

Diary of James P. Boyd
while a student at Lafayette College
1858-1859

Friday January 22.

Today, I purchased this Diary. Though much after the beginning of the year. Yet I hope it is not too late to finalize a just use of its pages. I shall endeavor to spend a few moments each day in writing my thoughts and actions during the day as well as whatever shall suggest itself as profitable or instructing. Our session opened on last Thursday week, very propitiously indeed. My hope is that it may continue and end so. Jas P. Boyd

Saturday January 23.

Clear again, rather cool in the morning. In the afternoon took considerable exercise at ball playing. Walked down town in the evening, and as far as the Post Office. Purchased some clothing. The evening was beautiful. The silver moon shed forth gentle light as she half waxed, coursed her way through the heavens. She truly rides the queen of the night for a slight cloudiness and obscured the less brighter stars and left her the only visible orb. Heard today of the death or rather Suicide of our Herzog a Jew merchant in Lancaster. It seems he was implicated in receiving stolen goods, knowing them at the same time to be stolen. The man of whom he received them was duly convicted of the felony and his own implication and final conviction seemed to stare him so boldly in the face that a resort to death by his own hand was the consequence. He hung himself in Lewis Haldy's marble yard by means of a handkerchief tied to an apple tree. Thus it goes. How important for us to live circumspectly So that our lives may not only be clear of open convictions, but even of suspicions. This unfortunate man thought to avoid the disgraces and shame which would inevitably be attached to him by men. Yet in doing so he has not hesitated to plunge into the world of mysteries where his disgraces are already known and where instead of a few years of punishment he must meet with an eternity of woe. I retire late, Had a chase after they who was lurking around College.

Monday January 25.

Very damp this morning after the appearance and disappearance of a dense fog however it became partially clear and in the afternoon the sun shone out very warmly. Passed an examination in Surveying and Navigation this afternoon at two o'clock. Did pretty well considering the fact that I only spent one half hour in preparing. For my exercise to-day played a few games of ball. Have illy prepared my lesson for tomorrow morning. But must turn to my "daimon" for sleep even heavy sleepiness presses upon my eyelids and impels me to bed and slumber. Rich martial music is being discoursed in town this evening. What heart stirring notes. O give me the fife and drum on a calm still night, and I could fight all the battles of our country over again. I could gladly die listening to the strains of martial music. It seems to awaken every manly principal, to elevate the soul above the common things of earth, to infuse new life into every vein in a word it renders him regardless of death and danger. Its drowning strains in time of war affords the only stimulus to brave the fight. Did men march into battle in Silence without a note, a Country's song to inspire their hearts, what feeble fighting which disgraceful defeats must result.

Tuesday January 26.

Cloudy all day with frequent showers. A very dense fog exiting this evening, temperature very warm. Walked down town this evening as far as the Post Office. This day commenced the study of Philosophy and mechanics under Prof. Coffins. Have perused the message of Gov. Packer who was inaugurated on Tuesday the 19th of January 1858. There are many good things but as all men are not perfect in the sight of their fellow man so all mens opinions do not correspond with other men. He speaks about the power of veto as vested in the Gov. Says that it is a high privilege and should not be abused. Advises the legislature to hand in their bills all of them at least ten days before the close of the session, as that is the time in which he must return them either vetoed or sanctioned or with his objections stated if he is undecided. He refers to the feasibility of continuing the prohibition of small notes in order that our country may become a firm metallic one. This is good but it is impossible to carry it out under our present import laws. Gov. Packer and every other man of sense knows that with our present low duties and consequences falling short in exports that our species is the only means of playing off the debt. this causes a constant drain on us and if we do endeavor to do away with relief notes, our specie will not stay with us.

Wednesday January 27.

Very clear and pleasant all day. Being Wednesday we had no College exercise in the afternoon. Took exercise all afternoon by playing ball. Have this evening experienced the evil effects of procrastination on having an essay for tomorrow at 11 o'clock and did not write any of it previous to this evening. Setting this apart as a time to devote to it. But was prevented by visits from several friends. So here I am without a composition and the time for reading it almost at hand. How very important it is to not only get amply ready but to get ready in ample time. How much better must those performances be, which are gotten up at ones discretion (as regards time) and upon which he will have time to ponder after they are written before he reads them than those hastily prepared which must be only a collection of thoughts fumbled together in a confused mass without the symmetry of arrangement. Were visited in our Society to-night by Mr. Hoelton of the Borough who favored us with a very complimentary speech. I debated Extemporaneously on the question "Does mathematics tend to a proper development of the intellect?" Question decided in the affirmative. Must retire and rise early if I possibly can. For I must prepare my composition tomorrow at all hazards.

Thursday Jan 28.

A very clear day and equally mild until this evening when it grew somewhat cooler and this evening about 7 o'clock a very slight snow fell. Not enough however to whiten the ground. Had very interesting chapel exercises this morning. Mr. Hough delivered a very interesting speech on music. Had to read an essay in class this morning but was not called upon. Subject "a criticism on the Gov. message. Went down town to the Universalist church this evening to witness a grand panoramic. It opened by giving a view of Sidney the capital of Australia. Then it gave a view of the Gold diggings and high mountains. Then immense flocks of sheep, which forms or rather their wool forms a vast article of export. After passing much beautiful scenery, we took a vessel and started

for China or the “celestial empire.” Whilst on the ocean a terrific storm came up when it thundered and lightened and rained very naturally. We landed in China and Witnessed many interesting sights. We first saw their warehouses then their temple their gods their stores their coffee houses their gambling houses, the great wall, their marriage processions, their silk manufacturers their private dwellings the Porcelain tower, the city of Pekin, their various games, their means of irrigation, in a word we saw the Elephant.

Friday January 29.

Woke up this morning and saw the ground covered with snow to the depth of perhaps one inch. It soon entirely disappeared. The day continued pleasant till this evening when it has grown quite cool. Took a long walk this evening. Went to a Dutch Church but were refused admittance. To-day commenced the study of Mathematics as they are found in mechanics. Commenced also the study of the French in earnest. Grand panorama in town to-night again representing the mormons in their enviable position, depicting Utah with its many interesting Scenes, and closing with a view of Niagara Falls. Did not go. Cause why, Change too scarce. Have just finished my lesson on the Constitution. How valuable a study to become acquainted with not just the structure, but with the principles of those men who framed it and with the spirit of the time which gave it birth, Should not only be but certainly is the profound wish of every American to watch the workings of anxious minds in that great deliberation assembly which on the 17th of September 1787 gave to the world these incorporated states bound by the silken Cords of liberty were indeed a pleasure. A blessed right, a great inestimable right to live in such a country. Bound as all are in the ties of brotherhood and every tie cemented with the precious blood of an ancestor.

Saturday January 30.

Woke up this morning at five and took an observation of the weather. Cloudy with a cold North Wester blowing. At six snowing, at seven snowing from light clouds at 12 perfectly clear and snow all gone. A cold North Wester blowing all day. Sat myself down this afternoon to write letters. Finished three and this evening took them to the office. Commenced reading the 1st Vol of Goldsmiths Miscellaines. Find them very good so far. The subjects are rather of a light kind treated in rather a philosophical manner. He was certainly a great man although his writings were not collected for a great no of years after his death. He enters into the minutiae of everything with warrantable exactitude, yet his style is not monotonous. There is still enough vivacity and variety of expression to command interest and dispel tediousness. He is sufficiently fluent. His language is choice. His expressions rather classical. In him the students find much to admire little to condemn. I read him more for his style, than for information. I peruse his works or in fact any other authors works. My Websters unabridged shall be my boon companion. Study the language of a nation and you have its history. Almost every word indicates some peculiarity. There is a thought in every letter a lesson in every word.

Monday February 1.

Quite cold all day. This afternoon clouded over with a cold North Easter. Tonight howling and blowing hard. Atmosphere quite cold probably the cold time of the season. This night brings to mind the realities of dread winter. The pelting hail, the moaning wind, the unconscious shrug of the shoulders as inviting comfort all bring back winter associations and stand out in bold contrast with the former winter months. The first of February! Ah if this is an index of the whole month, what snow and suffering are in store for the destitute. No hand can pen. No imagination portray the misery of the friendless pauper, the fatherless household, the motherless circle, the sickened offspring when the inclemencies of a horrid winter close around them. I had thought that this winter would still pass on with its wanted mildness. It may do it yet. To expect everyday to be clear and spring like were too much. It is already materially shortened. The poor man has two long months less to provide for a helpless family. Thankful indeed ought be to be for the blessing thus shown him. Had the winter been protracted and increasingly inclement, the spring then would have returned but to bleach his un-buried bones, or cause the grass to spring on his grave.

Tuesday February 2.

Cloudy in the morning and raining slightly. The ground covered with snow or rather hail. The day has been cold. A strong west wind blowing which howling its mournful note past my casement. Still keeps up the impression that winter has at length come in all its fierceness. Made some bad recitations to-day, one in the "Story of the Constitution," another in Mathematics. Have spent the day in studying, reading, and writing although I calmly acknowledge a neglect of study as connected with college. Yet I calmly also question the propriety of continually digging. Much of a persons time might be spent in a more useful and practical manner with a favorite volume upon his knee, or a pen in his hand, than plodding over some abstruse and seemingly nonsensical problem in Mathematics. I do not advance this however as a permanent opinion, though it once constituted my solid view on the subject. But observance seems to thwart it. For I find that he who studies hard who sticks close to this college duties, generally leaves his "alma matter" a sound a better disciplined man than he who studies none but devotes his whole time to writing and reading.

Wednesday February 3.

Not exactly clear rather moderate. Muddy, a small remnant of snow left. Holiday this afternoon. Spent most of it in committing a speech for Chapel tomorrow morning. Had quite an interesting time in society to-night. Discussed the question "Whether the Savage nations had a right to their soil or not." My opinion is they have, they have the right of previous occupancy, a man's right of possession to anything is acknowledged as soon as he has employed labor upon it. for instance in a new country, as soon as you fell the forest and fence a piece of land it is yours. This is the first kind of right. Now the savages of any country do this. They cultivate corn, beans, and potatoes, they acquire the means of subsistence from their soil, hence they establish to themselves the right of ownership which no other nation has any right to take away. But says one the right of discovery of a country gives right of possession. Be it so, then we have no right to our soil though not savages. For if a vessel from one of the South Sea Islands should come

up here and discover us we must vacate for they have a right to the land by discovery. This is fallacious. Retired at 10 ½ P.M.

Thursday February 4.

Rather clear all day. Frost coming out of the ground slowly. Spoke this morning in Chapel. Almost fizzled, having only committed it on yesterday afternoon. A speech in order to be spoken successfully should be previously committed well, thoroughly and in order to accomplish this, several days should intervene between the committal and the speaking. Went down town this evening to hear a lecture on noseology and Psychology. Was somewhat entertained but not up to my expectations. Lecturer Prof. Williams of New York. Subject of through at first was the origin of diseases in our race. Argued that all our consumptions, bronchial affections. Pneumonias etc. proceed from a departure of the electric fluid from the body into the earth. That when a man stands for any length of time in one position upon the damp ground the fluid departs and he had contracted a cold. Denounced the practice of sleeping in heated rooms or in the drafts of air. He then examined some noses and spoke on their merits and demerits, praised up big ones, railed against small ones, preached against flat ones, but said nothing against red ones. He then performed so psychological feats on a few tractable boys and concluded the farce.

Friday February 5.

Clear and pleasant. Nothing of importance occurring. Went down town this evening to attend a lecture delivered by Dr. Pancoast of Philadelphia on the secret diseases and organs of generation. It was very interesting. Many persons suppose that such lectures have an immoral tendency But far from it. There you learn the terrible results of indulgence. There you see the Melancholy effects of letting your passions run loose, and obtain the mastery over your sober and steadier principle. There you see the evil or to what it tends and it requires only the exercise of wisdom on Your part to flee it. There you learn to detect by the appearance of the countenance the evil occult habit of masturbation into which your child may have unfortunately fallen. Then you learn the dread results of this habit, not only upon yourself but upon your children. There also you learn that in order to make a felicitous choice of a partner for life, You must not only seek health but kindred temperment. In a word you become acquainted with the great source of man's ills, and if You are wise you will know to flee, if foolish, to persist. Aside from the knowledge you obtain, the appearance of the patient as represented is enough to intimidate and horrify the attentive beholder. I cannot but be advantageous then.

Saturday February 6.

Weather cloudy and cool. Thawed some about noon. In the evening quite cool. Took some exercise in the afternoon in billiards. This is a very fine game, none more scientific, none capable of exercising the mind or rather the ingenuity more, except chess. It is a real mathematical game. The angles must be accurately reckoned or success will not attend you. Took a long walk in the evening. Saw more human life than I ever did before or ever want to do again. People boast of this being an enlightened, a civilized age. But the heathenism in the barbarity, the ignorance and consequent wickedness. Here many are those who squander the precious earnings of a week in the most futile

way. With out reference to the old age or the family of the future in any way. How may who prostrate their talents, which were worthy to be cast in a better mould, engaging in the filth, jest, the foul black guard, or the murderous oath. How many inebriate their frames, active and perhaps robust by the most unlawful indulgence of their unbridled passions. The reddened bowl is turned to accomplished Courtesan procured and what is not done to satiate depraved appetite. Call this to then an age of Civilization. But are these the few who thus act without regard to substantial happiness on earth or security in heaven. No, far from it their name is legion. They permeate society they constitute the masses of every community. Call this civilized. Rather go to the savage and learn wisdom.

Monday February 8.

Moderate and Cloudy though not heavy. Yesterday morning a slight snow covered the ground. Spent the day in moderately hard study. Tried to do my duty, but feel conscious of having fallen far short. Spend most of my leisure in reading of the character of Washington having in view the preparation of a debate on the Question "Whether Washington deserves more praise as a Warrior or Statesman." This is a difficult question to decide. For it seem to be folly to attempt to make a distinction between the two qualities of a man in both of which he was best. This preeminence there in the one or the other lies in the distinction of the subjects themselves. If he was first in war, and war does not call for the exercise of such precious sterling qualities of character as the functions of government, and he was also best in the exercise of these then all that is to be done is to prove that the council chamber is superior to the field and our question is settled. "The first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." This is surely enough without criticism, without distinguishing any of his qualities. There may be the defects in his character as well as any other but we make the assertion that since the birth of Christ and death of the apostolic dispensation so perfect a man has not lived.

Tuesday February 9.

Rather pleasant throughout the day, but cool this evening. Spent the day wholly in study of different kinds. Went down town this evening on commissary my business, and carried up an immense load of provisions. Was invited down town to a sociable by my roommate. But thought diffidence or rather an innate antipathy toward the female sex. I declined. My nature seems to be wonderfully formed. Naturally very bashful. When quite young I exercised it too much. It has always proved a bar to my happiness both in and out of company. When out I am perplexed with the thought that I am doing wrong, not to develop more my social principle. Whilst all the time there is a militating thought that I would sink under the attempt. My cursed diffidence warning with my better judgement renders me perfectly miserable. But when in company I feel worse than ever. I have nothing to say. I cannot get the hang of gossip. I could never learn all the little incidents, which have happened at all the meetings for years past. I have no desire to remember the thorns and tricks and funny things that have occurred for at least one generation back, nor have I any desire to talk about them if I did. I must remain mute and you know what a happy fellow he would be in society.

Wednesday February 10.

Cool all day with a very high west wind. This being Wednesday in the afternoon we enjoyed a holiday. But though a free from College study yet it was one of intense anxiety to me. For I have to prepare for a debate for tomorrow and expected to devote this afternoon to preparing it. But it went away and here I am almost wholly unprepared. Such is the evils of Procrastination. Received a letter from home to-day fraught with much good news, but also with some bad. For I learn by it that a friend of mine is sentenced to two years imprisonment to the penitentiary at Fort Madison Iowa for robbing the United State mail. What a pity to see a Youth possessed of a sound mind in a sound body then prostrate himself to the lower depth of crime and ignominy. Although he is my cousin yet would I not shield him from just punishment. It is not with him I sympathize but with a widowed mother and disconsolate sisters. This makes it both a murder and a felony, For how lost to all sense of honor and respect and maternal feelings must a soul be to commit such a crime in the face of the prayers of an affectionate mother, one who love and raised him, yet alas who may not shed a tear over his misfortune.

Thursday February 11

Very cold with a strong west wind, this is one of the coldest days this winter. The Delaware is quite full of floating ice. And the ice dealers are looking somewhat pleasant. Very if any ice houses have been filled as yet, and those who have procured it have obtained very inferior article. If this degree of Coldness continues for a few days, beautiful thick ice can be easily obtained. Was occupied with my studies all day. Wrote a debate this morning but for want of time the reading of it was postponed. Commenced this evening writing a Hiawatha letter. Have progressed a good ways with it. It is a very easy kind of poetry to write. At once pleasing and expressive. It is a great pity that the spirit of poetry was not cultivated more among the Students of our colleges or even among the common classes. Nothing tends more to the elevation of the tastes, or exercises a more healthful influence over the passions than the perusal of good books of poetry. How much muse then must the cultivation of it elevate the better natures of all who engage. The poetry of a nation is the index of the moral. Political and intellectual position of that nation. Show me the songs of a nation and I will tell You its character and a very great writer and observationist.

Friday February 12.

Rather more moderate than yesterday, through cool yet. Have passed this day in the capacity of a true students, plodding over my old books. Indeed this has become a kind of second nature to me. Yet I do not like the mode of study here. They believe to much in quantity and not enough of Quality. Had a debate to read this morning in class on the Question "Whether Washington was greater as a Statesman or a Warrior. It was according to the Profs say so discussed very throughoughly. It was the only debate for which I ever secured the praise of the Prof. It seemed I had hit upon his train of ideas exactly. The question was discussed with great fairness on both sides, neither, asking nore taking more than justly belonged to them. This is one point about debating to often departed from. Great care is requisite in the selection of proper questions. Questions

which are not capable of being misjudged and begged. This often forms the whole source of debate, viz. what the true question is. Where this is the case the whole result is nothing but a bickering and begging far more value less than no discussion at all. The Affirmative should open boldly, as though it had something to say and were not afraid to say it. The neg should fight a fair hand to hand battle without the assistance of unjust stratagem and wily arguments meet the every as you are met.

Saturday February 13.

It has been very cold all day. Winter seems surely to have set in. The wind has been blowing quite a gale from the east for about two hours, and snow has been falling very fast since 7 P.M. This furnishes an answer to the inquiry of many persons as to whether there would be any writers or not? Took a good portion of exercise this afternoon on the ball alley. This is a game I very much delight in. It is manly and affords ample exercise. It also exercises the patience, especially when you have one or more inferior players on the alley, who are continually missing the balls. This however is my misfortune; For my patience has been badly cultivated, and nothing vexes me more than sore trials of patience. Keep me moving on the ball alley and I care not whether I am losing games or not but preserve us from standing up inactive for half an hour. It is unendurable. I have to retire early to-night, as I have nothing encumbant to keep me awake. Finished the eighth page of my Hiawatha letter, and commences some lines on the death of my beloved sister, Who died Sept 1854. O what a soul departed this world of transitory things there. Passing away from earth in the bloom of youth, the Autumn seemed a fit time for her to die. All nature was preparing to assume the fall which should enclose her through the night of winter.

Monday February 15.

Rather cool all day. Clear most of the time. About two inches of snow on the ground which fell yesterday. The Delaware is entirely shut up with ice to-day. Went down town in the evening to hear the lecture of Mr. Davis on the affairs of New Mexico. He had a very elaborate account of the manners and customs of the natives written out, which was read in a clear and distinct voice. His production interspersed with the humorous as well as fanciful pleased both the ear and the soul. It was instructive though very and upon the quality depends its chief merit. He gave us a succinct account of buffalo hunting, the character of the animal of the tiny though wise prairie dogs of the rapacity white wolf, of the hardships to which Travelers are often exposed both on account of elements and Indians, told some hair breadth escapes of his own, narrated the melancholy death of several women and children of high standing in the states and gave very interesting accounts of the manners of several tribes with whom he was particularly acquainted, among one of which was that tribe which worship the Gold Montezumas, the most enlightened of all the different tribes. He Closed by showing that the traditions of the Indians pointed them out as the decendants of the lost tribe of Israel.

Tuesday February 16.

Moderately cool all day. This morning presented the appearance of a protracted snow storm. The air was filled with snow till near noon, but the clouds were thin and soon broke away. Partook of a repast of mush as supper. It brought back reminiscences dear

and pleasing of home and childhood, when my simple diet was want to be a hearty supper of mush and milk, and the impression was early formed that until I should eat so many pots of mush I would never attain to the magnitude of a man even though I should reach the years of manhood. Had I carried out this belief I no doubt would have been a more hardy and robust specimen of the genus "homo," than at present. Although I have been use to moderately frugal living, yet, I should this day feel better had my food been only the bread of corn meal, or unbolted wheat and pure milk. We as a nation believe too much in Epicureanism. There is too much taste manifested in our eating. Our fastidiousness does not belong alone to our dress. We do not deserve to be called copyists of fashions more than to be called the adopters of that philosophy of principle inculcated by the Luilcuse Epicurus.

Wednesday February 17.

Cold very cold. Do not know exactly at what point the thermometer stands, but should place it by guess work not much above zero. The keen wind however renders the atmosphere more unpleasant to be out in than were it not blowing. Mailed a letter to Editor Examiner and Herald containing a piece of poetry on "Womans eye," by myself. This afternoon being a holiday, we or rather I an my roommate took a walk up to the Deleware ice house. They were in the midst of their harvest. About twenty or twenty-five hands were engaged. The was scored to the depth of about an inch by an ice plough, then sawed apart, this then was broken at the scores, which left pieces about eighteen inches square and floated to the foot of a gangway, where by the aid of elevators or rather hooks made to grab with they were quickly drawn to the house. This machinery is rather complicated and is worked by horse power. It takes about 13 days to fill the house, which measures 100 ft in length and 50 perhaps in breadth. The rows are perhaps fifty feet square and 25 to 30 high. The quality of the ice is excellent. Thickness about five inches.

Thursday February 18.

Quite cool but not so cool as yesterday. The thermometer ranging from 7 to 8 above zero. continued at study all day. Took two games of ball by way of exercise. Had very ordinary exercises in chapel this morning, Most of the speakers were good men but lacking the necessary preparation this time. Studied long and faithfully upon the Constitution this night. This is not one of the most pleasing and entertained of studies, but when one is impressed with a deep sense of its utility it becomes comparatively pleasant and it resolves itself into a labor of love, rather than of repugnancy and disgust. We have for a lesson the powers of Congress. They are many and just an every one evinces to us the clear foresight, legislative expansiveness and political acumen with which the brave and patriotic framers were possessed of. How penetrating must have been the minds, in order to meet so successfully and adequately all the wants of a great republic, by their legislation or rather discussion. How doubly deep must they have thought and considered in order to lay the foundation of our present institutions, when all was but an experiment, and every measure was but a step in the dark. Surely heaven was with them. Surly she is with their efforts and smiled upon them.

Friday February 19.

Very cold all day with a driving snow from the E and N.E. Commenced snowing about 7 o'clock and continued all day though not hard at times. Depth this evening about three inches. Has now ceased. Took no exercise to-day. Prepared a list of names of the students of our class, for the Profs to set up a catalogue from. Write none, nor read any standard work, aside from the necessary college text books. Read to-day an account of the burning of Keiffers Foundry and Machine shop in Lancaster. It was consumed on Wednesday evening the 17th. Also read an account of certain spirit of insubordination existing among the teachers of Lancaster City. Mr. Davis principle of the High School comes out in a long indication of their course. Mr. Drysdale seems to be in a very tight place on account of some assertions, being attributed to him which then is satisfactory proof, and which he openly denies. Two students came in my room this evening with rather a more than moderate share of Tyrant Rum on. They were quite jolly, yet their merriment were rather a source of melancholy to themselves and acquaintances. Retired at 10 ½ P.M.

Saturday February 20.

Not so cold as yesterday. Snowing till about one o'clock P.M. Whole depth of snow about four or five inches. The sleighs are running in great numbers. This is the first snow of the season which is sufficient for sleighing. This being Saturday we possessed a free afternoon to ourselves. Spent it in reading and singing. Read Eulogies on Gen. Greene by Alex. Hamilton. It was well written, plain and concise. But there is little use to say such thing about such a man as Hamilton. To say that it were a noble production were no praise, to say that it were a bad production were no detraction. His character is known to every American, his fame is as wide spread as the wings of the American eagle, his praise is but the universal song of youth and aged of America. Hamilton the Statesman! What was he not? The bosom friend of Washington, he possessed his highest regard and esteem, and is not instance did cause him to doubt his true genuine patriotism, morality and firmness to the interests of the new republic. Never was friendship so unwavering, never trust so justly reposed, never faith more strongly plighted.

Monday February 22.

Clear and not uncomfortable cold. Snow on the ground. Few sleighs running. This day ushers itself in as the one which brought great Washington into the world. We had no college exercises in the afterpart of the day. Partook of a dainty repast at our boarding house. Many merry faces appeared. Many patriotic hearts sat around. Much eating was done and good cider had to suffer. The eating performance were occasionally broken in upon by unceremonious noise and drinking of some toasts proposed by separate members. Our president proposed the first which ran as follows, "George Washington freedoms bravest Champion." The next was drank to two strangers present from another club, it runs thus, "Gentlemen may you never be toasted on the Devil's toasting fork." The next to the Spear Club. The next to the commissary who had provided the bountiful repast and the last was by your humble Servant, which was drank standing. Viz "The birthday of Washington, the birthday of American liberty and the death of English Supremacy."

Tuesday February 23.

Moderately cool, The snow is not disappearing very fast. Through sleighing is effectually stopped, yet the want of show is only felt in the roads. Have been engaged in study all day. Through not exactly pertaining to College duty. Prof. Coffin is reported to-day to have gone round to the rooms for the purpose of examining for fire arms. Which are expressly forbidden to be kept on the person of any student. Had a long and laborious French lesson to-day. The French, no doubt is a pleasing and easy language, and perhaps not less useful in this accomplished age. But as Horace says, "Est modus rebus," So there is a limit to lessons. Nothing tends more to surfeit the energies and relate a disgust for any Subject than an overabundance of required duty. The mind that cannot grasp the whole Subject at once becomes intimidated. The more preserving genius become tired, the reckless, disgusted. But require a moderate portion of any subject from a Student, and he will by degrees conquer and take delight in the whole. Now I do not mean this as any serious reflection upon our Prof. Cattel but surely the shoe fits him admirably well.

Wednesday Feb 24.

Very moderate all day. Snow melting and occasioning showers. Some mind. Took a goodly share of exercise on the ball alley this Afternoon. Being holiday, Devoted my time other than exercising to Studay and reading. Read the life of Charles B. Brown by Sparks, and commenced the life of Richard Montgomery by the same author. Had a very interesting time in Society to-night. Being election night it devolved upon my humble self as Vice President to collect and read the votes, which was at once unpleasant and tiresome. The Creator of the Society delivered an oration on the subject of "Cultivating ones own thoughts and opinions and not depending upon other opinions and judgments." The Scriptor read a review on the Poet Addison. Performances were generally good. Received a kind of letter from the regions of Birthland to-day. How cheering to the wornout nature of the student is an epistle fraught with kind words of advice, and good news of things in which you are interested. It dispels the gloomy and moodiness which hangs around the mind. It takes it back to old scenes, and the soul feels as though it were also a participant in the pleasing transaction.

Thursday February 25.

Very moderate and serenely clam and clear. Observed a peculiar phenomenon of frost this morning. It seemed to cover the twigs and fences like a coat of sleet, and was only upon the west side of all objects, the east side of boughs and fence rails were perfectly free from it. The direction of the wind, blowing form the snow banks of the ridge may account for it. This is a day set apart by the Presbyterian Church as a day of prayer for the Success of Theological seminaries, Colleges, Academies, and all places of learning. In consequence of this we had no college exercises. At Eleven of the clock A.M we had a prayer meeting of an hours length, also some suggestions by the President and the Tutor Ferrier. IT seems that the Churches and Colleges are witnessing a change in the forms of revivals and actual augmentations, not experienced Since the year 1831. Went down town this evening to hear a lecture delivered by Mr. Curtis from N.Y. Subject, "Philip Sidney the gentleman." It was a very instructive and entertaining lecture. It was delivered in a clear commanding style. The pronunciation was rigidly correct or rather

exact, for I believe his did mistake some words. The pith of this discourse was to show that he alone is a gentleman, who possesses the true spirit of patriotism.

Friday February 26.

Very moderate. Clear, calm in a word beautiful. The atmosphere is almost spring like. Chilled one by the gentle breeze from the occasional snow banks. And this night too. O! how beautiful The moon just full, rides her nightly course obscuring the Stars, lighting all creation with her silver beams. Seeming indeed the green of the Heavens. But when we ask the question, whence these rays? And the response comes they are only borrowed, how much she resembles many of those who would shine upon the pages of History. There is indeed too much shining done by borrowed light. The age is far from solid. Trickery and plagiarism too often resorted to as means of success. No wonder then we are specious. Let there be more attention paid to preparing ones own light. Initiate that other orb, the Sun, Have not only light sufficient for internal illumination, but to space. Then indeed will others behold and admire. Then you will become the center of vast spheres of influence even as the sun is the center of the Solar System, and as the moon to the Sun. So will others look to you as the fountain of their foreparation. Your rays may serve to light the lamp in the chambers of their genius and your example may teach them to keep it always trimmed and reading. Retired at ten after a day of intense study.

Saturday February 27.

Clear and moderate and beautiful. Took a goodly share of exercise this afternoon. Wrote the third verse of "Thoughts on my Sisters grave." Played three games of Chess this evening. Came off victorious in two. My chum is off down town with the ladies no doubt? Am rather in a quandary concerning this attention to the ladies while persuing our studies. Some Say that after a weeks study recreation of such a nature is salutary, that we are endowed with a social principle which must be cultivated. That this is the school for such development in as much as it not only develops, but refines and beautifies that principle. All these maybe so or they may not be. When a man comes to College, he comes here to study, any interference with this design is but a subversion of intention. Too much attraction to ladies distracts the mind and estranges it to study. Besides we are all young yet and our Social principle will not suffer at least for want of culture of some kind. I do not see the why this principle cannot be as well cultivated in honorable male society as among the ladies. Tis true many little things may be overlooked and restraints may be fewer, but the general development will be the same. There is time enough to attend to particulars when we leave this place, which is only a place of rudiment.

Monday March 1.

Quite Moderate to day and cloudy, forecasting rain. Snow almost all gone except such as lies upon the north side of the mountains. Received a letter from home to-day giving notice of the death of Hadley Penncock who departed this life on Sunday 21st. Went down town tonight to hear Dr. Jennings of this place deliver a lecture before the "Young Mens Christian Association." Subject "The Dignity of the Curative art." It seems to have been gotten off pretty well, in as much as the language was proper, and expressive. He manifested all through a scrupulous tenacity to the subject, brining it forward in several bearings and always presenting it in its best light. But the delivery Oh! The

delivery! It was spoken in a voice scarcely audible at even a moderate distance. The eye was never lifted from the paper. This one defect spoiled all: like the leaven, it infected the whole lump, and being thus infected not the defect alone is observed but the style. Composition and even the man's talents and reputation suffer. Mr. Jennings may be successful in the Medical world, but I would advise him hereafter stay at home.

Tuesday March 2.

Cloudy all day and very windy. Quite a change from yesterday temperature, being to-day many degrees colder. Ground frozen again quite hard. Passed the day in studying and reading. Had a grand debate with my chum on the question of "friendship and Love." He seemed to think that friendship is not coexistent with love, and argues that if a woman had plenty of money and was possessed of winning beauty he could not help but love her. This is surely a very vague and indigested idea. Friendship and true love such love as our natures are capable of appreciating when there is an holy commingling of hearts, are always coextensive, coexistent: they are inseparable concomitants, That love which is exciting the hope of riches, or by beauty is nothing more than a mere passion, transient as the snow-flake. Capable of being gratified even satiated, Then succeed a coldness which some resolves itself hatred, when all love is at an end. But that love which follows alone in the wake of friendship, which find a place in hearts only susceptible to means of intimate mutual attachments: this alone is genuine, disinterested love. It must be mutual it must proceed from heart to heart to be permanent.

Wednesday March 3.

A very beautiful morning but true to changeable March. The afternoon blew up cold and squally with occasional snow storms. Wrote a letter home this evening. Had quite an interesting debate in Society this evening on the question, "Whether further arctic explorations were right or not." I had the affirmative. My arguments ran over two fields, the field of humanity and the field of Science. If there is any hope of Sir John Franklin, or any of his crew surviving, then in the name of humanity rescue them, and it is the opinion of many eminent men that he does live, or some of this crew. But in the scientific world expeditions will ever be proper. Dr. Kane had opened that portals of the icy north, and by the mere opening had added invaluable trophies to the scientific world. He has shown the world whence much that is valuable may be obtained, let us follow and reap the harvest. The objections urged were cost, danger, and the little use of such undertakings. But every undertaking invites cost. All involve dangers. While every voyage of discovery must benefit science something.

Thursday March 4.

Very cold with a strong north wind blowing. Passed the day mostly in my studio, reading and Studying. Went to the Borough this evening to hear a lecture from Mr. Saxe, the celebrated poet. This was a fine lecture, though delivered under the plupical disadvantage of a bad cold in the head. It possessed all the qualities which a lecture should possess to entertain. Rich Veins of humor were happily interspersed throughout, which kept off the drowsy sensation often induced by protracted and undivided attention. He showed the importance of poetry as a refiner and stated what kinds of poetry should be cultivated. He seemed to be particularly down upon those who cast off amorous

verses, which although not worthy of the name of poetry yet find frequently a prominent place amid the love sick. Yet he says that love was the chief theme of poetry. Love of country, love of parents, love of friends, love of money, love of fame, love of love, and lastly love of God, and some of the subjects which furnish distinguishing themes in the Poetical world. He showed that Vulgarly and true poetry were entirely distinct. The finest passages of Byron were those free from Vulgarism. He finished by reciting a poem descriptive of a Yankee.

Friday March 5.

Cold, Very Cold. This is thus far the coldest day of the season. The thermometer at its highest point stood 11 above zero. The wind makes it much more unpleasant to be out, blowing as it does a gale from the west. Passed the day in attempting to study, but did not accomplish much. Was struck with a sentiment found from Quintilian whilst reading Goldsmith this evening. It ran as follows, "It often happens that he who is always in search something beyond the great lights upon something which is really great." How True! The great want of Success in our midst results from the want of aim. Many persons enter into business without definite ends in view and consequently do not know how to adapt their means in accordance with any system. Want of system is at once a want of success. Always have an end in view, always aim at something. Let that aim be high, let it be even beyond. Your most ardent expectations no matter the thoughts and plans of reaching it will have to be the deeper and wiser laid. This will furnish exercise for the mind, it will strengthen and develop the mental organization. Aim high, even above greatness. You have light upon greatness, If you fall below your mark, it will be nothing but what thousands of your fellow mortals are hourly doing. Aim high You may not fall below greatness.

Saturday March 6.

Quite Cold. The wind is not so high as yesterday, but the atmosphere was equally cold. Spoke in Chapel this morning. My speech was, "against flogging in the Navy." Went down town this afternoon and played Billiards. Might have been better employed, but after a week of study, relaxation of this or a kindred nature is not uncongenial to our nature. Had quite a discussion this morning in class upon the Question "Whether the tendency of our government is more toward a pure democracy, than toward a monarchy." The weight of argument seems to have been in the affirmative. At least then it was decided. Although the tendency may externally viewed be toward a pure democracy. Yet there is really no danger of ever reaching that point. The evils of the old confederation are yet to recent, and to vivid before the eyes of American Statesman for our country to relapse even into this kind of a government, which was nearer a pure democracy than any other government we have now in view. The powers of the President and Congress are being yearly curtailed. So that the real tendency might be towards a pure democracy.

Monday March 8.

Cloudy in the morning, forecasting snow. Commenced snowing about 12 o'clock. The majority of appearances was in favor of quite a snow. First the atmosphere was the right temperature: 2nd the snow came from the right direction commencing from the north East

and gradually turning to the East. 3rd. The snow commenced to fall calmly moderately and in very fine flakes. Most all large snows commence in this way, though many commence in this way which are not deep. The only opposing observation was the tightness with which the ground was frozen. There was much frost in the earth, and it was frozen tightly on the surface. Now my observation has been Seconded by that of my father that no deep snow fall upon hard frozen ground. Why these things are so, the more scientific may determine, but that they are so observations attests. The snow ceased to fall about 9 or 10, 0'clock to-night. The depth is about 3 ½ inches. Read to-night in the forum, This book is well gotten up. The style is simple for a lawyer, only here and there appearing a localism. But these must be excused, not so much the style however as the material, would I mention. The material is magnificent, comprising as it does a list of men whose characters is almost impossible to collect except under great difficulties.

Tuesday March 9.

Morning awoke clear and beautiful. The atmosphere was almost calm. The sun rose in gorgeous splendor, and the Virgin snow enveloping all earth in one album robe presented quite a contrast with the spring like beauties of the upper atmosphere. As the day advanced however the wind began to blow and the sky to cloud. The fine snow filled the atmosphere and soon neat little drifts appeared along the fence and in favorable places. One of our Students was this day called away from College to attend his guardian who is lying dangerously ill. Became very much disgusted with French to-day. We are not studying it in the right manner, and consequently not in the right Spirit. No man can pursue a study except he love it. I do not love the French, but cannot be forced to study it in a style different from what I deem right and proper. First principles must be obtained, and these must be expanded and enlarged by constant accessions. This is a principle which pervades all departments of action. On the contrary to pass rapidly over any subject deriving only a Superficial knowledge therefrom is murder in the first degree of a solid education. The irregular verbs are numerous in French, and cannot be acquired in a day. Therefore time is required to get them. But no, we must make haste too fast, etc.

Wednesday March 10.

Mostly Clear and pleasant. The snow fast disappeared. Had quite an interesting time in Society to-night. The performances all good, and each one seemed to be possessed of the right spirit. The Spirit of interest and go ahead. The societies of our land are entirely to remiss in this particular. Want of interest among the members or even among some of them produces a languidness, and luke warmness among the rest, and nothing prospers, Success is the consequent of action in all departments. If the farmer would reap he must sow. If the Mechanic would increase his store he must ply his tools. If the Lawyer would succeed he must labor his cases. Nothing in fact, nothing corresponds with action. How essential then that "earnest and noble action." Should be the motto of every one engaged in storing their minds with precious thought. Societies afford rare opportunity to students at College for improvement. They furnish a place of pleasant relaxation from the more close and tedious routine of discipline. Whilst the studies of College then to store the mind. Societies afford opportunities of turning this freight to a practical purpose, then render all You possess tangible.

Thursday March 11.

One of the most beautiful of Mornings. Spring did indeed seem to be peeping into my window. The sun shed down his effulgences in rich profusion. The remainder of the snow fast disappeared. The frost also came out very fast. Walking is generally bad. Was not well this morning and did not go to breakfast. Had a debate in class to-day on the Question, "Whether the policy of Hamilton or Jefferson has contributed more to the constitutional welfare of our Country?" Decided in favor of Hamilton by our worthy Prof. Just now a huge cry of fire: went up from our Students. I stuck my head out of the window, and too true, the elements were rapidly consuming a house in the western part of the Borough. Several of the Students in their Philanthropic zeal went to it, but it is too far away for me to attend. This is a bad night for a fire. The calmness of this morning has departed and given place to a very high wind. How applicable the Saying – "Changeable as March Weather." One hour a warm atmosphere the next cold and snow. The morning bright and rosy, the night all things wrapped in a vesture of sleet. A great coat on at breakfast, a light one at noon. Closed doors at mid-day, opened to the pleasantness of comfort at night – Changing more changing most changing is March weather.

Friday March 12.

Very pleasant spring day. Walking bad, but growing better. Had this been a long winter, I should certainly say Spring has commenced, but remembering that all our winter has thus far been in March, we may expect cold weather yet. Was taking exercise on the ball alley to-day when I fell and sprained my ankle very severely. It gives me great uneasiness to-night, and especially pain when I walk. To add to my misfortune I also wrenched my back, but some unguarded movement, which also gives me pain when I move. Had quite an exciting time evening or rather afternoon in the way of fire. Some of the town boys set fire to a field in front of College, which was covered with stubbles and dry grass. The fire ran over it quite rapidly and threatened to consume the fence and one of the Profs houses. It however was saved by the timely interference of the students. Have a very interesting lesson in tow to-night. It is a treatise or rather exposition of the matter of treason as provided in the Constitution. He plainly shows the necessity of having treason, clearly defined, and of having all the guards thrown round its trial possible. Much injustice can be done and much would be done without these precautions.

Saturday March 13.

One more beautiful spring day. Woke up this morning stiff and sore. The students seem to be infatuated with some kind of demon of mischief. Last night a member of them went into a room, the domicile of two freshman, and commenced the unnatural process of "Smoking out." Pipes and cigars were used profusely, but this not being deemed sufficiently speedy nor nauseating, a fire was kindled upon the stove with cobs and sundry old boots and shoes, both leather and gum were placed therein which at once filled the room with Smoke the most dense and sickening. One poor fellow, an inmate quickly became Krank and yielded his supper. HE caved in and then let out. The other Stoutly persisted till nearly three o'clock A.M. where he demanded egress. This was taken for a Submission and he was accordingly let out. This smoking out is a very offensive practice, not so much to the individual as to his room and furniture. But custom

has rendered it popular, and every freshman must accordingly submit to this mode of initiation which I suppose is through to dispense all remains of verdancy which he may have brought from the academy perch or grove – or perhaps the cornfield.

Monday March 15.

Damp foggy day though warm. Soil especially in the fields very soft on account of the frost coming out. Went to hear Rev. Mr. Cuyler this evening who preached or rather lectured before the Young mens Christian Association of this place. This gentleman is from N. York. He is of Medium height, not remarkably prepossessing, having rather dark eyes, and jet black hair. His mouth rather broad, nose roman, forehead not very high, but deep. He speaks well. But the writing is the most important part. He took for a subject, "London" his descriptions were clear and forcible being presented to you as though you were a passer by in a hackney coach. He partially described the Houses of Commons and parliament as well as their most notable inmates, then Westminster Abby, Nelsons Monument. The Young mens Christian association rooms. The ancient buying grounds and many other scenes too numerous to enumerate. Altogether it was a most striking and praiseworthy effort. The vividness with to which he portrayed all things to the minds eye was pleasantly effectual. Delivered in a bold commanding style interspersed happily with rich anecdotes and allusions. its powers of attracting and not tiring, of informing without the labor of study.

Tuesday March 16.

A beautiful Indian Summer day. Very warm and when occasionally the sun broke forth from amid the haziness of the upper air, his rays involuntarily produced upon the lounging student that well known effect, which is usually interpreted the spring fever. I took a goodly portion of exercise on the ball alley. Having a fine ball and fine spirits, I was resolved to drive away the moodiness produced by almost a week of asceticism. Have an essay for Thursday morning and have not yet written a word. O my thievish ruinous habit of procrastination! Yet I always have performances, and it may be also creditable ones, but that does not justify me in delaying to the last moment a duty which I know must finally and inevitably be performed. My productions never get proper reviewing from me and scarcely a correction after once uniting with ink. This is wrong. time should intervene between the writing and reading or speaking. You may then read and correct and notice errors and improve yourself by observing the defective points. All this will profit vastly, Yet fool that I am never profit by even making the attempt.

Wednesday March 17.

A fine spring day. Had some exercise on the alley this afternoon. Spent most the time in writing an essay or rather review on Gouverneur Morris. Did not attend Society to-night on account of press duty. Walked a long way this evening after 9 o'clock at night. Retired late. Vacation seems to be again dawning upon us. Only four weeks intervenes between us and that long looked for time of freedom and mirth. How the heart longs for a respite from anxious labor. How many pleasures are the property of vacation life. What merriments the student is accustomed to attach to these hours. Happy hearts then commingling and are only closer bound by the long separation. Happy thoughts are suggested. happy words spoken. The ties which bind the heart to parents, friends and

home, are only proved by long Separation. Time and distance serve but to form the links of golden chain, whilst an occasional interview applies the weeding heat, and thus constructed a beautiful and permanent series of attachments which form love – love of parents, home, friends, know the worth of home! Go and Suffer the inclemency of a cold and frowning world and then return.

Thursday March 18.

Still a continuation of those beautiful spring days which seem to have set it. Rather a strong wind blowing from the west, but on account of its softness was not at all pleasant. Passed the day in intense study. Most of the time on Mathematics. Wrote a letter home to-day, in answer to one received yesterday, which enclosed to me \$20 on check. Got the check cashed to-day. Whilst walking down town observed two very handsome ladies. am and impassionate admirer of beauty especially as it appears in the female sex. But it must be true innate inborn beauty. nothing fictitious. nothing affected find a place in my admiration. I love a beautiful face, but O what impositions are practiced beneath the powder and paint. I love a beautiful queenly majestic form, but O what pampered carcasses beneath the crest of crinoline and cotton pads. Maidens mince the street presenting forms of perfect symmetry, every movement accomplished with the gracefulness of a swan, in a word appearing like a moving pyramid, each receiving hoop presenting an offset, which may do for a pigeon roost, until they cease at the waist which like the wasp is very slender. not naturally so but by dint of tight lacing and etc. A woman verily thou art much a bauble compared with thy revolutionary mother.

Friday March 19

Weather is still persisting in Spring like days. The grass is already growing green, and nature seems to be sustaining her animal revivication. Storms however may yet come and change these days of pleasantness, and gaiety into dark winter, just as chill adversity often sweep with blackening breath over Joys, and pleasant anticipations. The recurrence of storm and sunshine in the physical world is not more frequent than their appearance in the social world. This is municipal election day. The voters of the borough are crowding around the place of deposit, anxious for returns. Party I suppose is not considered in this election, at least it should not be. Performed an immense amount of labor to-day on a question of Civil Engineering. The question was to find at what angle to elevate a cannon in order to strike a fort one mile distant and 150 ft above your plane, provided your cannon will throw a ball with the velocity of 600 ft. per sec. Also what time it will take it to reach the fort and what will be the velocity with which it reaches it. The Solution involved an immense amount of calculation, but it was beautiful, and I said Surely our engineers ought to be remunerated well for their patience must be often taxed.

Saturday March 20.

Weather still springlike. Took some exercise in playing ball. Got myself measured for a pair of pantaloons price 5:50. attended a lecture this evening, delivered by the Rev. Mr. Fletcher, formerly a missionary in Brazil, on the Swiss and Switzerland. This lecture was totally devoid of any of the pleasing characteristics of a lecturer. His eloquence was very ordinary, his pronunciation was charged with Yankee indistinctness, this language was filled with uncommon terms, exceedingly unfamiliar and these not anglocised but still

retained in the French or Swiss tongue, with their nasal accent. His subject however was a good one and was fully and ably treated. He seemed to be perfect master of it, and to have a great familiarity with persons of note, and scenes of interest. He very beautifully described lake Geneva with Mount Blanc in the distance. He happily interspersed his discourse with anecdotes principally contrasting American, and the Swiss or French. Gave an interesting account of the famous castle of Chillon and various other topics. connected with the scenery of the country, and the character of the inhabitants. He concluded by giving an account of his double marriage.

Monday March 22.

Rather cool to-day. A somewhat keen West Wind blowing, The dawn of spring may be said to be upon us although we may see and expect many changes of March and April weather before the permanent spring sets in. Yet the springing grass, the singing birds, the reanimated nature, both of natures self and the tired worn student, all testify to the fact that the cheerless and drear influences of winter have passed. Went down town this evening to a lecture but Mr. Moase of this time honored borough. His subject was "poetical Imposition." He went through laboring statements and exemplifications of the various kinds of poetry, such as pastoral, didactic, dramatic and epigramatis, and closed with a short treatise upon Hebrew poetry. His lecture through out was rather dry, partaking of too much sameness and want of flexibility in a word of general interest to be strictly entertaining. Upon the whole however much of interest must have been attached to it, especially with those who study the art of poetical Composition.

Tuesday March 23.

Moderate. The sky for the most of the day has been covered with thin hazy clouds, which in the language of an old relic of Birthland may be called "mare tails." These are indicative of storm or change of weather of some kind. Have studied pretty faithfully to-day. This evening was to have witnessed the lecture of H. Star King of Boston before the lecture association of Easton, but owing to some providential interference he did not come and all no doubt were sorely disappointed. Have been thinking some on the Subject of "foreordination." But the more I dwell upon it the more I am perplexed, and the more skeptical I am. God is omniscient and omni present, and must accordingly know all things. But I pick up a stick, and ask the by stander if I design to break it or not, he says just as you see fit, No! this cannot be, it must be as God says. But evidently does depend upon the volitions of my individual mind, upon my own powers whether that stick shall be broken or not. I have power to break it or not to break it. If I say I will break it. I snap it off. But how different in other respects. If I say I will respect and be saved I cannot do it except God has designed it. Resolutio, resolve are of no use God knows I shall not succeed and I cannot. Wonderful creator! mysterious are thy ways!

Wednesday March 24.

Clear and rather cool, comparatively speaking. Have been studying with intensity all through the day. Borrowed two Vol. Of "Bentons thirty years" from Prof. Cattell in which I have been reading upon The nullification doctrine as taught by J.C. Calhoun, and his con Sociates. We have a debate to-morrow on the question "Whether nullification is Rebellion or not." I am on the Negative, and am in a great strait for arguments.

Received an Epistle from a cousin to-day in which she encloses some lines of poetry of her own production. The effort is very credible for the first, and by one so young. Spoke in Society to-night my productions in poetry entitled "The Triumph." It took well and met with frequent bursts of applause. Partook of a goodly portion of exercise this afternoon in the form of ball playing, throwing the discus or (?). Might have been wise profitably employed. But consider a certain amount of exercise indispensable to the life and success of a student. Retire rather late, as I have been committing a speech for Chapel tomorrow morning.

Thursday March 25

To-day partook more of the character of March weather. Changeable first from a clear windy day to a blustery. Showery about three P.M. tonight however the wind has fallen, the atmosphere is not unpleasantly Cool, the silver moon, half waxed courses its nocturnal way, changing the blackness of night almost into the brightness of day. O what pleasant reminiscences cloud up the mind as I gaze from my window upon the crescent queen. Home, parents, friends, youth, joys of childhood all crowd themselves in with greater swiftness, yet with the distinction of a panorama upon my mental vision. Aside from this may there not be some heart in the region of Birthland to which my own beating with Youthful aspirations has become attached by rather more than mere friendships ties? May there not be some fair daughter of Eve sitting at their windows even in this hours, and sending happy thoughts towards me in my domicile? Unlikely things have happened. Spoke in chapel this morning. Read a debate in class this morning upon nullification. Was upon the neg. Decided against me. Methodist Conference has attracted many Students down town.

Friday March 26.

Clear but cool and windy. Real March weather was excused from recitation this morning in order that I might attend the annual Methodist conference now holding in this town. The room was very much crowded both with ministers and spectators, There being about two hundred districts represented. A large class was installed into the ministry in the morning. After various reports and other miscellaneous matters, They proceeded to discuss the change of Long vs. Quim, who is alleged to have sold a slave out of his native State of Maryland. Mr. Quigly plead Mr. Quims cause Decision, character passed, charges not sustained at present, but referred to a commission of asuity. Afternoon session. The time was mostly taken up discussing the Long and Quigly case, charges preferred by Quigly Vs. Long. The accusations consisted in Long's publishing a book entitled, "features of slavery" which he is alleged to have said thing deleterious and slanderous concerning members of the M.E. Church in Del. And Md. The discussions were animated and interesting on both sides. There was also referred to a committee of settlement. This is a beautiful night. I cannot cast my eyes out of the window, but I see away far over the hills in ideal beauty, my home. There is something sublimely attractive and suggestive about a moonlight night.

Saturday March 27.

Quite cool this morning, rendering a tight buttoned coat and a peculiar spring of the Shoulders necessary. Was excused from recitation at 11 o'clock to attend the M.E.

Conference. Went to the Post Office about 11 ½ A.M and as I was returning heard the alarm of fire. Proceeded with the crowd and found it to be the Station house of the New York Central R.R. Co. It was a very fine fire, if one may say so, When I first went there a few buckets of water might have put it out. It caught from the locomotive just passing. The fire companies were slow to get on the ground and did nothing for scarcity of water when they got there. Attended Conference a short time this afternoon. Also went to the weekly prayed meeting before the Young Mens Christian Association. This place seems to be spiritually lost. The gracious promises of Christ are being felt and realized all around. North, South, East, and West, many are turning to the fold which acknowledges Christ as its Shepherd and yet here no stir, no excitement, no interest more than usual, exists. Although I am out of Christ, yet I desire to see a revival, a regeneration of Young men. May I be one of the chosen ones.

Monday March 29.

Clear and spring like. Tonight is especially beautiful. The moon has laid aside its crescent, and with its perfect form courses its nightly journey a fit emblem of ubiquity and Virgin perfection. Have passed the day in reading and studying as inclination led me. A lecture is to be or rather has been delivered this evening before the "Young Mens Christian Association." Did not attend. Thought that examinations are approaching. I had better be paying somewhat closer attention to the studies of the session. Heard a very fine Sermon in the Chapel on Yesterday, preached by one of the many Methodist divines, who are at this place at present. It was from Job – "If a man die shall he live again." This was an effectual effort. But left many points introduced in obscurity in my mind. The resurrection of the body was satisfactorily established. But with what body shall a man rise with! With the body of an infant, or the decrepid old man? We read or conceive of heaven as a place of perfect bodies united with still more perfect souls. Shall then the decrepid, the lame and the (?) the blind rise in their deformed bodies? This were points touched upon which were merely alluded to and left in a very unsatisfactorily position.

Tuesday March 30.

Clear and Calm. The adage that "If March comes in as a lion it goes out as a lamb," will not bear reversing. For it came in as such a lamb, I mean, and is going out in the same garb. Attended a lecture delivered by the Mr. Star King of Boston this evening. Subject "Substance and Show." This was one of the most peculiar lectures of the whole course. IT was deep and philosophical. His position was that all Substance did not consist in the visible and material portion matter. A stone may possess more weight, size and materialism than a piece of paper. Yet the stone is but a stone, an inert "Slump," whilst the paper may contain fortune bequeath from father to son, or a sentiment sufficiently to revolutionize governments, or a precept of holy religion worth life to the dying Soul. This a real substance, there is no show about it. He went on to illustrate and prove his position by bringing up arguments from the world of History, of Ideas, and of animate objects. He graphically described the Dandy as a "whiskered idea. The whole lecture was cogent and convincing, delivered in a moderately eloquent style, entirely devoid of any of the declamatory, impregnated with happy allusions and every word possessing the peculiar nasal New England accent.

Item for July 27. 1809. (Wednesday)

This day closed my career as a College student. The exercises of commencement passed off very pleasantly. The subject matter of the speeches displayed taste in choice and scholarship in handling. The Oratory was characteristic of Old Lafayette, Clear, forcible, and natural. I possessed the most inconvenient place for speaking, for by the time the performances are completed as far as the valedictory, the audience are well tired, and with the expectation that nothing new can be elicited. They are apt to relax into a state of indifference. I cannot give this as my experience but it was my fear before speaking. I took my Diploma with my classmates, and was duly declared an A.B. and now what is it? First honors, and what are they? Time will tell and that only. They are much of the same spirit that won them could actuate through life.