spend. That they must (114a) make a support for themselves, & in that respect follow my example. When I set out in life after my return from the Army my Uncle Edmund Rogers who had educated me, gave me about five dollars, & my Uncle Thos Rogers lent me a horse to ride, & with that outfit I commenced the practice of law & by great diligence & industry, I have accumulated enough to live on comfortably, but not enough to allow my children to live in idleness, were such a thing desirable. I told Mr Cox that I should observe his conduct with anxiety for some years, that I would endeavor to get him into business, so that he might make a support for himself & wife, but if I discovered that he was incompetent, idle or prodigal that I would never put it in his power to spend that portion of my estate, which I designed for my daughter. That I would, in the event of his conduct giving me an unfavorable opinion of his capacity for business & the management of property, settle upon his wife the portion of my property I designed to (115) give her, in such manner that he could not spend it. He assented to the propriety of such a course & said in substance that he had no objection to my settling upon Julia the property I intended for her so as to place it beyond his reach or control. I feel towards

my daughters the strongest affection. It would distress me very much to see them so poor as to be deprived of the comforts of life, & my grief would be the more pungent if they should be reduced to poverty by the misconduct of their husbands. I hope such will not be the case with Julia. I have no reason to apprehend such results but I thought it best to be candid & tell Mr Cox that I deemed it my duty to prevent my daughter from coming to want thro his imprudence if he should not act wisely.

Jan. 8th This is the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans which made Genl Jackson president. Shortly before & after his election the day was usually celebrated (115a) by festivals, firing of cannon etc, but today nothing of the sort was observed & the House sat as long as usual. Its observance as a day of festive rejoicing was never anything more than a political ruse to increase the popularity of the Genl by exciting the feelings of the people. It had its effect with the unthinking. It was a trick played by knaves to excite the passions of fools. Hickory poles constituted the banners & insignia of the Jackson party, just as log cabins, coon skins, & cider barrels did the Harrison party. Alas, that men should be gulled by such nonsense. Can the liberties of any people be preserved when their votes are controled to any extent by such contemptible means. My son John was sleeping in his bed after dark when no one was in the room to watch him. He fell out of the bed or got out of it by some means & attempted to get down stairs. He can just walk about cleverly. I was playing chess with Richard Cox. My wife & all the family were below. He got to the head of the (116) stairs crawled down 8 or 10 steps when he reached the platform, where he stopped & sent forth a scream as loud as he could, being more frightened than hurt I hope. His mother & all the family ran to see what was the matter, I followed. His mother picked him up, but we found no bones broken or great mischief done.

Feb. 4th The grogs are making a noise such as they usually make in Mar. & April. The weather has been very mild & pleasant. The Potomac has not been closed by ice this winter. A letter recd. today from John T. Cox informs me that they have had similar weather in B. Green.

Mar. 6th My servant Frank has been sick for some months past. His disease I fear is a confirmed consumption. I have hired a colored man to drive my carriage Henry Burns he is to commence service to day - I am to pay him at the rate of \$12.00 per month. Towards the last of Feb. my little son John had N. W. Worthington attend my son, he (116a) also prescribes for poor Frank, whose disease is, I fear incurable.

Mar. 23 Today, Wife & I dined with Mr C. A. Wickliffe the P. M. General & his family. The party consisted of all the M. C's from Ky & Mr Crittenden, who is shortly to take Mr Clay's place in the Senate. Gov. Duvall of Fla. & an elderly gentleman from Kentucky. The wives of Messrs Boyd Tripplett, Grear, Pope, & Butler were at the dinner. The dinner was excellent & we were a delighted set of Kentuckians.

Apr 8 Paid Burns the balance of his first months wage \$2.25 as he says but \$2.50 as I know in advance for the second month. I paid him the wages of the first month at different times & gave him money to purchase salt, oil, etc, & the above difference is the result of a mistake on the part of one of us, or a little dishonesty on his part. I did not even tell him what my recollection was but settled according to his statement. I mention this trifle here for the purpose of illustrating the practice of my life, & to recommend the practice (117) to the adoption of my children. I have never disputed with any man about little matters. I submit to trifling impositions sooner than quarrel, unless it be very clear that

the person knowingly attempts to practice a fraud. In that case I consider it a duty to expose him, but when there is the least possibility that the person is honest or mistaken in his exaction or statement I act upon it as tho it was correct & pay what is demanded. But I notice with much particularity the conduct of the individual & learn his character. If repeated instances of inattention & inaccuracy occur I conclude that he is not governed by moral principles, cut acquaintance & avoid all dealing with him. I make special bargains in all cases where it is practicable. It is always prudent to know beforehand what you are to pay. The settlement of accounts in which the value of property or labor is to be adjusted upon (117a) the "quantuin merint" is almost sure to produce bad feelings, if not bad words and an open rupture. To avoid this agree on everything beforehand. My wife has been confined to her bed for some days. Her disease is chills & fever.

9th

1842
Apr 9th

This evening the dinner given by the Whig members of Congress to Mr Clay took place at Browns Hotel in Washington. I attended it. The fore part of the day was rainy, so much so that I did not go to the Capitol, having a good excuse to remain at my wifes to wait on her. On the afternoon the rain ceased, the clouds to the west became thinner, & I determined to attend the dinner, my wife being quite cheerful. We were to assemble at 6 o'clock. About half past five I got in the carriage & drove off from Col Cox's on the heights of Georgetown. In a few moments one of the most splendid scenes my eyes ever beheld presented itself. The clouds receding from the West became thick & black in the East. The curtain (118) of cloud was withdrawn from the sun which burst out in a clear sky 15 or 20 degrees above the horizon & painted the most brilliant rainbow my eyes beheld upon the massy clouds in the East. The apex of the prismatic bow appeared to be immediately over the presidential mansion, & its ends touched the earth far to the North & to the South. The colors were broader & more vivid than any I had before seen, & equal density throughout the whole arch. Instantly my mind recurred to those legendary superstitions which impress themselves upon us with great force in early life & I asked myself whether the beauty & grandeur of the scene might not be emblematic of the great & sudden change which must take place in the political world before prosperity is restored to this gloomy country & whether the Heavens were not ominous of the public blessings to result from the election of Mr Clay to the office of chief magistrate. Why otherwise should the unusual (118a) spectacle be simultaneous with the assemblage of the guests at the great festival in honor of Mr Clay? Napoleon would stimulate his soldiers to rush on to victory, by declaring that the sun of Austerlitz was shining upon them, thus intimating that nature hung signs in the Heavens to foretell his destiny. Why may not Mr Clay express the same belief? On reaching the reception rooms I told Mr Clay after the usual salutations that if I had been superstitious I should have seen a favorable omen to his future elevation as President in the atmospheric phenomena which the evening presented. I told him that the rainbow which arched the sky might be the sign of the covenant among all the Whigs now assembled to consume political corruptions with the consuming fire of patriotism; that the gloom & showers of the day were typical of the dark misrule & rotten principles which prevail, that the retirement of the clouds & disclosure of the (119) declining sun, which had so beautifully painted the bow of hope & promise upon the overhanging blueness, indicated the banishment of the prevailing humbug & folly, & the establishment of the national prosperity by the influence of the retiring statesman of the West who should stamp his own purity & effulgence upon the murky canvass of political predecessors & happily contrast his own brightness with their blackness. Mr Clay remarked that his attention

had been called to the favorable omen by some ladies just before he entered the room. Said it was hardly possible to divest ourselves of superstitious feelings, & remarked that in the course of his life the changes of weather had frequently taken place as if to accommodate his particular wishes. He had fixed upon a day to deliver a speech in Senate when the weather was most unpromising assuring his friends that it would be a bright day when it arrived & so it (119a) turned out. He said age had rather confirmed than cured his superstitious notions. I hardly knew whether to take his remarks as serious, or in the same vein with my own until he made his speech upon being toasted. He then adverted to the favorable omen in reference to the political exertions of the Whigs which the splendid rainbow of the evening had afforded. I then thought he gave credit to deductions such as I had drawn from the face of nature. I put this matter down. If Mr. Clay should be elected President & his administration a happy one for the country I myself shall look upon the circumstance with something like astonishment.

The dinner party consisted of about 150 members of Congress & citizens. Mr John Q. Adams sent a beautiful & complimentary answer declining to come on account of extreme age & growing infirmity. He is the most remarkable man I ever knew. The most learned & industrious. The accuracy & universality of his information is astonishing. I have served (120) with him upon the Smithsonian Committee & there learnt the extend of his scientific knowledge. Mr. Clay's speech was not a long one, nor was it remarkable for eloquence. It seemed to be an unstudied farewell mingled with some advice to his friends. After Mr Adams' letter was read he was toasted very appropriately by referring to the commencement of his public career under the administration of Genl Washington, & his now being an active laborious member of Congress in the "midst of posterity". The member of Congress from Mass. responded to the toast given Mr Adams & stated the fact which I've never heard before that he was a lineal descendent from the man who first put his foot on Plymouth rock from the Mayflower.

Apr. 19

Today Mr Joseph Lawrence a member from Penn. was buried. He is the sixth member from that state who has died since the last general election of Representatives to Congress from that State. I was appointed one of the Committee of (120a) arrangements. It was a very rainy day & I rode out in the morning thro the rain. I have taken cold in consequence. Gen Irvin, Mr Adams & myself occupied the same hack in going & returning to the Congressional burial ground. The conversation embraced a variety of subjects. Among other things Mr Adams said he thought the tendency of the age was infavor of peace. & that the day would soon come when nations would learn war no more. He said the sentiment was rapidly extending in favor of non-resistance, & even in favor of not taking life in capitol cases. He admitted however that he justified defensive war & maintained the right of society of executing felons for murder or other high crimes. In the course of the ride he again insisted on the positions taken in debate by him & a servile insurrection the laws of war would justify the emancipation of the slaves, & that the commanding general might proclaim freedom to the slaves. He invited me & my wife to attend an evening party at his home, to consist of a few select friends to take leave of Mr. Clay. We could not go, both being indisposed, & our servant Frank so low that he cannot live over twenty four hours.

Mr. Adams in the course of his remarks going to the burial, said that if the scriptures were true, & he had some faith in the Bible, there would be a milenium on earth during which there would be no wars & he thought the time was rapidly approaching. Whether the 1000 years assigned

for the duration of the millennium were to be understood literally or figuratively might be doubtful -- after its lapse however he said the destructive passions of men were again to be let loose & scenes of devastation & bloodshed unparalleled were to overrun the world, & then the termination of them, & the coming of Christ to judge all who ever lived would take place.

Apr. 20

Last night Frank was baptized by a Methodist minister. This morning (121a) he told me he wished his clothes & other property sent to his children. He said he was perfectly willing to die. He wished me & all his friends to meet him in Heaven. He said he felt no pain. He counted fifteen on his fingers. I asked him what he meant -- He answered "Years" -- years that he had lived with me. He is perfectly calm & sinking rapidly. His countenance exhibits unusual serenity. He takes leave of his friends who call to see him with composure. He bid his physician, Dr. Worthington, farewell this morning & told him to prepare to meet him in heaven. He evinced much gratitude toward Charlotte his nurse. He told me with emphasis that she had waited on him & was I thought about to make some donation out of his effects. I arrested him & told him I would compensate her. He was not more than 12 or 13 when I first owned him as a slave. I offered him his liberty on condition that he would emigrate to Liberia. He declined going saying he was content to live (122) with me in his present condition as a slave. I made him this offer years ago. Some days ago he told me he was always happy to be where I was - that he loved to be with me. He has manifested that sentiment ever since he first lived with me. I allowed him - indeed- encouraged him to learn to read & to write. He wrote a plain, coarse hand. I never had occasion to chastise him for any fault. I never detected him in a falsehood or theft; & do not believe he committed these crimes. Take him all together he was a very exemplary man in all his conduct.

Apr. 21

Frank breathed his last this morning about 9 o'clock. He was in his right mind throughout his illness & up to the time he expired. He was very anxious to live, but when he found his recovery was impossible, he resigned himself to his fate, with great composure & died like a Christian. He repeated the Lord's prayer this morning (122a) shortly before he died.

Sept. 7

Many important events have transpired since I made an entry in this book. Those which happened in Congress & were published in the Journals I shall pass by, but there are some occurrences of a political nature which I shall record here. They may be instructive to my sons. When the acting President returned the Bill imposing duties & providing for the unconditional

Dec 10

Interrupted in the middle of a sentence I have not found time to insert anything in this journal for more than three months. I gave up the idea of putting down what I had commenced. To such a man as J. Q. Adams it may seem strange that I cannot journalize everything of importance from day to day. He has been devoted to politics all his life. That has been the trade he has lived by. He has nothing to do but study the principles of his (123) trade to practice upon them & to register results & the actions of others. He had means to live on in the commencement of his life furnished by his father; & thro the high offices he has filled & the salaries paid him have been ample support for himself & family. I have had to struggle with poverty. I have had to make my fortune without the aid of Government patronage or fat salaries. I have for many years been engaged in extensive land agencies for those who owned large tracts in Ky. & resided in other States. I have sold many thousands of acres, & now have under my charge as agent not less than 75000 acres of land &

bonds for collection amounting to \$15000. for lands heretofore sold. I am trustee under R. Craddocks will; which has placed a fund of more than \$10000 in my hands to manage. I endeavor to keep up my practice as a lawyer, & then I have my (123a) own property & family to look after. Under this press of private affairs which requires incessant correspondence added to my labors resulting from my office as M. C., I have no self-reproach from failing to register the facts & transactions worthy of a place in this journal. I am now at Col Cox's in Georgetown & will endeavor to make a brief record of events since the adjournment of Congress at its last session.

The day after adjournment I went on to Philadelphia with many Whig members having been invited by a Committee acting in behalf of the Whigs in that City to visit it. I passed thro Baltimore in such a hurry that I got no breakfast. I threw ten cents to Mr Corcoran of Washington, as I sat in the car at the depot in Baltimore, & he bought me some gingerbread from a huckster & pitched it to me as the car got under way. Eating this bread & nothing else & having made an early start from (124) Washington, I was afflicted with a head ache * a very unusual thing - most of the day. At Wilmington we were met by the Committee of reception from Phila. & conducted on board a steamboat which carried us to their city. We dined on board the Steamer & after dinner my head ache became less painful & toward night it left me. In passing the U. S. fort on the Delaware we were saluted by a discharge of 13 guns. We were known by the flags which decorated our Boats. It was suggested that the Commandant of the Fort would be called to account for daring to fire a salute in honor of members who are not in favor of the Executive. Daniel Webster was with us in the cars till we reached Wilmington. He was laboring under a cough, his eyes were red & altogether he looked badly. He received but little attention from any one. On reaching Phila. the Boat passed up the river to the upper part (124a) of the city so as to give us a full view of the thousands of human beings who lined the wharves & shipping, & greeted us with buzzes as we passed. Our boat being landed each member was placed in charge of one of the Committee of reception as his Conductor. Carriages were provided, & we drove thro the dense masses of people to the Museum, the lower room of which was prepared for the occasion. There Mr Sergeant gave us welcome in behalf of the Whigs of the City, & Mr McKennon thanked him in the name of the members collectively. The press to hear these speeches was very great, & the enthusiasm was greater than at any meeting I ever saw. The speaking over we repaired to our lodgings to obtain refreshment, etc. After supper the members assembled in the Exchange, two at a time the speaking was kept up till 11 P. M. one on the inside, & one on the crowd outside of the building. Most of us made two speeches - one inside, & one out (125) so that the crowd could hear each speaker. I acquitted myself pretty much to my satisfaction. Next day we went to New York under invitation. At Newark we were addressed by the Mayor & Mr. Fillmore replied. At the Steamboat landing about 2 miles from Newark we dined & there Mr Hamilton & Mr Dougherty of New York addressed us in beautiful & well timed speeches. Mr Talmage of the Senate & Mr. Holstead replied. The crowd which welcomed us to New York was immense. We were conducted to the Astor House in carriages. We met large masses in the Tabernacle where we addressed the people two evenings in succession. I spoke the last evening. Dudley Selden Esq. gave us a welcome in behalf of the Whigs of New York.

In New York I compromised a law suit with the Mercantill Ins. Co. by which I recd \$2000 in cash & secured the title to 5050 acres of land, half the (125a) money & 3/4 of the land is mine.

From New York I returned to Washington & with my wife & child & two servants (free persons of color) set out home. My wife, child & female servants in my own carriage & I on horseback. At Wheeling we got aboard a boat & descended to Louisville & went from there to B. Green by land. Where we arrived about the middle of Oct. I spent my time in attending Court, making political speeches & attending to my private affairs.

On the day I had fixed for starting home, after my return to Col Cox's from New York, Burns, the servant I had hired after Franks death, was getting the carriage ready & arranging the baggage. He had gotten drunk & manifested some insolence when spoken to. I thereupon immediately dismissed him. He said in substance that if his conduct was not agreeable another might take his place. I drove him off & was detained two or three days till I got Wm Dan- (126) dridge to supply his place. Butns acted upon the idea that he was indispensable to me, & therefore he could dictate & do as he pleased. I have seen a great deal of that sort of sentiment & conduct in persons of higher positions than the station of a carriage driver; & I have never witnessed it without feeling strong indignation. I cannot submit to any sort of insolence with patience. To those who give themselves consequence & assume to command when it is their duty to be modest & obey, I always evenced my contempt in order to punish their folly & wickedness. I put myself to inconvenience as a matter of duty in order to correct them. It is by such resentments above that ignorance & impudence are made to know their places, & to entertain proper respect for gentility & wisdom. The time to administer such chastisements is when it is least expected. The man who allows his children or his servants to overstep the limit of decorum or duty, for fear of offending them by let- (126a) ting them know of their faults is destined to feel their scorn & become their slave.

On Monday the 14th of November I was attending the Allen Circuit Court when a message from Home arrived about 2 P. M. from Dr Briggs informing me that my wife had that forenoon been delivered of twing, & that she was anxious I should return home. I started quickly & had the company of Mr Frederick Potter Sr about 20 miles. I reached home about 9 P. M. Found of the twins a corpse, the other alive & their mother doing better than I expected. , On the 17th the remaining twin died. My wife & myself would have been pleased to have raised our twins. They were finely formed children altho prematurely born. They make six sons I have buried, leaving me only five living children out of eleven. I used to think God had blessed me in my children - at that time I had lost none, when they began (127) to die I mourned their loss as a severe affliction. At length I said God had taught me the instability of human hopes & calcuations. The blighted affections of the earth have taught me to look beyond the grave. And thus I have resigned myself to the dispensations of my Creator. He hath taken my children before they knew what crime was. They have been relieved from the sufferings & temptations of this world. They have escaped those calamities & sins, which might, had they lived to be men ruined them & destroyed my peace. Our Creator knows what is best for them & for me & I submit.

Elizabeth requested to look at both children after they had been laid out & just before they were put in their coffins. I took each of them to her as she lay in her bed, on the day he was burked. She raised up & examined them minutely. She gazed intensely on their features & when I took each child away (127a) she burst forth in tears & sobs. She

was most deeply affected by the loss of the one who died last. She had suckled him & as he lived three days wh had strong hopes of raising him. The twins were buried in the same grave. Their names have been registered William & Edmund after my maternal uncles who were twins. They lived long enough to have immortal souls given them. In that world where the mystery of life shall be comprehended by created intelligencies, where we shall know what manner of creatures we are, & the design of our Creation, these children may surpass in glory & in knowledge the attainments of those who die in old age. We may then see the propriety & fitness of that Providence which consigns more than half of the human race to the tomb before they know what it is to sin. I pray for immortality, for a consciousness of my present existence after my body has decayed & mouldered into dust, & for a glorious resurrection (128) prepared to associate forever with the just made perfect in the presence of our God. There is no foundation upon which a rational hope for such an immortality can be built except that of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, & the religion which he taught.

I intended to go from Allen Court to see my old Uncle Edmund who raised me, but being sent for by my wife I did not go. I have not seen him for more than a year, & may never see him again, as he is now upwards of 80. My affection for him seems to increase with his years.

A more generous, truthful, honest, patriotic, fearless, benevolent, unpretending relations, friend, & citizen never lived. I am indebted to him for all that I am, & I shall never cease to cherish love & gratitude to him & to his family.

On Wednesday evening the 23rd of Nov. I left home in the stage which was much crowded. Linn Boyd M. C. being (128a) of the party. We reached Louisville Thursday night about midnight being detained by breaking the kingbolt. Friday morning I transacted some business in town & got on board the Frankfort Packett & started a little after 12 M. for Frankfort. We proceeded up the river & before day got into the Ky river & passed the first dam & back. About 3 miles above the dam we encountered ice which became thicker & stronger as we ascended so much so that we had to lay by till daylight. The Capt. sheathed the bow of his boat with plank & put on spars on thick post of timber to run under the ice & break it. This was done to prevent the ice cutting & injuring the hull of the boat. These prepared we commenced ploughing thro the ice with a view of reaching Frankfort. We progressed about 3 miles when the officers determined that it was unsafe to proceed so we turned back & reached Louisville about 10 P. M. on Saturday the 26th of Nov. Such a spell of weather so severe so (129) early in the season I never before experienced. It is worthy of record here so that it may be contrasted with the weather of the same period in after years.

On Sunday morning the 27th of Nov. I left Louisville in the stage & reached Frankfort on the same day, where I met with Dr. James W. Wilson & Dr. D. King of Logan Co. they having left home on a visit to their daughters who are at school at Rev. Mr Falls. They were at the Weisiger House kept by Thos Hart & his Mother. When I was a youth going to school at the University in Lexington Mrs Hart then, a widow was living in apparent affluence. Her son Thos. was a fellow pupil. He had 2 beautiful little sisters not grown. They are related to the wife of H. Clay. In this country fortunes are constantly changing hands. I was then the poor protegee of my good uncle & not worth a cent, now it is probable that my property is worth double title that owned by Mrs Hart & her son

On the 28th of Nov. I left Frankfort & (129a) reached Lexington about sun set passing thro Versailles. Without supping wettook the stage & went on to Maysville reaching there before day. We did not go to bed, but napped by the fire. The ice was running in the Ohio so that steam boats could not ascend it. We crossed the River about day took the stage & passed by travelling without resting or sleeping except in the stage thro Chillicothe, & Zanesville to Wheeling. At Wheeling we took a good nights rest & started next morning for Cumberland which we reached after a tiresome travel of day & night in thirty one or two hours. From Cumberland we passed to Baltimore upon the railroad & reached Washington next morning about 11 o'clock on the 5th Dec. 1842.

1843

As soon as Congress adjourned I arranged my affairs & set out for where I arrived on the 18th of Mar. about daylight in the stage, having been out the whole of one & the greater part of another night. The ground was covered with snow & such intense (130) cold I never experienced at that season. The cold weather continued all March. The farmers were very baskward with their work owing to the continued coldness of spring. Yet I have never known such abundant crops of everything to be raised as we have this years. I am now writing in November, having been intensely engaged since Sept. I got home.

1843

In visiting the counties of my Congressional district I made short speeches to the people, declining a reelection to Congress & thanking them for past support. I have been actively engaged in my profession during the Spring & Fall. The summer months during which we have no Court I devoted to my agency & private matters. IN July my good uncle Edmund & his three single daughters came to my house & remained some weeks on a visit. During that time I wrote his will. He appointed his son John & myself his Executors, & bequeathed to me his riding mare & walking cane. (130a) On the 28th of Aug. 1843 this good man breathed his last at the house of his son John in Barren Co. on Peters Creek near its mouth. His son was not at home at the time gone to Louisville. I was absent, having made a tour to Hickman etc.

1843

My Uncle was sick only a few days. He brought on an attack of cholera morbus by eating heartily of watermellons, & he was too old to recover from its exhausting effects. He was 81 years old on the 5th of May preceeding his death. I wrote an obituary notice which was printed in the Green River Gazette & the Nashville Whit. The following is a copy of it.

(The obituary was not copied - E.B.R.)

I have taken Lavinia the youngest daughter of my Uncle to raise & to educate. I have heretofore aided in the education of his son John, & his daughters Ann Brown, & Henrietta. What I have heretofore done has not discharged the debt of (131) gratitude I owe, nor indeed, do I ever expect to be able to requite as I would the obligation I am under for his fatherly conduct toward me.

On the 8th of Nov 1843 my grandson Joseph R. U. Cox died, having been born on the 7th of Nov 1842. He had never been a healthy child, tho at times we had good hopes of raising him. He had a remarkably fine head, & would I think have made a very intelligent man. It thus seems that the children of my daughters may die in early infancy like most of my own have done. The death of children produces the deepest Grief with parents, but yet it should not. If we have faith in their immortality & happiness in Heaven we should rather rejoice than grieve that they are taken to dwell with God before reaching years of discretion, when they might by actual sin forfeit that salvation which Christ's atonement hath made for all infants who die, not knowing or understanding the laws of God, or what it is to sin.

1843

It must be designed by the death of infants to multiply the hosts of Heaven & make them outnumber the multitudes of the damned. Why else should half the human race die before reaching the ages of five years? Very few of the brute creation perish before reaching the age of maturity where ordinary care is taken to raise them. But with man, it is otherwise. His best exertions cannot being half of his race to years of moral responsibility, much less to perfect manhood, & womanhood.

This is a striking fact in the providence of God. Some great purpose of Diety lies at the foundation of it, I think. If there be no immortality or hereafter--no resurrection from the dead--then the birth & death of infants, before arriving at the age of moral responsibility, & before they are capable of rendering any service to themselves, their parents, or society, shows that they were created & brought into the world for no purpose of good but only to produce trouble pain & grief. It is incompatible with the attributes of (132) God to suppose that his providence brings unmixed evil, & hence, I infer that where death removes a tender infant from this life, that in another state beyond the grave, it will be manifest that there was no folly in bringing it into existence, to suffer a few days or weeks, to moan & scream in agony & then to perish forever.

Nov 22nd

Returned from Soottsville Court to day with Judge Graham. It was one of the loveliest days I ever experienced there was not a cloud to be seen during the day, & the atmosphere was too mild to make a great coat pleasant to wear.

Had my head examined last night by a Phrenologist who gave me a character of which I need not be ashamed. He placed my intellectual organs in the highest rank. Gave me very large propelling sentiments, or propensities, & made me deficient in marvellousness & reverence. He said my organs of firmness, combativeness, distinctiveness, adhesiveness, philoprogenitiveness were very large. My combativeness (132a) was counterbalanced by great caution & benevolence. He gave me a large share of acquisitiveness & secretiveness, but conceded that they did not carry me into any vicious conduct owing to counteracting moral powers. I was struck with the difference which he pointed out between my character & that of Judge Graham. He said Judge G's passions were entirely under control of his moral powers, whereas in my case there was sometimes a strong conflict which should control. Upon the whole he made me a man of great energy & practical good sense. Never engaging in anything without going thro with it, & never undertaking foolish projects. (The following is written by his daughter either Eliza or Julia--there is no name signed E.B.R.)

1843

Nov. 24.

"Having been reading in this book for sometime I determined for the first time to honor these pages with my penmanship tho I fear it will not conduce to the improvement, or amusement of the reader. (133) I returned home about two months since after an absence of two years in Georgetown D. C. going to school to Miss English. I returned with my Brother viz/ New York, Philadelphia, Niagara etc. etc. We were favored with delightful weather which with anticipating the pleasure of again seeing Home added a brighter tint to the "couleur de rose" with which I beheld so many new & beautiful scenes & things.

The first charm of novelty having worn off, I have commenced a course of reading through the advice of my Father & Brother, but which has frequently interrupted, though not at all, (I hope) to the disparagement of my future success. There by way of commencement in improving my compositional powers, I have ventured these few lines"-----

Dec 12th

Killed hogs purchased of John Fort at \$2.00 per hundred wt. It was in the decrease of the moon & I have often heard since I was a boy that pork slaughtered in the decrease of the moon (133a) would shrink, & not make good bacon. I shall notice next summer whether there is anything in this old remark. I do not believe it is true. I never saw fatter hogs or better meat, & if being killed in the decrease of the moon makes any difference, it must show itself in the bacon.

1844

Jan 22

For the last two months we have had the worst weather I have ever know.--not on account of the extreme cold, but because of the great quantity of rain which has fallen. Big Barren river has been navigable for steam boats up to my wharf all the time, but owing to the obstruction occasioned by Whitehall's dam no boat has ascended to my landing. Nor indeed would any have ascended had that dam not been in the way, because my improvement is not sufficiently advanced to afford the necessary accommodation. I have begun a wharf & contemplate erecting a ware-house in the expectation that ultimately the export & import business of Bowling Green will be done at my landing. Everyone seems to be incredulous, & has no faith in the success of my project. Time will show (134) whether my calculations are correct. I mean to work very slowly, as I have means to accomplish my work & not go in debt.

1846

Nov 1st

It is almost three years since I found leisure to make an entry in this book. Many things important to me individually have occurred. I have been assiduously devoting myself to the accumulation of property. In doing this I have oppressed no one. I have endeavored to qualify myself to transact all business in my life satisfactorily to my clients. I have had very great success, so much so that there is not an important case in the courts in which I practice, but I am employed by one of the parties.

My fees have been moderate, but I get so many of them that the aggregate amount in the course of the year is considerable. I have lost large sums by indulgence to clients, but I prefer these losses to rigorous collections. My organization will not permit me to grind the poor. I have increased my property rapidly. (134a) I wish to place my children in a better condition than that I occupied when I set out in life for myself. I have felt the inconveniences of poverty so keenly that I am really anxious to avert the suffering from my children. My poverty did not suppress my energies, but rather stimulated them. Comparative wealth has not induced me to relax my exertions.

Wealth when properly used enables its possessor to do great good. The danger is that it may enervate & make idlers if not spendthrifts of those I desire to benefit.

On the 4th of Nov. 1844 I purchased of Geo. Croghan Jr 1505 acres of land on Big Barren river for which I gave him \$2000 cash, \$2500 in Bank stock & my note payable in 2 yrs from that date for a \$1000 & which note I paid off a few days ago. This land includes 2 tracts on the river--about ten miles, & will I think in less than 20 yrs. be worth \$20.00 per acre. This will depend on the improvement (135) of Bowling Green, & the permanency of slack water navigation.

1846

Nov 1st

Altho I have been industriously devoted to my profession since I came from Washington I have not altogether ceased to attend to political affairs as I had contemplated. When in 1843 I retired I thought that I would devote the rest of my life to my private affairs & to the improvement of my mind. And that if I could instruct my race by leaving behind me

anything worthy of publication I would take that course of doing good. My ten successive sessions in Congress had taught me the great difficulty, if not impossibility, of operating successfully upon politicians by presenting any other consideration & motives of action than such as were addressed to their selfishness. I thought in retiring the day might come when I would address myself to the youth of the country & attempt to engraft upon their minds honest, practical, political principles. I have not yet surrendered the idea of writing a (135a) political catechism for the young men of the country with a view to establish a love for true, republican government, & to induce them as citizens to uphold an honest system of laws to secure the rights of persons & of property, of rational liberty & equality, & to excite a contempt for demagogues. The experience of the last three years had convinced me that it is very uncertain whether I shall ever accomplish my design, & instead of abstaining altogether from political matters since I left Congress, I have found myself thro the instrumentality of friends, brought before the people as a candidate for their suffrages upon two occasions. This shows how much our conduct is influenced by others & what great firmness it requires to act entirely from the promptings of our own judgements. Perhaps the solicitations of friends constitute facts in conjunction with others upon which the judgement acts from time to time as we pass thro life, & whatever changes of conduct occur may still be said with propriety. (136) to be the result of our own judgement. However that may be it is certain that the events of the last three years have turned out very different from my anticipations so far as relates to my personal actions. Altho I left Congress to lead a private life in 1844 I found myself nominated as an Elector for the state at large to choose a President & Vice President. I had declined being a candidate for the office of Governor, in favor of judge Owsley. Thinking that the office of Elector would not interfere much, if any, with my private pursuits, I accepted the nomination & shortly after became engaged in making political speeches in various parts of the State, & in Tennessee in favor of the election of Clay & Frelinghuysen. I was elected, & in the fall of 1844 met the other Whig Electors in Frankfort, & there voted for the above named gentlemen. It was the second time I voted for Mr. Clay, for I was elected in 1824 to the office of (136a) Elector & on that occasion I voted for Mr Clay as President & John C. Calhoun as Vice President. I was selected by the College of Electors in 1844 to prepare an address to Mr Clay, in conjunction with Messrs Graves & Combs. My draft was so mutilated by the action of the committee that what I was directed to draw up, as chairman, in lieu of what I had prepared seemed to me altogether inappropriate to the occasion, & I felt deeply mortified. However I obeyed the directions of the committee, & when I read the address to the College there were manifested evident marks of disappointment & dissatisfaction. I took occasion to comment upon the production & to point out wherein I thought it would not do. I determined to wash my hands of it, being unwilling to stand responsible as its author. I had in the meantime read my original draft to Messrs Kinkain & Andrews two of the Electors. As soon as the address adopted by the Committee was read before the College of Electors they called (137) for the paper I had read then. I had left it at my room. A conversation took place in which the work of the Committee was condemned, & I was directed to prepare out of the two papers an address, & report the next morning. I did so, following ~~the~~ nearly the original draft, but leaving out, against my wishes, the most pungent sentence in it, which was as follows, "Your bitterest enemies will now affect to regard you as no longer in the way of their ambition, & your vilest will be too busily engaged about

the partition of the "spoils" to molest you by new slanders." After closing the business in Frankfort the College of Electors with the exception of Messrs Hardin & Grigsby, accompanied by Gov Owsley & Ex Governors Metcalf & Letcher visited Mr. Clay. A procession was formed in Lexington & we marched to Mr Clay's--a large concourse of people following the Governor, ExGovernor & Electors. On reaching the house we formed a semi-circle about the front steps. Upon Mr Clay's approach I advanced a (137a) little in front of the line, & according to previous arrangement I read the address I had prepared; (a copy of which I had sent early in the morning to Mr Clay.) when he responded in a most feeling & appropriate manner. My address & his response were published in the papers of the day. Altogether it was a solemn & imposing spectacle. The speeches being over--the crowd retired. The Governor, Ex Governors & Electors remained, & with a few selected friends dined with Mr Clay, who bore himself throughout the scene (alto he knew he was defeated) with cheerfulness, & without vindictiveness, as a great man always should do upon such an occasion.

The Presidential election being over, I again thought there was no obstacle to my exclusive attention to private business, but again I have to acknowledge how impossible it is to foreknow one's own destiny.

In the spring of 1845 a convention assembled in Russelville to select a candidate to represent the District in Congress. (138) I could have been unanimously nominated but I positively declined it. Before I returned from Russelville court, a convention in my own County had assembled & nominated me as a Candidate to represent the County. As this was an inferior office, & one which would only require the winter months of my time to fill it, I consented out of gratitude to the people for past political favors, to serve them. A few weeks before the election those who, from one motive or another were opposed to my election brought out an opposing candidate. The hope was to divide the Whigs & concentrate the Democrats (so called) & thereby to elect my opponent. The scheme signally failed. Nearly all of the Whigs, & a third of the Democrats voted for me, & I was elected by a majority of nearly two to one. I went to the Legislature, & there the tide ran so strongly in my favor that I had nothing to do but launch my bark, & yield its direction of others. I found myself (138a) anchored in the speakers chair.

1846

While at Frankfort last winter the election of U.S. Senator next winter, became frequently the subject of conversation, & my friends often expressed a desire to see me fill that office. In no instance, did I express to a human being a desire to have myself brought forward as a candidate. I have only said that if my friends could elect me I would serve. I shall await with calmness the events which may follow, & which if I am not again greatly deceived will settle forever whether I am to mingle in the strifes of political life, or remain a private citizen. I hold it to be every man's duty in a Republic to serve his country when called on, & in some cases to volunteer, but no one ought, under the influence of the emoluments of office to attempt to force himself upon the country or his friends. In my case all the offices I have ever filled have been attended with pecuniary sacrifices because I have always been able to make more money by attending to my private, & professional business than I could by (139) any salary ever paid me. The fact that serving the country has been to me an individual loss, has had the effect of making me perfectly independent in my course, & induced me at all times to examine questions free from the trammels of party, & such, I hope will be my course

1846

at all times hereafter, should I be called to fill any public station.

In the winter of 1845-6 my daughter Eliza remained with me in Frankfort during the session. My wife & two youngest children came up to Frankfort, by water in February, & remained until the end of the session. In June 1846 my wife & her children visited her parents in Georgetown D.C. I went with them as far as Wheeling, where they were met by her brother Richard S. Cox, who took them on & I returned. In July after my courts were over I went after my wife & brought her home in August. We reached home early in Sept. In my absence I visited Richmond Va & the county of my birth. I saw my brother Henry, & an old schoolmate, (139a) David Mimms in Richmond. We returned home thro Harrisburg, Penn, & took the canal there. While there we visited the state house & called on Gov Shank at his office. At the capitol we saw the old chair used by John Hancock while President of the old continental Congress, & some of the original parchment deeds made by the Indians to Wm Penn for the territory sold him.

Since an entry was made in this book I have had one child, & two grandchildren born. On the 13th of Dec. 1844 about 11 o'clock A.M. on a clear bright day my son Robert was born in my own house in the middle room in Bowling Green. My daughter Julia has had two daughters.

Nov 23rd About 8 o'clock this clear, cold frosty morning my son Thomas Rogers was born in my own house in the East room. He is a fine stout boy. I have named him after my Uncle Thomas Rogers, who is now upwards of 80 years old, who has lived a most exemplary life, who has shown me (140) & his whole family many acts of kindness & who is the best of the ante-revolutionary stock. My grandfather Underwood was named Thomas.

About the 10th of Jan. I was surveying on Leatherwood Creek in Adair Co. when I received letters from friends in Frankfort, informing me that they have determined to put me in nomination for the office of U.S. Senator, & requesting me to visit them as speedily as I could. These letters were sent me by express from Glasgow. B.B. Crump acting as my friend in the matter. I returned home thro a deep snow, & set out for Frankfort in the Stage on the 12th at night, & reached there in less than 28 hrs. I remained in Frankfort until the 18th of Feb. On the 12th of that month being Friday, & on the 29th ballot I was elected to the senate of the U.S. My election was announced to me in my room at the Weiseiger Home by John G. Rogers of Glasgow. I was engaged at the time in writing a brief for the Court of Appeals. The balloting (140a) commenced on the 28th of January. My competitors among the Whigs were Ex-Gov. Letcher & Metcalf. The Democrats supported by A. G. Hawes, but had no hope of his election from the beginning. I have thus been elected to the highest office held under the Government except that of President, & judges of the Supreme Court, without ever proposing myself for the station, or taking any step to induce others to bring me forward.

I have only said to those who spoke to me on the subject, that if my friends could elect me, I would accept the office with gratitude & serve the country to the best of my ability. Gov Letcher has been making arrangements for years. I have reason to believe with view to secure the office. He is a fine electioneer. He tells anecdotes well, & as a man of excellent common sense. He was greatly mortified at his defeat. Before the election took place & during the balloting, he made strong personal appeals to me to abandon the (141) contest, and let him be elected without further opposition from me. He said in substance, that in two years there would be another vacancy in the Senate, that Mr. Crittenden would then retire, that if a Whig Administration then came into power, Mr. C. would become a member of the Cabinet, and would therefore be out of the way and if a Democrat (as called) succeeded Mr. Polk,

1847

Mr. Crittenden could have no desire from his age, to return to the Senate and engage in an unsuccessful warfare against the ruling powers; so that if I desired political promotion, I had nothing to fear two years hence from Mr. C. as an opponent. How then could I best secure such advancement? The Governor said by declining the contest, and by writing to my friends, and placing it upon the ground that I did not wish to see the Whig party further engaged in dividing and struggling among themselves. I would place myself upon the highest eminence in their esteem and especially among his friends in the upper part of the state; that in the Green (141a) River country I would always meet with a strong support and by uniting the two interests I would be invulnerable two years hence. He said moreover that I was a much younger man than he, that I was engaged in a lucrative practice as a lawyer, and that he was comparatively out of employment, that he was poor, and that the salary of the office was an object to him. I listened to all these suggestions with attention (in which it may be perceived that there is not a single consideration relating to the interests of the country) and answered that I had placed myself and my pretensions in the hands of my friends and that I would do nothing unless by their advice and direction that it was their movement entirely which made me a candidate and that I could not with honor retreat or decline as long as they thought proper to persist in voting for me.

1847

I thought, but did not express it, that the Governor was rather selfish in asking me to retire, when from the first ballot, I had (142) always received a larger Whig vote than he did and when I was a few votes ahead of him on every ballot except two or three. After the election was over I determined to give an entertainment, and accordingly made arrangement with my Landlord at the Weisinger House for supper for two hundred persons. I invited all the officers of Government, every member of each branch of the Legislature, and those citizens who were residents in Frankfort, and who had during the last thirty years shown me acts of kindness and hospitality when I had been among them.

1847

I also invited my friends and acquaintances from different parts of the state then in Frankfort. I sent tickets to some of my old fellow soldiers, and had the pleasure to receive two of them, Jas. E. Davis of Lexington, and Enock Duckees of Versailles as my guests. Davis and I slept together on a straw pallet many nights on the shore of Lake Erie, he being very sick and I afflicted with my wound. Duckee, poor fellow, lost a leg. It was (142a) amputated in consequence of a wound which shattered his knee. I also invited my competitors, ex Governors Letcher and Metcalf. The latter attended the feast--sang two fine songs, and was as jovial as any one there. He is a noble old man. He made me judge of the Court of Appeals, and such were my feelings of gratitude toward him, that I should not have mourned had he been elected over Letcher and me. Indeed, I am not sure but I should have promoted that result had it not been manifest from the beginning that the county looked to the election of Gov. Letcher or myself, and that Gov. Metcalf stood no chance. Gov. Letcher did not attend my feast. He, however, called upon me at my room in the morning and apologized, for declining, by saying that he supposed the enjoyments of the company would be greater were he absent than if present, and said he was not on speaking terms with Mr. W--and Mr. H-- who he supposed had been invited. I told him I was not apprised of his personal (143) difficulties with those gentlemen but supposed that all parties would see the improprieties at once, of making any allusion to private broils at a convivial meeting. I then told him the story of Gen. Jackson insisting that the members of his cabinet should invite Mrs. Eaton to their large parties, notwithstanding she was not

admitted to their family circles. I told the Ex.Gov jocosely that mine was a large party, and I thought he might attend even if Mr.W. and Mr. H. were invited, but I did not tell him whether they were or not. He then declined upon the ground that his presence would rather mar than promote the enjoyment of the company. I complimented his motive and we parted.

1847

The entertainment cost me three hundred dollars. The members of the Legislature began to feel very impatient before the election terminated. It was proposed to me by two of the friends of Gov. Letcher, that he should select a friend, and I one, and the two thus selected should retire and decide which of us should give way to the other. No questions (143a) were to be asked them how they came to the decision which they should announce, but it was clearly intimated they would decide it by lot. Gov. Letcher and myself both declined accepting to the proposition.

I won my commission in the Army by throwing heads and tails with a dollar, but in that case there was no other way to decide it. Corn, my opponent and I had an equal number of votes--he proposed to throw up for it -- I agreed -- he threw up the dollar -- I cried heads and so it came.

What my election to the Senate may lead to is unknown. I have just placed myself in the hands of Providence, determined to exercise and use the faculties God hath given me for the promotion of the welfare of my country, of my race and to leave the issues to Him. The great secret of my popularity, in my opinion, is, the useful labor I have performed for my fellow creatures.

1847

I have worked more than most men, and I have found that just in proportion as I have made myself useful to others, they esteemed and patronized me. There lies the (144) secret of popularity in a Republic. "Be useful, and you are traveling the road of preferment."

1847

Apr. 12th

On the 5th inst. I reached Scottsville having staid the night before at John Willoughby's with my brother, Warner. I was engaged defending Reuben Lane, prosecuted for passing counterfeit money when old Brutus arrived with a note from my wife, stating that a message had been sent up from Russellville after me, in consequence of the murder of Dr. James W. Wilson, my brother-in-law. I quit business in court and set out for Russellville. I met my sister Malvina about 4 miles from town. She had attended the funeral of the Doctor. He was murdered in his bed by some one unknown, on Sunday night probably about 2 hours before day. He received two blows on the top of his head, each driving the skull into his brain. He received one blow in the forehead, extending from the middle to the left ear and driving the skull thro into his brain. There were 2 other wounds. He was found by his old servant Jack at his usual hour of going into his (144a) room, and he gave the alarm.

The Dr. slept in his shop, and for years never fastened his doors, and his patients were in the habit of going in at night and waking him up, getting prescriptions, etc. He fell a victim to his confidence in the society where he lived. He was a brave and fearless man and never suspected danger. His purse and pocket wallet containing about \$100. in Tenn. Bank bills were missing, thus affording evidence that at least, one, if not the only motive of the assassin was gain. Dr. Wilson was born on the 7th Jan., 1805. He married my sister Jane in 1828--she died in 1830 leaving one child a daughter named Elisabeth Jane, who was born on the 18th Apr. 1829. I remained in Russellville until Saturday aiding the citizens to find out the murderer, but all in vain. No clue to the horrid act was discovered. On Saturday I returned home with my niece, bringing her on the stage and riding horseback myself. Poor child! I have never seen any one more deeply afflicted with the keenest anguish. The unnatural and horrible death of her Father was well calculated to

excite the (145) most painful and horrible sensations. She is thus left without any relations nigher than uncles and aunts, with a large estate. Just entering on womanhood, her first trial in life is of the gloomiest and most awful character. I trust that the future may be more propitious, and that when time shall have soothed her grief that her early sorrows may give way to security, peace, and joy.

1847
Aug. 6th

Five weeks ago last Sunday, I went to Glasgow for the purpose of attending a called court for the trial of B. Lawless. The night I reached Glasgow I was taken with a chill and remained there for about ten days when Dr. Rogers, my physician, thought I might safely be removed upon a bed in a carriage to the Chameleon Spigs. I was accordingly taken and dined at Three Forks, and went on after dinner. I remained three weeks at the Springs. Saturday before the election I returned home. My wife and younger children were with me at the Springs. I am still quite feeble. I recover my strength very slowly. On the 3rd inst. San Jacinto had a fine colt sired by Job.

On yesterday the 5th Sally had a daughter.

(145a) The election has terminated in the defeat of Mr. Todd, and the election of Mr. Clark to Congress. Thus after 16 years ascendancy of the Whigs in the District they are defeated.

1847
Nog.

About the 25th of this month I left Bowling Green with my daughters Eliza and Jane and my niece Maria Bell and Elisabeth J. Wilson for Washington City where we arrived safely on Sunday morning, Dec. 5th. We traveled on the steamer to Louisville and hence to Cincinnati on the Regular Packet line and so on to Pittsburg. At Maysville, Gen. L. Coombs came on board greatly to the delight of the company and traveled with us to Washington. Our expenses were \$33. and some cents each. We stopped at Coleman's Hotel. My daughter Jane and niece E. Wilson went to Miss Englishes boarding school, and the rest to Brauner's hotel to live.

1847
Dec. 6th

Today took my seat in the Senate. Mr. Crittenden presented my credentials. The vice President G. M. Dallas administered to me the oath of office.

1849
Jan. 1st

My daughters and nieces went to day to call on the President and to see the crowd (146) doing the same thing. We called on Ex-President Adams also.

I went with Gov. Metcalf to pay our respects to the President called as we went at Mr. Dicken's. I left the Gov. after we went to the Presidents and called at Gen. Jesups. He was not in, and his daughters were preparing to go out. I sent them my card and requested that they would not come down on my account, left, and returned to my lodgings. There were fewer persons than usual on such occasions at the Presidents. I suppose the cause of the empty rooms might be found in the general indisposition to worship the waning moon. I cannot dignify the administration of Mr. Polk by saying the setting sun. The Mexican War which he originated in violation of the Constitution for party purposes, regarding either its conception or termination or both can never redound to the personal elevation of Mr. Polk's character for sagacity or morality as a statesman, with those who scrutinize the actions and motives of men in high places.

1849
Jan. 1st

(146a) The Presidents course has been signally marked by blunders and mendacity; yet these which detract from his character and prove him to be deficient in those high personal qualities so much admired in Washington, may probably be overlooked, should the vast territories annexed, turn out to be convenient auxiliaries in our advancement to greater wealth and power than were ever possessed by any other nation.

If, however, the acquisition of California and New Mexico only hasten the severance of the Union and by their mines of gold supply exhaustless stimulants to the views of avarice, and the corruptions of wealth, we shall find in these fatal consequences innumerable reasons--but alas, too late, for deploring the wickedness and folly not only of Mr. Polk, but of the nation in waging a war of conquest. The question now is, have we heads and hearts enough to bring good to mankind out of, what seems to me, portentous of evil. It may take fifty years to open the eyes of the philosophic historian to the perception of the blessings or the evils to result from the Mexican War.

(147) The world decides upon the wisdom or folly of acts by their consequences and the world is not yet ready to pronounce judgement. I made no remark in this book during 1848. This only proves how intensely I was employed in other matters.

1849
Mar. 6th

Last Saturday night closed the doings of the 30th Congress. Some of the events of that night and the next morning are worthy of perpetual remembrance. I record them here having taken a leading part in some of them. Most of the night was spent in discussion upon the amendment made by the House to the amendment made by the Senate to the Civil and Diplomatic Bill providing a government for California and finding that it was impossible to pass a bill in the usual manner for the government of our new territories in consequence of the question of slavery. When the civil and diplomatic bills came from the House, I voted for the amendment, proposed first by Mr. Walker but modified at different times subsequently, (147a) which gave the President authority to prescribe temporary government for our newly acquired territories. The question was whether we should concur with the House in adopting their substitute. The violent pro-slavery men were all against it, and so were the violent "Free Soilers." The consequence was that by a large majority the Senate refused to concur in the substitute of the House, and instead of informing the House an opportunity to insist on its amendment or to recede and take the Senate's amendments to the Bill, the Senate regarded the bill as passed without any provision relating to the Government of the Territories. This course I regarded as highly improper and voted to retain the amendment of the House. Fears of losing the entire bill (148) probably induced the Senate to take the course it did. After midnight arrived, many Senators regarded the 30th Congress as expired, & several refused from that hour to take any part in the deliberations of the body. Senators Benton & Cass were of the opinion that the 30th Congress was dissolved by lapse of time at midnight on the 3rd of Mar. I was also of the same opinion, but in consideration of the absolute necessity of passing the Civil & diplomatic bill & upon the reflection that we were but perfecting & completing measures already matured & that there was no method by which the act could be declared unconstitutional, if approved & enrolled according to the constitutional forms, I acquiesced in proceeding to discuss & vote after midnight. Senator Foote, of Miss. said we had no constitutional power to act after midnight and after that hour he made many speeches as if he were addressing a town meeting instead of the senate of (148a) U. S. Senator Cameron of Penn whose term of service expired with the 30th Congress was making a speech after midnight when Mr. Foote placed himself directly in front of Mr. Cameron & said to him (as I was informed but his voice was too low for me to hear what he said, distinctly) "what are you speaking here for? You are no senator & you had as well hush." Thereupon Mr. Cameron gave him a pretty severe slap on the jaw which sounded thro the Hall. Mr. Foote bowed significantly & retired. I expected a duel to be the consequence, but it was compromised.

1849

1849

1849

After daylight on Sunday morning the Civil & diplomatic bill & the bill extending the Revenue laws over California etc being prepared for the signature of the President, Mr. Dodge of Iowa was appointed for the double purpose of presenting these bills to the President for his approval & of informing him that the Senate had closed their legislative labors, & were prepared to adjourn. At this time the President had left the Capitol & was at his lodging at Willards Hotel about a mile distant (having left the White House) Shortly before Mr Dodge left the Senate Chamber I remarked to him (149) that I hoped he would hasten as all of us were much fatigued & wished to adjourn. The sun was up when Mr. Dodge returned. It was shining brightly thro the windows of the Senate Chamber when he returned, & had been some 15 or 20 minutes previously. Mr. Polk's private secretary Walker came with him, & a message from the President was announced by the doorkeeper. I expected to hear some annunciation in regard to the approval of a bill or bills, but was surprised to hear Mr. Walker declare that he was instructed by the President to deliver to the Senate a message or several messages in writing. At the time of this announcement I was standing in the side aisle which leads from the Vice Presidents seat to the South entrance into the Senate Chamber thro which I usually entered & retired, supposing that we should quick (149a) ly adjourn, when I intended to leave in haste. As soon as Mr. Walker stated the nature of the communication he was directed to make, a motion was made that the Senate should go into Executive session. It was put, & carried, & the galleries cleared in a very short time for there were very few persons in them at that hour. The message was then read, & it contained a nomination of two justices of peace for the District of Columbia. I addressed the presiding officer (Senator Atcheson of Missouri occupying the chair) & objected to considering the nominations. Under a rule of the Senate no nomination can be considered on the day it is made, if objected to. When I made the objection a pause ensued & noon e for a short space said a word. The clerk then read another message nominating Mr. Hanagan Senator from Indiana - for the office of Minister of Prussia. When the clerk finished I addressed the Presiding officer & said in substance "that I objected to the considerations of the nominations just read, that when I objected to the consideration of the nomination of the justices of peace, I had no idea (150) that their nomination was to be followed up by the nomination of a foreign minister & hence I could not have made the objection to considering the case of the justices with the view to follow my own precedent when the case of the minister was presented. My objection was based upon principle & therefore I could not be a respecter of persons&& must place ministers & justices of peace upon the same footing. It was manifest to my mind that the nomination of the justices had been artfully conceived & brought forward in the first instance in the expectation that they would be confirmed without objection in consequence of the unimportance & thus to lay the foundation against objections to the time & manner of nominating a foreign minister, when the case of Mr Hanagan was presented. After I made my objection Mr Dodge of Iowa rose, & made a personal appeal to me requesting (149a) that I would withdraw the objection to the consideration of Mr Hanagan's nomination & assigned as reasons for the request the circumstances in which he, his wife & children would be placed in case he did not obtain the appointment. It was distinctly intimated that the salary of the office was essential to their comfort. When Mr. Dodge ceased to speak Mr Berrien of Georgia also requested me to withdraw my objections & said it was not usual when Senators were nominated to post pone the consideration of their nominations under the rules of the Senate. Both these Senators seemed to manifest much zeal in behalf of Mr.

Hanagan. I rose & said in substance "that my objections were not based upon anything personal to Mr Hanagan, he had always treated me courteously & if we were to have a minister to Prussia we might not probably get a better man. My objections were based upon the belief that Mr Polk had no constitutional power to nominate on Sunday morning the 4th of March & that the Senate had no constitutional power to receive & consider such nominations coming from him.

1849

I said the 30th Congress had been dissolved in my opinion at midnight (151) by efflux of time & one third of the Senators composing the 30th Congress then passed out of office, & those Senators elected to fill their places were in office on the 4th of Mar. & were authorized to vote in the confirmation or rejection of nominations made on the 4th. Mr. Polk was inducted on the 4th of March 1845 & the universal rule in computing time was to exclude fractions of days & to include the day of the inauguration as one of the presidential term. Hence Mr Polk was not at this hour when this nomination was made the President of the United States, & could perform no act as such. Moreover there was no necessity, as in the case of the civil & diplomatic bill, of extending the late President's powers on the duration of his office by construction. I therefore would not withdraw my objections; but there was one thing I could do & felt disposed to do, & that was to withdraw myself from a body which I considered to be dissolved & when that was done (151a) those who thought they had power to act could do as they pleased." With these declarations I walked out of Chamber & went to my lodgings. When I left it was manifest that there were not more than twenty senators present. There was not a quorum to do business & I supposed my departure would make the want of a quorum so manifest that nothing would be attempted further, particularly as I had declared that I would not withdraw my objections. But those who remained after my departure, being less than 18 or not more as Senator Hale afterwards declared, ratified & confirmed the nomination of Mr Hanagan. How the journal of the Senate was made up I do not know. Certain it is that if all the facts are stated it will present a curious case of violation of the rules of the body & of the Constitution of the U. States brought about by party zeal in behalf of a partizan who had failed to secure a reelection to the senate & for whom his friends were anxious to provide. On the 5th day of March Col. Z. Taylor delivered his inaugural, & was qualified to act as President by receiving the oath of office., Mr. Fillmore also took (152) his seat in the called executive session of the Senate as vice President. When he delivered his address the diplomatic corps of foreign government were present & when Mr. F. alluded to the changes accomplished in our country by the ballot box, & that such things could only be done in the old world by war & bloodshed, a thrill of excitement was manifested by the entire corps. The Vice Presidents statement seemed to produce a disagreeable effect upon the foreign ministers then present.

1849

1849

April

The Senate continued in Execution session until the day of March when it adjourned. I hastened home, & shall now devote myself to my business as lawyer & land agent until it becomes necessary to go to Washington next fall.

At the termination of the executive session most of the Senators under the decision of the Vice president received full mileage for a constructive journey made to their respective residences & back again between the adjournment of the body on Sunday morning after disposing of Hanagan's nomination, (152a) & the next day when the Senate convened in pursuance of a summons to us members given by Mr. Polk. In this way & upon this pretext (some Senators received more than two thousand dollars The money

was placed to the Senators by the Secretary of the Senate, & the Senate had nothing to do but receipt for the amount. The amount carried to my credit for this constructive journey was \$592. that being the sum which I am entitled to for performing the journey from my residence by the "usual road" to the Capitol. I would not take it. I regard the conduct of those who did receive compensation for a constructive journey as altogether illegal & too plainly so to escape the charge of peculation. I feel humbled when such mercenary motives take possession of the minds & hearts of talented men (for talents of a very high order & great attainments cannot be denied to many of them.) who compose the Senate, & induce them to commit acts for which they will be ashamed when their conduct is exposed to public reprobation. It is among the greatest absurdities ever perpetuated by men in the character of Legislators, if the Congress of the United States has by its legislation tolerated legal charges for constructive journeys. The detention in Washington City operates upon all the (153) Senators alike, with regard to the distance they live from the Capitol. Thus whatever interval of time there was between the termination of the 30th Congress & the commencement of the Executive Session, it became necessary that the Senators of Texas, Kentucky & Maryland who intended to obey the summons of the President to spend it at or near the seat of Government. This loss of time & the attendant expense fell equally upon all of them, & that being equal, it is impossible to make a difference in the rate of compensation for such detention upon any principal of justice. And yet under the construction placed upon the law (& that too after a contrary construction & practice had prevailed for near sixty years) for a single day's detention, A Texian Senator received about 4 times as much as would have been allowed me, & I should have received about eighteen times as much as a Senator living in Baltimore & he about seventy five times less than the Texian. Such injustice if it be law is disgraceful to the intelligence & morality of the country which tolerates it, & if it be not law (& I think it is not) then the conduct of the Senators in taking the money needs the application of no epithet to secure universal condemnation. (153a)

Dec 3rd.

I arrived in Washington City this morning with my daughter Julia her two children & her nurse Sylvia--a colored girl--having staid last night at the Relay House. We should have gotten in last night but for an accident. The Locomotive ran off the track some 8 or 10 miles this side the River. I left my daughters Eliza & Jane in Frankfort with their cousin Mrs Elizabeth Jane Sharp.

" 14th

At Wheeling examined the new bridgw which was not finished. Col John Cox my wife's father died today having been taken sick yesterday. He was born in Aug. 1775 & died in his 75th year. He had been affected by paralytic strokes twice during the last 12 months. He had lived a luxurious life, spent his property, was very popular, & mayor of Georgetown for 20 years successively. He had two wives the first a Miss Smith--sister to Genl Walter Smith & Mr Richard Smith Cashr of the Bank of the Metropolis by whom he had a son & two daughters. The second wife was Jane Threlkeld daughter of John Threlkeld of Georgetown by whom he had three daughters & four sons of whom my second wife Elizabeth was the eldest child.

1849

(154) Mrs. Jane Cox was born in Jan 1795, died on the 4th of Feb. 1847 at the home of Clement Cox son of Col John Cox, to which place she had been removed, a few days before, from the conflagration which consumed the dwelling at the Cedars on the Heights of Georgetown. Clement Cox died on the 28th of Jan 1848.

n 21 1850

Mrs Mary Cox relict of Clement Cox was buried today having died on the

Jan

20th. The parson who officiated made some touching & pathetic remarks which he noticed the death of her husband, his Father & stepmother all which occurred in the same house in so short a time.

Prior to leaving home I gave permission to my slaves David, his wife & two children to go to Africa. I had previously sent a slave Harry to Liberia. I sent the following writing my views to my wife to give to Davey on the departure of his family.

"Believing the institution of Slavery to be wrong in principle & injurious both to the master & to the slave; believing (154a) that emancipation cannot materially improve the condition of slaves owned by kind masters so long as many of the important right & privileges of a free citizen are withheld; & believing that the separation of the races is necessary for the welfare of both blacks & whites; therefore I do hereby allow & permit my slaves David His wife Polly, & their two children Andrew & Irene, to proceed under the care of the Agts. of the American Colonization Society to Liberia & to settle & establish themselves in Africa. But should they or either of them return to the United States of America & especially to the State of Kentucky & remain longer than six months without my consent, he or she so returning & remaining is in all respects to be subject to my control as a slave, in the same manner he or she now is, and in that event this instrument & all privileges granted by it to the person so returning, are declared null & void. Given under my hand this 13th day of Jan 1850.

J.R. Underwood.

1850
Jan 14

The five slaves which I have liberated could have been sold for more than \$2000. I paid \$550 for David to prevent his being separated from his wife. He had not remunerated me for the money, much less interest upon it. I paid my brother-in-law Horatio Cleland & Mr. D. R. Trotter (155) full value for their interest in Sally being two thirds. She was not a very healthy woman--had given birth to many children all of whom were dead but Andrew & Irene. Her labor had not more than compensated me for the expense of waiting upon her & her children. Harry the man whom I had previously sent to Liberia was given me by my step grandmother Underwood (& who was a sister of my grandmother Rogers) by her last will. Harry was a peculiar man. He had been licensed by the Baptist Church to preach. He was the vainest most self sufficient man I ever knew. He had a good share of natural talent, but his self esteem knew no bounds. I do not recollect that I ever asked him in the twenty years he lived with me whether he could do the thing I wanted done without receiving an affirmative answer. He would not acknowledge a deficiency or believe that he had any--except in the relation to the perfections of a true Christian. He would admit he did not come up to the Gospel Standard, but in making the admission it was done in a manner which (155a) seemed to say, "I doubt if truth required me to make it."

1850
Jan 13
Aug 3rd

Last night I staid in Georgetown & slept in the parlor at the Union Hotel adjoining the sick room of my daughter Julia upon one of the sofas. I got up several times during the night & sat by Julia, fanning & affording her much consolation as I was able to administer. For some days past her situation has been one of excruciating agony. She has been unable to turn herself in bed & complains of incessant pain in her left hip & termination of the spine. She has been unable to sleep. Her limbs are laboring with unnatural heat. Morphine cannot allay the pain &

she throws her arms about evincing the greatest restlessness, & she talks incessantly, asking us to change her position, give her ice, rub her limbs, & then she burts forth into ejaculations to me & to God for mercy. I have never witnessed a more distressing scene. Wearied with m the watches of the night, & my spirits sunk at the prospect of the speedy death of my daughter, I left Georgetown on foot about 6 o'clock to return to my lodgings in Washington, there to bathe change my linen, rest & prepare for the watchings of another & perhaps last night with Julia.

1850
Aug 3rd

I walked till I reached the point over Rock Creek opposite the large brick building on the hill to the left of the avenue. I heard a carriage of some sort rattling on behind me & had been thinking from the time I left the hotel of the calamities of human life & those especially which had fallen to my lot. My daughter Eliza was then at home in Kentucky threatened with the permanent loss of sight, & thus all my efforts to make her a splendid & accomplished woman as she is, seemed about to result in a helpless & diseased being to be pitied & mourned over thro life. I did not expect Julia to live two days, & then what was to become of her children Bettie & Loriny. These melancholy reflections, & want of rest enervated my whole frame. I felt as if I could not walk & as the vehicle behind me came up, I made a sign to the driver & asked him to let me ride. He stopped & took me into his little wagon. (156a) When I left the hotel the hacks & omnibuses were not running at so early an hour; so it seemed an act of necessity to walk. When overtaken by the humble vehicle alluded to I could do no otherwise than to get in or to walk. I chose the former & found myself seated by a large can of milk which Mr Loughboro's Irish servant was going the round to supply permanent customers & those who bought as they could. Distressed as I was I could not exclude the thought that many of my acquaintances--not friends but acquaintances would cast a contemptuous look upon an American Senator riding by the side of a driver in a market wagon. I made this reflection upon the fact that a man is often placed in a low position by circumstances which naturally & necessarily lead him to it, & which he cannot control & that wisdom never cesures, until all the circumstances are investigated. I rode on, thinking it a matter of no consequence whether friend of acquaintance should recognize me in the milk cart. The wise & considerate would say I had sufficient cause, & we need not trouble ourselves about the opinion of fools who condemn without investigation. The Irishman soon entered into conversation upon the most friendly terms. It was natural enough. I had made myself his equal & companion by asking to ride with him. (157) & accepting a seat. He told me he had a borther recently from Ireland, who wanted a place upon a farm, in a garden or stable or any where & moderate wages. He said his brother was industrious & handy. I could not help. While I continued with him he sold milk in as small quantities as a cents worth-----poor woman purchased that morning-----double quantity as she said, owing to the needs of the children. She took a gourd----I shall never regret that ride it troubled me to see & hear for the first time what passed between the milkmen & his customers Just ~~before~~ I got out of the carriage I pulled out my purse. It so happened there was very little in it & it made a poor show. I had two small pieces of silver & a \$5 gold piece. Whether my Irish friend saw from the looks of my purse that it was nearly empty & supposed I had nothing to spare I know not. But he quickly asked what I took it out for. I told him to compensate him for his kindness in allowing me to ride. He shook his head & said no, no, & gave me a look which plainly said, I choose

(157a) to retain the satisfaction of having done a generous deed. I have often witnessed this sentiment in the humbler walks of life, & i left the vehicle with more affection for the Irish driver than for many I have met with of high pretentions, upon the same length of acquaintance.

After a good sleep bath & refreshment I returned to Georgetwon & found Julia no better. The Doctor advised the use of the lancet & that the swelling should be opened. This was done in the afternoon & gave immediate relief.-----ceased & I returned home to take-----rest in my own room.

Such is life & its daily incidents.

(The above is the dairy of Joseph R. Underwood--copied by Byrd Rogers--finished Nov. 17th, 1892.)

