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The Diary of Mary Easton Sibley (1832-1858)

Mary Easton Sibley
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Linden Wood March, 23, 1832 – St. Charles – MO

This book was presented to me 3 years since by a friend whom I then thought very dear to me - Our friendship was based on the worldly principles that govern the unconverted heart – by vanity and self – love it was kept alive as long as those passions were exercised by a mutual exchange of sentiments of approbation of each others feelings and conduct. But as those feelings were contrary to pure law of God, a friendship founded upon this exercise could not long continue after God’s law was written upon the heart of either of us. The Almighty Father in his tender mercy has never suffered me to sin as my own depraved nature would have led me to have done, had I been left to the delusions of my own vain imagination. He arrested me in my career of worldly vanity and showed me how utterly _____ are all those high sounding terms that worldly people make use of to describe themselves, and others, and blind themselves to the _____ they commit under the false pretenses of _____ extraordinary refinement, nobleness of soul, and generosity of character – I still feel for that individual a lively interest – but it is one interest in his immortal destiny. It is a hope that he will _____ (turn?) from his dark delusions to the glorious light of the gospel. But if in his _____ness he never t_____ Heaven will not be the less bright to me. I have learned within the last year something of the value of Christian friendship; commence on Earth, and to be continued throughout Eternity – founded on love to one common Lord & Master, the love between Christian friends tends to purify the mind, and exalt the character. Since their love only exists and increases in proportion as they are conformed to the moral image of their Savior. These few remarks I been led to make on taking up this book to make an entry of my feelings on the first public profession I have made of my religious opinions. I have reserved this book for three years with a kind of indistinct impression that I would one day use it to record my religious experience & progress in my attempts to serve by Creator and preserver. I this day went before the _____ of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles Missouri to apply for admittance to the ordinances of the Lord’s House. My resolution to come forward was formed on Monday last and as I then recorded it I now transcribe in this book. If the Lord gives me strength to keep a resolution I purpose from this time henceforth to put down here an account of my

opinions and feelings as I progress in my Christian career. I purpose to enter at the close of this book some remarks I have occasionally made during by (my) long search of the truth, that the gradual progress from darkness to light of a mind unbelieving but enquiring, and never satisfied until its Savior was presented by faith before it, takes _____ tedious a course of investigation.

Linden Wood March 20th 1832

I believe it is known to most of my dear friends that I have been for a long time deeply interested in an investigation of the claims of the Bible to be the word of God. Having examined both the external and internal evidences with some attention and industry (tho' not with half that importance of the subject demands), my judgment was convinced that the Bible did contain the _____ will of Our God and Creator, and that it is no where else to be found. Feeling often a most ardent desire to conform to the will of so good and Great a Being as I felt the Ruler of the Universe to be, and acknowledging that as our Maker and preserver, He had a right to the love, gratitude and service, of His Creatures. I turned often to the only place, the pages of the Bible, where it was possible I could ascertain what the duties were that God acquired His Creatures to reform. The more I studied the scriptures, the more hearty and consistency I perceived in them. I found a man to be a depraved being needing all the restraints that a Gracious Father who loveth his children had contrived to help them from straying into forbidden paths and leaving the (?) Founder of all Good. I resolved to ask in prayer to be purified and enabled to love my God and Savior with that love which He required and my reason told me was His due. But I was with my supposed humility arrogant and unbelieving; I expected the Almighty would make a special revelation and by the operation of His Holy Spirit, would relieve from all my doubts and difficulties and give me the faith and love I prayed for while I myself remained perfectly passive - - With these presumptuous feelings I quieted myself for a little while. But soon became impatient. Why were not my prayers granted? I asked myself a hundred times. I am sure I do pray with truth and fervor. I do wish for the blessing I ask, the power to love and serve God. "Why is it that at altho' God says he is the hearer and answerer of prayer that He will no hear me?"

Thus did my rebellious heart even doubt god's justice because He would not hear my _____ petitions - - But the Lord in his mercy has arrested me in my ungrateful murmurings. He points me to the Words Our Blessed Saviour. "If ye love me Keep my Commandments. If ye keep my Commandments, ye shall abide in my love. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." If any man "love me, he will keep my words -" And my father will love him and we will come un "to him, and make our abode with him." He that hath my commandments and keepeth "them he it is that loveth me. And he that loveth me shall be loved as my Father and I "will love him, and manifest myself to him." "He that loveth me nor keepeth not my "sayings". Seeing from our Saviour's own words that the only rational conviction any one can have, that he is a Christian, arises from the evidence felt and given that he keeps the Lord's commandments the next inquiry is what are those sayings or commandments, which our Lord expects us to keep. It is useless to go into detail of the moral law which all admit binds the human family to its strict observance, and to which the Lord Jesus Christ gave a perfect obedience. We will rather ascertain what were the injunctions left by our Redeemer to his immediate followers. The first was repent and he baptizes every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the _____ of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." As an encouragement to do what is here commanded, our Lord says "And I say unto you- "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." Whosoever shall confess before men _____ shall the Son of Man also confess before the Angels of God, But he that denieth me before man, shall be denied before the Angels of God.

The second was, "And he took bread and gave thanks, and broke it, and unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me" Here are two positive Ordinances or commands Baptism and the sacrament which from their very nature originates an outward and visible compact among Christians and forces them to a public expression of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ - my reason and my feelings unite in convincing me that it now becomes my duty to join some one of those Christian societies that I may be enabled to obey the Command of the Lord and make a public profession of my faith, the last question that arises in which the numerous Christian

Compacts am I willing to subscribe to. Having as I hope compared to the doctrine believed by the Presbyterian Church with that laid down in the Bible and believing the form & faith of that community to be in accordance with those of the Primitive Christians, I will with the blessing of God present myself for admittance before the _____ of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles, Missouri on Friday next – praying that my Almighty Father will keep me from all error and delusion and lead me into all truth. I repose in humble confidence upon the merits of myself to His service He will in His tender mercy forgive and blot out mine iniquities forever—

Saturday 24th March

Went to town to attend a meeting of the members of the Church to pray for those who were about to come forward on the following day to make a public acknowledgement of their belief in the “Lamb of God”. I felt most lamentably _____ of faith, but having resolved to try and obey my heavenly Father I looked to Him for all good feeling, remembering that the preparations of the heart in man and the answer of tongue, is from the Lord”- My dear & beloved sister would have come before the session had my mother consented to her joining the Church- My mother who has been for a long time most violently & unaccountable opposed to all sects of religionist, has a yet stronger and more peculiar aversion to the Presbyterian Church – Her feeling is of opposition to my joining the Church made her very unhappy- she expressed herself to a friend that she would rather have followed her children to the grave than to see them become Presbyterians.” I knew she was averse to any one’s making a profession of religion sometime before, but was not aware until today her prejudices had completely blinded her better judgment as to make her so miserable as I was told she was- on returning home I felt very bad, fearing I perhaps had erred in my conduct towards her, and resolved the next day to ask her forgiveness for all my undutiful conduct if I had been guilty of any. The only thing I could tax myself with, was being rather reserved towards her for the last 4 or 5 months. During that time I thought I was reserved from the best possible motives, a desire to avoid irritating her on the subject of religion- my mind mostly ran upon the subject, and my associations were principally with Christians, whenever I was in

town – Having heard her frequently express her disapprobation of what she considered fanaticism. I naturally avoided all conversation that excited her resentment but I now feel that I may have been deceived by my own wicked heart and what I thought a praiseworthy motive may have been a selfish one, the desire to prevent my own feeling from being wounded by hearing the cause (and the friends of that cause whom I loved) abused. My sister _____ and several Christian friends have promised to join me in prayers for my dear mother. That God in his infinite mercy may “renew a right spirit” in her and lead her into the glorious light of the Gospel.

Sunday 25th March

I have this day received the ordinance – as that are the external evidences of my covenant with my Gracious Redeemer, Baptism & Partaking of the Sacrament – Baptism was administered by the Rev. I. W. Douglass, the sacrament by F. Wood & W. Hock__ assisted by ___ Douglass. Persons who joined the Church at the same time were - -

Mrs. Rebecca Koonty
Sally Spencer
Mary Easton Sibley
Jane Beauchamp
Rachel Henry
Susan Ellis Casey
Margaret Lindsay
Miss Hannah Spencer
T. Ellis
Martha I. Baily
Sally H. Baily

Mr. Thom Lindsay Jun
Robert Spencer
William Spencer
Stephen Spencer
James Lindsay Sr.
Warren N. Goodell
Joseph Spencer
Alex B. Campbell
(The latter joined
by Certificate)

I arose this morning before sunrise and spent time in prayer – felt my own sinfulness and unworthiness, prayed earnestly that I might be sincere in my professions, and be enabled to love & serve my Maker in spirit and truth.” Feared greatly that I might

be deceiving myself, and that I was not prepared to become a follower with the preparation He requires. Having fasted on Friday & several times previous without feeling that I injured my health by it, I resolved to do so to day until evening. When I was ready to go in to church my husband who has been somewhat unwell refused to go with me – knowing that my mother was offended with me fore the step I had taken. I felt as tho' I was at once to take up my cross and follow the Lord. My husband however on my expressing a desire that he should go with me consented. When I arrived in town I stopped at my Father's house. I found all the family except my Mother had gone to church. She was alone, I immediately went to her and begged her pardon had I offended her – but before I had said a dozen words she broke out in a violent passion and drove me from her & when I persisted in “assuring her with tears, that I had no intention of offending her & that I had always had a devoted attachment to her, she rushed out of the room and left me in the midst of my protestations. She returned again in a few minutes and vented her feelings in a torrent of abuse upon the Presbyterian Church and its agents. Said that by joining them I had abandoned her, and she gave me up & would have nothing more to do with me. It is unnecessary to repeat all she has said, but it was enough to make me feel very hurt & if I had not been sustained by a sense of doing my duty I should have been very miserable, for I have always revered & loved my Mother more than any human being. I record her opposition here, because it proves the truth of our Saviour's words “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth, but a sword. For I am to set a man at variance with his Father, & the daughter against her mother and the daughter in law against her mother in law, and a man's foes shall be them of his own household.” And because I have a hope that she will yet become converted by the power of God; if she does this will show that the praise & glory will be alone due to God. There is no hope but in Him for all lost and deprived human beings who are so completely blinded by their prejudices and their opposition to Christ's Kingdom, that the Holy Spirit only has power to disperse the clouds of mental darkness and delusion, and had them to come divested of all pride and prejudice to the feet of a _____ and compassionate Saviour. During this day I have felt my own unworthiness and want of faith but felt great peace in leaving all in the hands of my Redeemer feeling assured that He would do better for me than I could ask & that tho' it might be gratifying to me to have a more lively

sense of my interest in his dying love yet if it was necessary that I should have doubts and fears I should not re_____. I knew he alone would remove them & I trusted implicitly that when it was right they would be removed; some fault in me no doubt was the cause of my coldness and want of feeling.

8th April

How lamentably do I come short of all my good resolutions I had intended to write frequently in this book a sketch of religious course, yet from indolence gaining such an ascendancy I have let two weeks pass by without writing a word although I have reproached myself every day for neglecting it. Heard two sermons to day from old Mr. Allen, a Methodist, which I enjoyed very much – felt that the Old man was a real follower of the Lord Jesus that notwithstanding he was illiterate and shabbily arrayed, my prejudices (I mean such as naturally arise from our association & education) were subdued & I could love him as one whom I should _____ in the world to come; among the Redeemer –

10th April

Went to St. Charles expecting to hear a sermon from Mr. Douglass, but was sadly disappointed. Mr. D. in consequence of much fatigue gone through Sabbath last was so unwell this evening he was obliged to decline preaching. There was a meeting last Sunday in the Point where 12 or more individuals were admitted into the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles. When I heard of the experience as given in of one of the females felt a disposition to doubt its truth & find fault, but checked the evil spirit by a mental prayer to my Saviour that he would be pleased to eradicate such unholy & charitable feelings. Oh! We are so brave to make idols of ourselves and to suppose that we are the favorites of Heaven, forgetting that where all alike have gone astray, one soul is as precious in the sight of God as another, not one of us having any thing to recommend us to the notice of our Heavenly Father - -

April 22nd

During the last week was much occupied with making preparation for my sisters wedding, so that I have neglected my journal. I find myself continually prone to wander from the "fountain of all good" and am at times so vain of my own powers that I groan in the Spirit when I detect my sinful reflections. Oh! Lord Jesus be merciful to me a sinner. Give me an humble mind and a contrite spirit. Went yesterday to see about obtaining the use of a school room and notifying the Children that a Sabbath School would be commenced today at the little log cabin near Mr. Cole's place. Feel a great desire to serve God by serving my fellow creatures in some way but scarce know how to go about it. Would wish to be as a little child in the hands of my Redeemer following the leadings of His Holy Spirit, having no will of my own. To day my sister Alby is so unwell to allow of my leaving her. Resolved in the morning to spend the day in reading prayer & fasting and especially to remember two individuals at the Throne of Grace who are infidels in almost every sense of the word as used by Christians. Judge B... is one of them. I have for three months made him a subject of prayer occasionally, but latterly since I have joined the Church almost constantly he is remembered by supplication for mercy to be extended to the unconverted. I have this day found reason again to mourn over my depravity of heart which makes me so cold and unfeeling. I read & was overcome by sleep. I prayed and my thoughts wandered. I could only call upon the Lord for help and resolve again and again to trust in Him for all things. I fear sometimes I am the veriest hypocrite on Earth, that when I call upon a Saviour that I am hypocritically taking His name in my mouth when my heart is filled with unbelief. Read a few pages in Henry Martyn's memoir have some little consolation of the weakness of his faith and the vileness on his heart. But I am sinful even in this, or why should the faults of one of my own with complacency. Sent to day a little book called "profession nor principle" to an unbelieving friend with a request that he would read it carefully.

April 22 1832

Received a letter from brother Potts, the minister of the Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, an eminently pious man in answer to one requesting him to send up some cards & books for the Sabbath school in this neighborhood. I have to record that even so trifling a circumstance should have yielded food for my vain & foolish imagination. I was pleased

that he should have given me credit for my piety. What is man, that we should be vain of his approbation? Lord it is thy approbation that is alone to be depended upon and we can do nothing to claim thy approval. We are indeed poor worms of the dust: but thanks to the precious love of our Saviour in His strength we may obtain the commendation of “Well done thou good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” – Grant Heavenly Father that I may live & die by faith in the Lord Jesus seeking & wishing for none other Saviour than the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

29th April

Went this morning to the neighborhood Sabbath school – owing to the appearance of rain only two of the children were there. After hearing them their lessons returned & went to Town hoping to get in, in time to hear an afternoon sermon. I found that I had lost the pleasure of hearing a most excellent sermon from Mr. I. W. Douglass in consequence of being at the Country School. I almost regretted having gone as there were so few children but it was my duty as teacher to be at my post. No sermon in the afternoon, but attended Bible class. On going on to the house of a friend unexpectedly met the individual of whom I sent the book mentioned above. He told me that he had not yet read it, but would do so. I was so anxious to meet with a favorable opportunity to say something to him that would induce him to seek the “Kingdom of the Lord” that I committed sin while at the Bible class by thinking what I should say to him instead of thinking upon the Word of God we were studying and I was justly punished for my presumptions for although I was in the house where he was two or three hours after the Bible lesson was over he gave me no opportunity to converse with him. Oh When shall I be able to serve my god without mixing with my attempts so much that is selfish and unworthy of a follower of the _____ Jesus. Oh! Lord in thy mercy purify and sanctify my heart to thy service.

6th May

This day came forward the second time to the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Sermon in the morning preached by Mr. Douglass from Ps. 15th “Lord who shall abide in

thy tabernacle” Or it was a sermon well calculated to induce Christians to “purify themselves.” I felt so exceedingly depressed by a conviction of my own unworthiness & so fearful that I might eat & drink unworthily “that I could only agonize in prayer to be made meet for his service and so anxious was I to have more faith that, more love, more knowledge, that I was unhappy _____ than otherwise throughout the day. At night Mr. Douglass preached from the text “And they went forth to go into the land of Canaan”. The idea occurred to me, “To whom am I indebted for being among the number who hoped they had gone forth? To my Gracious Redeemer surely, and here have I been so ungratefully whining all day that I was not better prepared to proceed on my way when I should more properly have been rejoicing & praising God for his goodness in starting me on the way: I felt a sweet conviction immediately that if I would have confidence & trust my all to him that He who had so kindly pointed out the road to the land of Canaan, and enabled me to take leave of my worldly friends would faithfully land me safe upon the shore of the promised land. Joy & peace filled my heart.

13th

The Methodist brethren had a meeting & administered the Sacrament at the brick Church in St. Charles. The morning was rainy and we expected to be deprived the pleasure of attending Divine service, but the clouds breaking away some of the neighbors calling by afforded us the opportunity to go. I was much pleased with Mr. _____’s sermon and remarks on the subject of baptism. A number of the Presbyterian congregation who were there communed with them. It sickens me almost to think that Christians will suffer their pride to heart, to get to better of that meek and lowly spirit heir Saviour taught them they should possess, and had them o make doctrinal points which every sect admit not essential to the Salvation a subject of contention, and sometime excuses to harbor bad feelings towards our brethren. Our Saviour said, those who were not against Him were for Him. When his disciples betrayed just such an uncharitable spirit as we sometimes see now a days – And shall we, who acknowledge the different protestant denomination are for Him, however we may disagree of some minor points, be so narrow minded, so self righteous, as to condemn all who differ from us in their attempts to Serve God? The very circumstance of believing ourselves right, engendered a

disposition to do wrong. This appears at first _____ contradictory but it is strictly true – Unless we continually remember we are poor, frail, ignorant creatures, just like the rest of fellow beings only so far as we are enlightened by the influences of God’s Holy Spirit, we are apt to suppose all must be wrong who do not agree with us, and even criminal, because we agree “truth is one/ I have ascertained what truth is, they could do so too, if they would take the right method, they will not do it, therefore they sin.” & I am not allowed to tolerate error. “thus we argue ourselves into the belief that it is justifiable to condemn those who do not see as we do. The more certain we are that we must be right the more intolerant do we naturally become, when we apply the rule to others which we have laid down for ourselves. The only safety, is the check given by the remembrance of the many admonitions given in Scripture against indulging a self righteous Spirit- Thou are inexcusable, o “man whosever thou art that judgest another, thou damndest thyself; for thou that judgest, doest the same things” –

June 22nd

I have to mourn that among my other sins a disposition to procrastinate, to put off the performance of a duty to some other time stands conspicuous. For this reason alone my journal has been neglected altho’ I have passed through some interesting scenes during the past month which I should have liked to have noted as they at the time – Now I can not recall their vivid impression so as to make an intelligible record of them. I have this day, being Friday before communion, appropriated to reading prayer & fasting. My dear friend, Elira Baker agreed to unite to day in praying for the conversion of my Dear Mother-

I have felt the burden of my sins exceedingly this day. The weight me down to the Earth, I feel humbled in the dust, all my attempts to draw nigh unto God in prayer are cold, my thoughts are so wandering. I feel deeply how unworthy I am to open my mouth in supplication for any one – But thanks to the mercy of my Saviour he can find a reason in himself why sinners should be saved for his own names sake he will hear the prayer of the afflicted – Mr. Douglass preached after candlelight – my friends are generally opposed to my attending night meeting. I have not thought it my duty yet to yield to their prejudices

June 22nd, 1832

I pray that my Heavenly Father will not suffer me to take any step which would be an injury to the cause of religion – Strange that in my days of worldly folly & gaiety they never thought of finding fault with me for attending Balls, parties, theatres, etc. at night – as I have neglected to write down in the order in which they occurred some circumstances I wish to keep in remembrance I shall here copy two letters – one to Mrs. Becket of Columbia S. C. & the other a note addressed to the Elder of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles – “Dear Madam – Mrs. Robinson informed you in her last letter that I would write to you. I owe “both you and her an apology for deferring so long to fulfill my promise. In truth “so many incidents of exceeding & heart stirring interest have followed “each other in such rapid succession since the commencement of the illness which ended in death of my dearly beloved friend, that my mind has been too much excited to write an intelligible narrative of the circumstances attending and following that event. And now I scarcely know in what manner I as a stranger ought to address you – But I will remember you are the Mother of my very dear friend who has so recently gone to her Heavenly Father’s house, and that we too profess to belong to that Father’s family and hope to be collected together with all His children to sing the praises of Redeeming love. Then why should we consider ourselves strangers here! All of god’s people should be of one mind and one heart, and love each other wherever they are and in whatever circumstances they may be placed. Mrs. Robinson has related many particulars that cannot fail to be interesting to the friends of the deceased. I could tell you verbally many others that would go to prove the holy and humble walk of our sister in life and her peaceful and triumphant departure in death. But the limits of a letter will not permit me to give all those minute circumstances necessary to the understanding of every particular expression on her death bed that were more immediately addressed to me. Our relations for a long time were that of sinner & saint. I was the sinner, careless and unbelieving (unbelieving in every sense of the word so far as regarded the Christian religion) but anxious o know what truth was & where it was to be found & occasionally inquiring, at other times indifferent. She was the saint watching over me with the tender care of a Mother, praying unceasingly for me, taking every opportunity that offered to lead me

gently into the way of life, never out of patience with my forwardness and open ingratitude of my Maker, at my bold avowal of the principles of infidelity, although she must have felt frequently wounded by my expressions. And all this she was doing for Christ's sake. While I was ignorant that she regarded me in any other light than as an amiable acquaintance. About two years after our friendship commenced on me avowing to her that the external and internal evidences satisfied me that the Bible contained the revealed will of God, and that I felt I could do more for myself, for after acknowledging this kind of belief I found there was another spoken of which all my researched & investigations would not give me. She told me how much interested she had been for a long time in my eternal welfare. Then she sometimes almost despaired, and was tempted to give up all hope of my conversion, but now she felt thankful that she had persevered – for she was assured I would be brought into the fold of the Good Shepherd. This was late last fall – During the winter, owing to the severity of the season we seldom met altho' we had set different times to meet at prayer meetings and one of Mr. Lindsay's men (Bunyan) having married one of our women, when he visited his wife afforded us the opportunity to exchange a few lines almost every week – I enclose to you supposing it will qualify you to see it the last of her notes, which I think probably was likewise the last of her writing of any kind except a few lines to me when she first took sick, merely requesting me to go over and see her as soon as I could make it convenient – not knowing she was much indisposed I did not go immediately, as I has some friends here on a visit from St. Louis. When I did go I found her quite sick, but I thought by no means dangerous. I stayed that night and returned home the next morning hoping she would soon be well. The second day after she had become much worse and sent for me, I found her indeed worse and a number of friends who were there with sad countenances seemed to forebode the worst. When I came to the bedside of my dear friend she gave one of her beautiful smile & as I knelt down beside her unable to control my feelings she said to me, "Oh! I am so glad to see you! You are my own dear child, I have wrestled in prayer for you & glory be to my Saviour He will rescue you from the pit of destruction." She said a good deal more expressing her belief that she would die, and her resignation to the will of God, but her voice was weak & I was so much grieved. I did not treasure in my memory her exact words. She then told her friends to go out of the room, and let her rest and I

might sit with her. She observed she had a great deal to say to me but now was much too exhausted to talk. After lain still about fifteen minutes she opened her eyes and seeing me she said – “O! My dear Mrs. Sibley you will have to go in the other room, they will think I am partial; perhaps I have hurt their feelings by asking them to go out of the room.” I did as she desired and mention this trifling circumstance because it is characteristic of her. She was always so kind and attentive to the _____ of those around that _____ in the midst of great harm when most persons would have been taken up with themselves she thought of the comfort of others. I believe this was about a week before she breathed her last, I did not leave her but for one night, except for two or three hours to attend a meeting by her particular request. I never saw so much patience, mildness, uncomplaining endurance of pain – So much thankfulness for the most trifling attention conferred, such a continual attention to the feelings and comforts of others exhibited by any one. She had told Mrs. Robinson to tell me what she wishes done “for” as she observed to me afterwards, “Poor Jane will not be able to attend to any thing.” She had the dress that she wished to be buried in laid in a drawer, directed her to tell me where to find the articles, to buy some muslin to make her a handkerchief, to cut off her hair, and send some to you and to give some to any friend who wished to have it. During the last five days she did not say much except on the day of her death. She expressed herself very anxious on day to go home to her Heavenly Father. I observed to her, “perhaps your work is not done here; you are not, I hope, unwilling to stay if it is God’s will.” She said “I would rather go,” then hesitating for a minute, she continued “Oh yes His holy will be done.” Two days before her death, she enquired very particularly about who attended the meetings in Town. And calling me to her bed side she said in a low voice, “if you feel any change in your feelings while attending this meeting, you must just write a little note to me & tell me all about it.” I promised her I would, if any changes should take place, but that I did not intend to leave her again while she was so sick; that I felt her sickness had already softened my heart and that I thought I could pray much more in faith than formerly. She observes in reply, “I hope so, what a precious Redeemer we have. I have no other strength but in him, I know he will keep what I have committed to his care” – On Thursday morning about one o’clock she became much worse and I suppose the death struggle commenced – She seemed to think she would go immediately; The Doctor

thought she would expire about 10 o'clock and although she wished me to go to meeting, I would not consent to go because I feared she would die before I could return. A number of her friends collected during the day, among the numbers Mr. Potts the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of St. Louis and Mr. Wood a missionary – She spoke to all occasionally and considerably to Mr. Potts of her precious Redeemer, of her desire to be “absent from the body and present with the Lord” – Contrary to our expectations she lingered on in great distress from shortness of breath until evening when it became time to go to the night meeting appointed in Town – she wished all to go – A number of her friends went – We returned about 10 o'clock at night & found her still alive, and our afflicted friend Mr. Lindsay even had some hope she would recover – She asked who were among the anxious enquirers at the meeting and expressed much joy at hearing so many were seeking a Saviour – She was wearing away fast, very restless, appearing to endure much bodily suffering, but I could think of nothing to relieve her, at last a little after 2 o'clock on Thursday morning it occurred to me that it would soothe her to read, if her mental powers were yet active & I took up a bible and read in clear and distinctive voice (for I doubted whether _____ faculties of her mind were not failing) the words of David from one of the Psalms. Her restlessness immediately left her and she became composed, and when I stopt she said in a whisper “oh do go on” – I read another Psalm and then observed to her friends that reading from the word of God seemed to do her much good perhaps singing would be agreeable – we commenced to sing a hymn, when through, she said “O how delightful!” I asked her if it disturbed her to hear us sing. She replied “no, it is very sweet” – We then selected the hymn “Awake my soul to joyful”. She joined with us in singing the closing line of each verse. When we stop'd she repeated over to herself two or three times, “His loving kindness O how great!” The thought seemed then to occur to her, it was strange that when His loving kindness was so great she should be suffered to linger so long in bodily anguish, for she turned her face to me, and said “what is the cause. There must be some cause why I can not be “absent from the body and present with the Lord,” do see if you can't find out the cause, I know his loving kindness is so great”. Not knowing what to answer, I observed perhaps the Lord is permitting you to linger in order to show us how his children ought to die, that your example may do us good- She did not reply but closing her eyes a few moments appeared

to be reflecting – then observed in a low voice tho’ with some animation _____ might so speak on making a pleasant discovery “the cause must be that you are all unwilling to give me up but you must resign me” – then turning to her husband who sat on the other side of the bed, she exclaimed “do give up! Be resigned to the will of my Saviour, then I shall go”- Mr. Lindsay conversed with her a minute un low tone & I did not hear distinctly what either said, until hear Mr. L. say in a heart ____ voice, “I do give you up Margaret, God’s holy will be done”- She immediately became composed & we sang another Hymn- She then said “Let us look at the promised land,” not being much acquainted (to shame be it spoken) with Sacred songs, I did not understand what she wished sung, but her sister who sat by me instantly knew she referred to the Hymn “There is a land of pure delight”. I asked her if that was what she wanted, she bowed her head in assent & when we sang she joined with us in a sweet low voice, keeping time with her hands and giving a gentle inclination of the head when a line particularly pleased her. She said, “Sing one more verse and I shall go,” but before we go through we perceived her eyes were set, and out dear Mr. Lindsay as we all knelt down around her couch, offered up a prayer to her Saviour, to receive her Soul – I can not dwell on the scene that followed. The departure of one so beloved as Mrs. Lindsay was _____ created a great sensation throughout a large circle of friends and acquaintances – She was universally beloved by old and young, black & white – wherever she was know- A very large concourse of people attended her funeral – Three clergymen were here – Mr. Potts delivered some very appropriate remarks, which with the attendant circumstances produced deep feeling in all present - - The smile on her countenance remained to the last, and when we looked at her, we almost fancied she was just going to speak with her usual benef____ expressions of kindness and good will – The Tabernacle was beautiful, what must the soul be, that could have such an angelic impress upon the cold clay? I hope my dear Madam you will excuse the egotism I have displayed in giving you so much of my own history – To comply with Mrs. Robinson’s _____ that I would relate to you some of the remarks of your daughters _____ to me (she having already given an account of her general conversation) it was necessary you should understand something of the nature of our friendship & intercourse in order to appreciate properly her expressions..... (This dearly beloved friend whose death I gave an account of to her

mother in the above letter dies & was buried on the 15th of March 1832 – on the 25th March following I joined the Church to which she had belonged ever since it was organized & I may add was an ornament of I to the hour of her death)

The two following notes I copy here, for the purpose of ascertaining at some future day if my motives in writing them were reprehensible or not – I believe them to be pure as most human ones are, now I suppose myself to be actuated by a laudable zeal for the cause of religion. “The heart is deceitful above all things” – time will determine how far mine is deceiving one –

Linden wood June 8th 1832

To Mr. T. Lindsay Sen- Elder P. C.

Dear Sir;

(copy)

It is evidently Mr. Woods intention to become our minister and he expects obtain the place through the instrumentality of such persons as voted him, his last years subscription – In no other way can we account for his proposition of last Sunday, that the congregation should appoint the committee to receive the subscription on the new plan proposed to the church by Mr. Douglass – If the business of the Church is to be done by those who do not care for its interests, it will be badly done – and if the choice of our pastor is to be made for us, by those who will scarcely ever go to hear him, I for one shall fell disposed to rebel. Those persons who may have voted him in are at liberty to stay away from the Church. But, the members of the Church are bound by Church regulations to hear the Minister however much they may dislike to hear him – Now, as the gov't of the Presbyterian Church is republican if the majority of the Members of the Church here elect Mr. Wood I will submit and not say another word – but if such persons as Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Cunningham or I are allowed to say who I shall be obliged to receive as my instructor from the pulpit, I shall take the liberty of saying, I shall consult my own feeling as to whether I go to hear him or not. I shall conduct myself as free to reject their decision, because I never bound myself to be governed by the population of St. Charles – I state here my feelings freely, because I suppose them to be such as many other of the members of our Church have & because you know me well enough to believe I have no other view than to secure the best interests of the Redeemers cause. A gentleman told me today, that if the People of St. Charles have a voice in choosing our

Pastor that every one who was opposed to religion and a strict observance of the commands of God would vote for Mr. W. That they dreaded to have a minister chosen who would be a powerful agent in the hands of the Almighty of turning many to righteousness – And would therefore do their best to keep Mr. W. here. Those who consciously believe Mr. Wood will never do any good here should be up and apologizing, & check every attempt to give the enemies of our religion a voice in the Church.....

(copy)

To Mr. Thomas Lindsay Sen

Linden Wood June 29th 1832

Dear Sir- Mrs. Robinson tells me she heard at Mr. Wood's that there was a subscription papers out inviting Mr. Douglass – I hope if any such thing is attempted it will be done properly and not started & suffered to go half through, as if on purpose to show we do not want him. If any one has started such a thing either for mischief or otherwise, I think you & Mr. Cass & Mr. Watson ought to take it up and carry it through, getting all both at the Point & the Dardenne to join. I fear the thing has got on foot by some one purposely to have I prove an abortion, so that Mr. Douglass may think we are satisfied with Mr. W. I do not say it is so but hope you will look into it. If true please let me know & let me have a copy of the subscription, I will exert the little influence I have to make the invitation respectable although I fear it will not be accepted. I do not believe one word true of the report that Mr. W. intends to go away immediately. There is what the French call 'ruse de guerre' in the Church Militant (let us be on our guard) as well as among those who engage in a temporal warfare – I am told Doctor Fwyman and some other Catholics are perfectly willing we should keep Mr. Wood but object strenuously against any one's coming here who has so little discretion as Mr. Potts if Mr. Douglass and one of our American citizens says he does not see why if we are so anxious to be good we can not do so under Mr. Wood's preaching? Without getting such fellows as Mr. P & Mr. D" – H, to be sure does never put his head into a house where he might be in danger of hearing any one of them, but he wishes those who do to enjoy their religion without disturbing him with even the echo of truth. The reverberation of the sounds of Godliness are annoying to some ears & they will smother them if they can.

24th

I have had as usual on communion day many strivings against those inward sins, (if I may use the expression) which I find so annoying as to make me mourn all the day – I know not how it is, but altho' I have been so distressed at these times I would not for any temporal consideration give up the privilege of meeting with Christians. There in a "joy in grief" on these occasions that is pleasant and mournful to the soul- I would note two circumstances this day for the benefit of future meditation. One is that I felt it might be, I was encouraging feelings towards Mr. Woods that were not consistent with a Christian spirit. I would not it is true, tax myself with feeling any hostility against him in any respect what so-ever, expecting whenever I thought of him becoming our pastor, & altho' I flattered myself my object in objecting to him on that ground was the good of the cause it might be I was encouraging self conceit, pride & arrogance and therefore made it a subject of special prayer, and prayed for him with all the sincerity my wicked heart would let me. The other is that in the afternoon, knowing that Mr. D. was to preach, I felt a great anxiety to have my unconverted friends attend meeting- both in the evening and at night – I have sometimes latterly wondered at myself for feeling so strong a desire they should go. If I had been certain they could be converted in no other way, and that this was the last opportunity they would ever have of hearing the Gospel preached I could not have been more disappointed, it appears to me, than I was this evening at seeing so few of my friends at meeting. I had made the attempt personally to induce some to attend, perhaps it was this failure that grieved me more than the consequences of them, or a desire to do something for God's glory – Oh! The treachery of the human heart, it betrays its vileness continually. When I would do good, evil is present with me- As I have mentioned an individual who has been a subject of prayer with me, I will here make an extract from a letter in which his present state is mentioned to a friend, who is in a situation similar to his –

“Mr. Barton boards at Dr. Wilson's, and spends his days pretty much in listlessness without an object and without a motive. Having outlined whatever in his younger days may have interested him, he feels the utter incapacity of worldly pursuits to fill the mind and satisfy the longings of an immortal soul. Yet he is content to grovel in

the dust, rather than run the risk of being called superstitious by looking forward to a nobler existence & preparing for it by a life of usefulness and self denial. Christianity in its purity requires the faculties of the mind and body to be employed in the service of God & his creatures – God came into this world in the form of Humanity and set up a kingdom, a spiritual kingdom whose laws were at war with all sin. The preparation of the heart necessary to enter this kingdom is from God, but he has promised that all who seek it shall find it. Can there be any created being so full of pride as to scorn to acknowledge its creator? Yet so it is, many would rather run the hazard of Eternal perdition than admit & yield to the Sovereignty of God by humbly seeing direction from Him through the guidance of His Holy Spirit. Regeneration is simply voluntarily submitting the soul God has breathed into existence in him to be saved and enlightened by Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, “Who is God manifest in the flesh” for the purpose of purchasing the salvation of sinners and the right to fit their characters for a participation in the joys of Heaven. This preparation of character is made by the influences of the Holy Spirit, and these influences are promised to all who submit to be saved in the manner God in His wisdom has thought best they should be”.

July 1st 1832

Attended Sunday school in the country, the cabin full, mostly Dutch children. They appear very anxious to learn. Had to lecture them upon the propriety of keeping silence during the time of prayer – and to do it through an interpreter, a little boy, the only one among them who can speak English. They understood what I meant when I told them that altho’ they could not when we were praying understand me, God understood both their language and mine and that they must take care that they did not commit the awful sin of mocking God.

July 5th 1832

At the particular request of heir parents I consented to board & teach about half a dozen young ladies a year. Among the number is one who belongs to the Catholic Church, a grand Daughter of the Judge Lucas. Her mother when placing her under my care particularly desired that no undue influence should be exerted over her to induce her

to abandon her religion (or rather I should say her obedience to the Church of her Forefathers, for religion in reality neither she nor her mother know much about). I, of course had no disposition to take particular pains to make a convert of her unless the simple assertion of what I believed truth should have that effect; if it did, I would not justly be blamed with deceiving her Mother, yet still as I consider it my duty to act differently in some things now from what I did when the Daughter was committed to by charge I thought it but jus, obeying the rule laid down by our Saviour “to do as we would be done by” to give her an opportunity to withdraw her daughter if she thought fit to do so.

I herewith copy a part of the letter addressed to Mrs. Hunt on the subject - - “As I have endeavored to deal with the utmost candor towards you in all things that respect Theodosia’s welfare, I have intended ever since I became a member of the church of Christ to give you permission to alter your voluntary engagement to keep her with me a year. You have seen me in the exercise of my religious duties, so far as they have the least influence of those under my care, and can judge how far they may endanger the peculiar religious tenets you wish your daughter to abide by. If you fear the consequences you are at perfect liberty to take her home. It will not wound my feelings for you to do so. When you placed her under my care, I was not a professor of religion, being now I trust a follower of Him who said “My kingdom is not of this world” and of those who believed on Him; “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world”. The necessary consequence is that I must be somewhat changed in my opinion, feelings and actions. I hope the change will not make me less alive to the responsibility of my charge – nor less attentive to those duties devolving upon me as a teacher. Theodosia evidently improves, though not as rapidly as I would wish. She does not possess an investigating mind and wants application. These qualities though they will prevent her from progressing very rapidly in her studies will on the other hand secure her from the contamination of what you consider heretical opinion. Theodosia is extremely amiable and is gifted in several excellent traits of character. We are all attached to her, but if your judgment decides it would be more to her advantage to place her somewhere else I shall cheerfully acquiesce to your decision. Julia would improve more rapidly here than Theodosia, because she has more ambition, but she will likewise be more apt to become a Protestant, if she ever turns

her attention to the subject of religion. She has a mind that will lead her to demand he why's and wherefore's before she will ____ take any thing for granted".

8th

Attended my country school, went to Town in the evening & heard a Methodist sermon. Felt very unhappy all the afternoon because of evil thoughts & impure motives in all my attempts to do good and to join in the religious services.

9th

Mr. Douglass called to bid us farewell previous to his departure for Cincinnati – Having much benefited by his discourses from the pulpit and having been baptized by him and also believing him to be a pure Christian, a humble follower of Him who is likewise my Master, I of course feel for him much affection. He prayed and sung with us before he started. It will not be long before we shall meet in the Kingdom of our Father; the separations of time are nothing, but Oh! The separations of Eternity, the consequences must be dreadful to one or the other where a separation must take place beyond the grave.

July 10th 1832

Wrote a letter to a friend which contains some of views of duty therefore I will copy a part of it – “If I was able to keep a free school I would be willing to devote my time to the disseminating of the truth for as Soloman says “Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom & with all thy getting get understanding.” I hold our Country will never prosper unless the people get knowledge. They will always be the dupes of Political demagogues, Jesuits and of their own evil passions & depraved hearts if they found neglect to get “wisdom from above (which) is pure” - - and I is to be found in the word of God by those who seek it. In this I am borne out likewise by Solomon who says “Where wisdom entereth into thine heart & knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee, to deliver thee from the way of evil men” __ and this may apply as properly to Nations as to individuals. I do not know that I would now be willing, if I had thousands to spend my days with no other or just in view, than to study my own gratification in the trifling vanities of life; fashion, dress, the applause of the world given to her volaries by their fellow worms of the dust, appear to me now so perfectly contemptible, so much beneath the exclusive attention of

immortal beings that I would have to undergo a change before I could again relish a life of such utter selfishness, uselessness, & folly - - The first great question to be settled by us is, What is the design & end of our creation? What were we put here for? The rational answer is the one our Saviour gives to “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart & thy neighbor as thyself – on these hang all the law”. How can we love our Maker unless we desire to please him? How can we please Him unless we know His will and obey it? If we know His will and obey it and are happy ourselves in consequence of that obedience, how can we love our neighbor without desiring that he too, shall share in the happiness we have found? In all God’s plans, commands or _____ there is perfect harmony – Cause & effect – means to be made use of to obtain the end desired – the end desire, is the glory of God and the good of his creatures- and can either of those be attained by every one’s consulting his own selfish gratification?”

15th July

Spent part of this day at the Country Sabbath School – not many scholars in consequence of the attendance of the Dutch children at the Catholic Church; the Bishops being up from New Orleans it was a great day with them. Went in the evening to try and prevail upon a woman who has a large family of children growing up in ignorance to send one of the sons to a day School to which I subscribed one scholar for a quarter & to send the _____ to Sabbath School. Distributed some tracts – Had some conversation with a man who is a respectable farmer & the head of a large family & has imbibed the universalist notions from papers he takes published by that body. He told me that he had been in work in his wheat field while I had been to work teaching. I thought proper not to enter into the relative merits of the work of either & let his observation pass without noticing its drift. He afterwards spoke of the various denominations of Christians, how impossible it was to come at the truth if we believed what they all told us for every Sect thought itself right and all the rest wrong. I told him this only proved the truth of the Bible for when we felt that there was no dependence when Man we would be in that frame of mind declared by our Saviour essential to salvation. “Except ye be converted and become as little children, willing to be taught by the Spirit of God ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven”. When we felt our dependence entirely rested on God &

sought from him the truth we had the promise we should find it. "Seek & ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you"... Yesterday spent the day with my friends Mr. Lindsay. I wept not because she has left this world, I would not recall her had I the power, ,but for my own sinful State that notwithstanding all the blessings & privileges I had received from my Maker my heart was so cold & unfeeling, so little devoted to the service of my Saviour. How different are the sentiments & feelings of a Christian from those of an unregenerate person. I was once a great admirer of Lord Byron's Manfred; the feelings which inspired his hers to invoke the spirits of Earth, air, and heaven, to grant him a sight of the beloved of his soul. I then sympathized with, the yours? of a sensual existence in the gratification of affections which have been enabled solely by the Spirit of romance and the Salvations of the imagination appeared then to me as all that this life or the next had to give and I could admire the Author for the knowledge of human nature he displayed and weep over the unhappy destiny of Manfred. What is the character of Manfred devoted to the interest thrown around him by the genius of the author, in depicting the passions and noblest affections of human nature in its natural state? A tissue of the selfishness, arrogance, pride & ambition. The Prince of Darkness with all his power could never satisfy the cravings of a being whose ruling passion is self gratification And if the Almighty was to allow every wish of the de ? heart to be gratified the instant it was formed, the being possessed of the heart would only be more & more miserable because every step he took would carry him farther from God th fountain of good. Created beings can never be happy so long as their will is at variance with the will of the Creator -- The exercise o the free will in the unregenerate for which they contend is only the right to differ from God & consequently if granted increases in their misery. We may say, it is contending for the right to be miserable in spite of all the kind warnings of t tender Father we prefer endless torment to giving up this boasted independence. The very Spirit of Satan himself.

July 30th

Yesterday being the Sabbath attended my Country School – not many scholars. A young man who has been a cripple from his birth, son of Mr. Cole, a respectable farmer and a universalist, has attended constantly at the School for more than a month. His object appears to hear what I have to say on religion. I have been told he is very wicked as far

as blaspheming the name of the most High God and the neglect of the Sabbath is concerned. He told me yesterday that he had just begun to feel the importance of having a good education & that he wished to go on in the fall to one of the Eastern Colleges. I promised to make some enquiries for him. As to whether he could get in at one of the Schools established on the plan of manual labor & for how much. Poor young man, may the Lord have mercy upon him and convert him. To one so deformed, so unfit for the enjoyments of this life, if he have not hope of the next how dreadful is his situation. My prayer is that he may be created anew in Christ, then his Soul will be lovely & prepared to inhabit a regenerated body at the day of resurrection.

September 26th

Again & again have my resolutions been broken, not only as regards my wish to continue my journal with some regularity but also in relation to my repeated determinations to live more devoted to the cause of religion. Oh! Who that has ever tried to do their duty, but feels & confesses the depravity of their nature, & how far short they come, in their attempts to keep the pure & holy law of God. If we were left to save ourselves what would become of the very best of us? Oh! I bless God, I thank him with all my heart that he has not left our salvation to be accomplished by any on less mighty, less powerful than the Lord of all the Earth. On Sunday last I had the happiness to sit again with the Lord's people at His table. The sermon in the morning delivered by Mr. Potts of (there is a sentence the seems to have been cut off by a copy machine) was a feast of the soul. I found myself much benefited by his remarks, and was much struck with the forcible man (extra space) a few lines in Scripture reveals great & important truths when understood.

Spoke to Mr. P. about getting a place for Hiram Cole and he has promised to write to Doctor Beecher the President of the Illinois College to ascertain on what terms he can be admitted there. My dear mother has been ill since Saturday, I have watched ___ with her two nights. And feel alarmed for her safety. Not because I look upon death as an evil, but because she is not prepared to meet her Judge. Oh! I feel as if I would willingly resign her to the Lord if it was his will to take her to Eternity, but how can I say "thy will be done" if she is to go unconverted unreconciled to her Maker's ____ I know His Holy will is right. "Shall not the judge of all the Earth do right? – Yes Surely- I know not what to do, sometimes I think it my duty to talk to her and urge upon her the necessity of

seeking a Redeemer, then again I feel as if I should do more harm than good if I agitate her mind on a subject it is so easily aroused to anger upon. Oh! Those who had's't compassion on all who applied to thee to be healed, have mercy & heal her whom thou hast afflicted with sickness, of that disease more deadly than any bodily infirmity which the human race was ever afflicted with. There is no help but in Thee! Though dear Saviour of lost & sinful creatures.

November 13th

Since the date of my last notices in this book many interesting circumstances have transpired which I have omitted to notice in their order. Mr. Wood & family have removed to Palmyra & thus relieved the church of the difficulty of keeping a minister whom so many thought not competent to do good in St. Charles. An effort was made to retain him by a subscription paper inviting him to remain. Those who objected until some time after it had been out. When accidentally hearing of the circumstance they signed the following which I drew up ---(copy) "Saint Charles Missouri August 1832

We the undersigned members of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles understanding that a paper is going the rounds, containing a very pressing invitation to the Rev George G. Wood to remain here as Pastor; and believing as we do conscientiously that the good of our Redeemer's cause requires peculiar and various qualifications in the minister to whom such an important trust is confided, we beg permission to be allowed to express a different opinion from the one contained in the paper referred to – Entertaining ad we do, as high regard for Mr. Wood as a Christian brother esteeming him as a useful citizen, we nevertheless feel he is not calculated to do as much good in a place like St. Charles as some other person might be. WE do not wish to let our sympathies & partialities blind our judgments and lead us to forget that in choosing a pastor it is our duty rather to consider who will be most likely in the hands of the Almighty to "turn many unto righteousness" than to consult our own predilections favor of any individual whatever. The constitution of the Presbyterian Church is republican and every individual has a right the expression of his opinion, and though he may be in a minority that minority has the right to make its voice heard. And as those our brethren who call themselves the majority have chosen to adopt the plan of subscribing to

their opinions we follow their example, not that we by any means approve of the mode they have chosen –

James Lindsay Jr.	Margaret Lindsay	Mary Machall
Thomas Lindsay Sr	Ann Lindsay	Elisa B. Hartford
James Lindsay Sen.	Agnes Lindsay	Samuel Watson
Mary A. Watson	Charlotte Lindsay	Mathews Watson
Jane A. Robinson	Mary E. Sibley	Thom Lindsay Sen.

Mr. Wood after hearing of the above gave up all thoughts of staying in St. Charles, though not without saying many hard things of those who could not desire to have him stay.

My mother had not entirely recovered before I was taken with fever & sore throat – was confined to my bed 10 or 12 days & suffered some considerable pain, but I had so many comforts, so many kind & attentive friends that I had more reason to be grateful to my Heavenly father for blessing them to relieve my afflictions. I thank Him that I was enabled to bear the pain as well, as the disappointment in my visit to St. Louis, for I had promised myself the pleasure of a visit there during the meeting of the Synod in October) with some degree of patience and resignation.

Though I acknowledge I had not half the disposition to endure suffering with calmness as I ought to have had, considering that I ought to have known that God afflicts his children for their good. Soon after my recovery and the last Sabbath Mr. Wood was here; Mr. Hall preached. He is a young man sent on here by Mr. Douglass, from Kentucky, where he was educated at the Danville College & studied for the ministry. Mr. D. found him on the eve of a departure for the South & advised him to come to St. Charles.

He appears to be a pious and unassuming young man, is highly recommended by Mr. Douglas, and altho' the first Sermon he ever preached was on the Sabbath spoken of above, it was thought by every one who heard it to be very good. After having preached here four or five times, a Church meeting was appointed to decide whether the members would agree to keep him. The meeting was held on the first Monday in this month at the Methodist Brick Church. Being a rainy day very few attended, those who were there

gave Mr. Hall an invitation to remain with us a year. Mr. Sibley was in town at the Presidential election on the same day & when he returned in the evening told me that a charge had been publicly made against Mr. ? of a character not to be passed over in a minister of the gospel. That Mr. ___ton a Citizen of St. Charles who desires the stage between St. Louis & St. Charles & had accused Mr. Hall of telling him a lie for the purpose of avoiding to pay the carriage on one of his trunks, & told all the particulars to a number of persons that as he said they might know what they were about before they chose Mr. Hall for a Pastor. I do not know when I felt more grieved than I did at hearing this charge. I shed tears of sorrow and prayed to the Ruler of the Universe to watch over his people & deliver them from the oppressions of the ungodly. If true, what depravity one so young and apparently so devout, to act in such a manner proved him a hypocrite of the blackest degree. If not true, as I was disposed to believe alas! For poor human nature! What vileness to fabricate a story to injure the character of a Stranger a poor youth, who had nothing of this worlds' good but his unblemished reputation which is now to suffer from the effects of the infidel calumniator. I immediately let a friend know the foul charge made against Mr. Hall that she might communicate the circumstance to him as he was residing at the house of my friend. She informed him, and he denied positively having told Mr. Sexton that the trunk belonged to any one else. That both were his, he remembered distinctly telling Mr. S. so.

How the matter will turn out the Lord only knows. We had hoped & do hope that Mr. H. is one of the children of the Kingdom of the righteousness sent here by our Heavenly Father in answer to the earnest prayer of many. Last Sabbath day the Methodist Brethren held their quarterly meeting, and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Heard an excellent discourse from Mr. Monroe & partook with them of the emblems of the broken body & shed blood of our Redeemer. How very great are the privileges I enjoy and how cold & ungrateful I feel in view of them. I do desire if I know my own heart to serve the Lord, but so many temptations meet us at every turn that I am forced to acknowledge myself an unprofitable servant.

I expect to go to St. Louis tomorrow. The Cholera has been & is still there. With those in Mercy O Lord watch over thy unworthy servant and keep her in thy keeping, that

she may not stray into forbidden paths or so ought that will cause the religion she professes to be evil spoken of.

January 11th 1833

My journal I fear no longer deserves the name: so long an intermission has been being principally to not having the convenience of a private room and somewhat to indolence & an indisposition to overcome difficulties. I have found long since, that we are continually breaking our resolutions, and if I had no other dependence but on my own strength I should never perform one good act. As I wish to keep up the history of events connected with my spiritual welfare as well as to record the exercises of the mind in my progress, I shall whenever I can keep the link unbroken by relating such circumstances as are interesting to me which may have occurred between the dates of the entries in this desultory diary.

During a visit of two weeks to St. Louis I enjoyed the pleasure of hearing Mr. Potts & Mr. Hatfield preach several times. The society of devoted Christians give me much more enjoyment than any other, in truth I believe I would prefer the company of worldly persons who are at open enmity with us than the society of your cold, indifferent, uninterested professors, and for this reason, while with the former I hope to be able to say a word that may do some good & am on the watch to have some impression favorable to the cause of religion but with the latter it is a constant series of disappointments, where we never look for any; we are anticipating every minute that they will say something that will benefit us, but we find no interest manifested on those subjects we had supposed they would be most alive to, and are mortified with them & ourselves. The Sunday after my return home it was announced by Mr. Hall that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper would be celebrated the last Sabbath of the year 1832 – and that he wished the Church to pray for the Blessing of God to descend upon us and revive his work. We had an interesting day with Mr. H from St. Louis preaching an excellent sermon which was calculated to make Christians examine their hearts. My heart responded to some of his tests, but to others I found no answer favorable to myself—

March 22nd

Alas! What shall I say; notwithstanding all my resolutions I have let months pass by and have taken no note of my progress either spiritually or temporally. Owing partly

to my having no retired place to write which is convenient and secluded from the observation of others but principally to indolence I have let day after day pass, still waiting for a more convenient reason, to continue my journal.

In a few days it will be a year since I connected myself with the Church. On the day after tomorrow our Methodist Brethren administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the Sabbath following it will be held in our own Church. In anticipation of those meetings, I have this day fasted and prayed for a blessing on them. I find myself much troubled with wandering thoughts and a sense of great disparity of heart when I pray. And when I undertake to fast food the temptation to break by resolution great at particular times arising from the cravings of my appetite. I have had frequent occasion to praise and Bless my Saviour for His loving kindness & tender mercy" – Notwithstanding my unworthiness I have had peace & joy almost ever since I made a public profession, in contemplating his Sovereign goodness, justice, truth & mercy. I have been most generally in a confiding frame of mind, willing to trust all to Him who is so wise & so good, & rejoicing at His unspeakable condescension in undertaking to be the friend of such poor worthless creatures as I. At times the burden of Sin has weighed so heavily that I have been absolutely miserable until I have taken hold of the precious promises made to those who trust a Saviour in his word.

23rd

Attended meeting to day at the Methodist Church heard two sermons. Had some freedom in prayer for the conversion of unbelievers. Spent an hour very pleasantly with the members of our Benevolent Society conversed on the subject of religion and proposed to the Society to do all in their power to have a Colonization Society formed in St. Charles and to contribute towards it by a yearly subscription as the donation of the Female Benevolent Society of St. Charles.

24th

Attended Sunday School at 9 o'clock. Heard a sermon at the Methodist Church at 11 & another at half past 2. prayer meeting at 4 o'clock. Enjoyed the religious exercises considerably. Could not pray for a revival with a fervor I could have wished. My husband who seldom goes to Church & when he does often finds fault went today and was much pleased with one of the sermons. Had some conversation with a member of

our Church who joined it on the day I did. Her mind she said was in a distressed state She thought she was not a Christian her faith was so weak indeed she doubted whether she had any which was accepted by God.

25.

Went to day to see the person mentioned above, had considerable conversation with her, & tried to convince her the cause of her bad feelings was owing to her not submitting herself entirely to the sovereignty of God. Proposed we should fast & pray on the same day of the benefit of each other. The Sacrament was not administered yesterday as was expected in the Methodist Church.

26th

Prayed for the individual above mentioned several times.

27th

Cannot feel as anxious as I desire to feel that our meeting may be blessed detected myself in mean prevarication and immediately asked forgiveness of Him who is ever present.

Went to see some neighbors and tried to prevail on them to go to Church, but they Alas! Seem to think this world's affairs should claim their attention exclusively.

28th

Set a part to day to fasting, reading & prayer (as much of it as I could consistently spend without neglecting my household duties) in conformity with the agreement made with my friend. I would that my heart was not so unfeeling. I do not realize as I ought the awful situation of those who have not given their hearts to God. Sabbath night.

March 30th

“Bless the Lord O my Soul.” Surely goodness & mercy have followed me all the days of my worthless life. Our protracted meeting has been intensely interesting. Much feeling has been manifested by Christians and prayer has been offered to the Lord with much importunity for his blessing. Some few came forward to the anxious seat last night and great solemnity prevailed both last night & the night before. I have to thank my Saviour for the privilege of again confessing him before the world by partaking of the Lord's Supper and for a Spirit of prayer. Some moments I have had of joy unspeakable in view of the love & goodness of God – at other moments it seemed as if my heart would break unless Sinners represented & acknowledged their obligations to such a perfect being who

had done so much for them at the moments I have been feeling dull and stupid. Like the disciples in the garden whom our Saviour set to watch & pray I would fall asleep until roused by his Divine voice calling upon me to “watch & pray,” when again he would grant me power to watch & pray for the im____. Among the number who came forward & joined the Church to day was my own servant woman. Who has been with me ever since I was married and had proved herself more faithful in her service to me than to her own Maker. I frequently urged upon her to attend meetings but she always manifested an unwillingness to go. I had not done my duty by her in not taking more pains to instruct her in the duties of religion but the last few days had prayed for her conversion but knew not the state of her mind until I heard her name called among the number who had resolved to connect themselves with the Church. When I looked up and saw her come forward before the congregation in answer to her name my heart leaped with joy gratitude & thankfulness to God for his mercy so entirely underserved on my part & I burst into tears and thanked Him for his goodness & asked his forgiveness for my neglect in not more strictly performing my duty to my servants. O! I need to be all the time repenting and all the time to feel humbled for my neglect of duty. Father of Mercies please enable me to love thee more, to serve thee better & better every hour of my life. If I know my own heart I do desire to adore so perfect so lovely a Being as is our God.

April 1st

Attended a Church meeting this morning at 10 o'clock. Had a very solemn meeting. The members most of them with tears covenanted to pray every evening at Sun down for a blessing upon the protracted meeting just over and the one to be held on the return of brother Hatfield about three weeks hence. I feel tho' we ought to pray without ceasing for our impenitent friends. And have been myself in the habit of uttering at that hour to ask a blessing. After the Church was dismissed I went to visit a poor woman to get her to send an orphan child to school. She appeared very grateful for the offer and much affected when I referred to the situation of beings & their responsibility to God let their lot in life be high or low. May the merciful God be her comforter. She consented to send the boy and on returning to town I made arrangements with the teacher to take him and our Female benevolent society would pay for his schooling.

2nd 3rd & 4th

Have been mostly occupied with household & other duties. Wrote two or three letters in two of which took occasion of saying something on the subject of religion. Read several tracts which I found very interesting especially one on the operations of the Holy Spirit. At times have very little freedom in prayer, at others feel as though I would never tire lying at the feet of Jesus. O! that I could always realize the instruction of thy Holy Spirit. My God & my Saviour.

6th

Attended Benevolent Society considerable feeling in prayer among the members. Went in the evening to set up with a sick neighbor, took some tracts with me. The people profess to believe in Universal Salvation, but found they paid no attention to the observance of the Sabbath & many other of our Savior's commands.

7th

Rained all day & had to remain until evening, had considerable conversation with the Physician who is inclined to be a Roman Catholic. Tried to subdue all acrimony in speaking of that church, but could not think it the right kind of charity not to give my opinion that the doctrines are not according to scripture – prayed that God would enlighten the minds of all deluded persons that they might seek to glorify him.

12th

Had several opportunities since Monday of speaking to some of my neighbors on the important subject of attending to the concerns of their souls, and gave a tract to a young man, who promised to read it. Fasted & prayed, but found not much freedom in prayer; The heart is so sinful it is forever taking to itself credit for the performance of duty – And it cannot be that my Heavenly father will smile upon such efforts and I must grieve for my sin & submit to His chastening –

13th

Conversed with several persons on the subject of religion & gave away several tracts – which I pray may be blessed to the persons who received them. Went to St. Charles to see Mr. Hall and advise him that if the building of the church (which has been some time in contemplation, and much differenced of opinion expressed about it) was to go on at all, a meeting must be called immediately to ascertain whether the subscribers would authorize the committee to proceed in expending the money as far as it would go towards

the erection of a Church. Wrote to one of the principle elders of the Church urging him to submit to the majority, and give up his opinion & unite with the rest inputting up the Church according to the first subscription = Felt grateful to my Heavenly parent for affording me the opportunities to attempt something towards forwarding Redeemers Cause.

14th

Sabbath day, Attended S. School at half past 8, have felt badly all day and could not refrain from weeping several times during the day, once in hearing the Bible red & another time on singing a hymn in which the dying of the impenitent is depicted. The subscribers of the Church were called upon to decide, and there was considerable jarring among them so that it appeared as if we should have to give up all hopes of succeeding in building a house for the Lord. Was very much excited at seeing that Christians were so unwilling to make sacrifices to honour the Lord. So many meetings had been called & the people were so weary of the matter, it was deemed a matter necessary to the accomplishment of any thing that the business should be attended to on the Sabbath. May the Lord overlook what his pure eyes may have seen amiss. It was at last decided by the majority that the Committee were authorized to build & to pledge the faith of the congregation to the amount of \$500, over & above the subscription if ____ to complete the building as far as the plan proposed – and here request any friend into whose hand this book may fall, that should I die before this church is completed, they will see that \$300 of any money properly belonging to me in my own right shall be given to ___ to complete said Church. Oh! That Christians could give more consistently with their professions. And they who talk about giving up all to Christ could be induced to act upon the principle – Father forgive us all, that we are so tied down by things of this world.

Monday 15th

Went to St. Charles to get the consent of a Dutch family to send their daughter to school in the place of an Orphan girl who had been sent by the female benevolent society and had removed to Illinois. Had some conversation in the evening with Christians which gave me pleasure.

16th

Have to lament the breaking out of an impatient & peevish Spirit in attempting to teach and find my temper tried. I pray the Lord to subdue my depraved heart & give me a meek quiet spirit with more faithfulness in the discharge of my duty.

April 16, 1833

Hearing my husband read the closing part of Henry Clay's speech in the Senate & being somewhat affected, it occurred to me & shall that man, his country's champion, the idol almost of his fellow citizens, become shortly the companion of devils in the regions of woe; Shall I doubt the word of God & shall I doubt my Saviour's declaration, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish"? No! I cannot doubt that until he is a Christian even Henry Clay must be lost forever. I resolved to make him a subject of prayer until I heard that he had become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give me strength Holy Father to keep the resolution – Thou art able to save to the uttermost.

17th

Visited a sick woman & read two tracts to her & left some with her.

18th

Visited some Christian friends, enquired of one of them respecting the truth of some reports about him calculated to inure the cause of religion found there was no ground for them & shall take pains to set the matters right in the eyes of those who believe them.

Friday 19th

Visited a family who are not pious, found no opportunity of speaking directly on the subject which I hope is nearest my heart. Left a tract on mantle piece. Visited a member of the Church who was sick, gave a person whom I found there & who I knew has been seriously disposed a tract on the Institution of the Lords Supper." Have been much troubled with wandering thoughts & coldness in prayer – Saturday as I was starting to attend the meeting of the Female Benevolent Society I was sent for to set up with a sick neighbor. It was a Universalistic family * wife was very ill – Could not introduce the subject of religion, but prayed that if they construe the Bible wrong (as I think they must) that their eyes may be opened to see the truth. Left two or three tracts in the Bible which belonged to the house.

Sunday 20th

Attended Sabbath School, few there, thoughts wandering. Mr. Hall at my request proposed the church should fast the next Thursday preceding our contemplated meeting. Oh Those Searcher of hearts thou knowest we ought to humble ourselves before – Our sins do continually rise up & we can & ought to cry with the prophet “Woe’s me for I am a man of unclean lips” –impure, impure.

24th

Have been to much engaged with things of this world since Monday, have been dull & lifeless in my secret prayers. Visited a sick member of the Church but had no opportunity of communicating any good or receiving any other instruction than which is to be derived from comparing my situation with hers. The Lord has helped me with many comforts & luxuries which she has not, and yet in all probability I am more ungrateful.

30th

Last night closed our protracted meeting. The Lord has seen it to ber good for us that we should be deeply disappointed with the result. We deserved to be humbled & we have been completely so in the eyes of the enemy who triumph in the idea that the exertions of Christians have failed. My feelings were wrought up to a great pitch by the hope that our friends would be converted in answer to our prayers and the two last nights of the meeting I sorrowed & wept to see no apparent desire on their part to come out on the side of the Lord but I will not refrain, the Lord’s will be done. We desire to trust him that when it is for the good of his Church he will answer our prayer in a manner to glorify our dear Saviour’s name. We hope much good has been sown which will yet bring forth fruit to eternal life. Have enjoyed the summons & communion with Christian friends very much & still feel with all my coldness & want of faith that it is the great desire of my heart to love & serve my Redeemer faithfully. Oh! Tongue cannot tell the depths of inequity He has rescued me from by bringing me out of natures darkness into the marvelous light of the gospel. I beseech thee Heavenly Father never leave me to myself, take thou the leadings of my mind & constrain me to obey thee continually.

May 4

Attended Bible Club, troubled with wandering thoughts and altho’ I have so much at this time to thank my Maker for I do not feel my heart warmed with love & gratitude to

Him. My sister whom I love very much arrived yesterday & brought with her two young ladies who are to remain under my care for a year. The responsibility of educating youth I feel to be very great & I pray that I may be enabled to perform my duty as one who is to give an account for all I have received.

5th

Sabbath day. Organized Sabbath School in which I assisted. Not much sensible comfort in spiritual things.

__th May

Heard today and yesterday afternoon a Sermon from a Miss Livermore, a woman who is on her way to the Indian tribes West of this State. She believes the Indians are the lost tribes of Israel and that she is sent to inform them of their approaching deliverance at the personal appearance of our Saviour upon Earth. Which appearance she holds will be in a very few years. When I heard her on Saturday I thought she preached the Gospel faithfully & with ability & that altho' she might be mistaken as regards her opinion about the millennium, as many good Christians have been so, I thought I might be benefited & that others might buy her preaching; but I have found no benefit whatever; on the contrary, my mind has been distracted by various opinions which I know it cannot be essential for me to believe even if true, and believing as I do the injunction of Scripture is not to suffer women to speak publicly in the Churches. I feel I have been wrong in spending the Sabbath so. I think sometimes I may err in not having sufficient charity for those who are of a different opinion from myself. I know we are all ignorant, self sufficient mortals, liable to misconstrue the truth of God's word & to judge others through the medium of our own prejudices, & that our only safety is to ask God to instruct & enlighten our minds. As this woman has made considerable noise in our Village & is popular with many Christians too, I here make a record of her appearance & predictions & together with my own feelings, so that the event when ascertained may prove whose impressions are to be relied on. She says among other things of the same nature that in a few years (within three I think) the "Beast" mentioned in Rev, 14(?) 19.20 was to arise with great power & persecute all true Christians, that the mark of the "beast" would be some likeness of a great autocrat on a medal or ribbon which it would be fashionable to wear & that all who did not wear it would be slain or persecuted. That so

soon as his reign is at its highest our Saviour would appear in person upon Earth with the ___ raised from the dead & execute judgment upon all his enemies. She holds likewise that those who believe as she does constitute the Church of Philadelphia, one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations. Which Church is not to be subject to great temptations during the reign of the “Beast” which the other six will be. She says too that those who deny the personal appearance of Jesus on Earth at the commencement of the Millennium deny his name (Emmanuel) and consequently they are doubtful Christians. Except when on these subjects she appears to preach the same doctrine as the Methodist brethren - & says a great many most excellent things – But I can feel no fellowship with her as a Christian.

19th & 20th

Yesterday heard a sermon from a Baptist brother, much troubled with coldness in worship. - & find I have occasion to say to day as applicable to myself “the heart is deceitful about all things and desperately wicked, who can know it.” My sins weigh heavily upon me I try to repent, but can not feel thou ___ of heart which I ought; O! what inconsistent beings we are. “Against thee have I offended & thee only O my God.” Do not forsake me, & give me up to follow the devices of my own wicked heart.

June 17th

Since writing the preceding I have been very much engaged with my school and in receiving the visits of two of my sisters who live at a distance. The state of my devotional feelings have been far from what they ought prayer has been frequently a task to me and I have felt at times as if I was given up to follow after wickedness. My journal has been neglected partly in consequence of this state of mind & partly because I have no retired place to write freely. I have however ___ tolerably active in some duties, I suppose mechanically, such as attending Sunday School – endeavoring to obtain subscriptions to the building of our Church ___ foundation of which is to be began to day after a great deal of trouble & ___ on the part of those who have had any thing to do with it. On Friday I attempted as a fast day, but my duties requiring me to be actively employed I could only keep that part of it which related to abstinence from food ___ some ____.

I heard a Sermon yesterday with which I was much pleased and can say Thanks to my God I can trust my Saviour in these times of Pestilence & peril that all that he does will be right. We have heard of the raging of the Cholera in the Towns around us. It is said there are a few cases in St. Charles and the death of one of our friends is reported to have taken place in Palmyra. I feel weeping for my unconverted friends, it seems to me if they were only humble followers of the Saviour I could give them up freely. I feel so much confidence in my Saviour that I think now I should be willing to have this world whenever he calls me away. Oh! I pray that I may be always willing to trust my all to one so good so kind so condescending as is our Blessed Redeemer.

July 2nd

Since making the foregoing entry I have been occasionally employed attending the sick and in one instance was with a catholic lady when she died as was supposedly by the Cholera. She was unconscious of her approaching resolution and I had no opportunity of ascertaining whether her religion would have given her any consolation in last moments. This is the second person I ever saw breathe their last. How different the departure of this Spirit from that of the first, my beloved friend Mrs. Lindsay; may my last hours be like hers.

Visited on Sunday last a poor woman with whom I had had some conversation last year on her neglect of religious duties. She was just recovering from a dangerous illness and appeared very much affected when I spoke to, & said she was resolved if she ever recovered she would live more to God than she knew there was no consolation to one of a bed of sickness but that arising from the idea of having served God faithfully when in health.

My father was very ill some days since. I stayed with him during one night and altho' I believed him in danger I had not the resolution to say to him all that I ought to have said on the subject of the necessity of preparing for death. Indeed I could not bring myself to feel how dreadful his condition must be if he died without repenting & faith. I expect there is no duty in which most Christians fail more lamentably in performing it than on that of warning the own most near _____ of the danger of neglecting the gospel offered of Salvation. I find myself hard hearted and unfeeling often on this subject and cannot bring myself to do what my _____ and the word of God tells me is my duty. We

set sin so much of selfishness notwithstanding our efforts to subdue it, we are not willing to risk offending our friends by telling them the truth. I pray that the Lord will constrain me to do my duty even tho' it should lose me every friend I have in this world. If my Saviour is my friend I can do without all others.

August 1st 1833

Within the last month the Cholera has raged in St. Charles and its neighborhood and taken off a number of our friends and some of the members of the Church. A great deal of suffering has been the consequence from the scarcity of nurses owing to every family fearing more or less of the _____ within itself and _____. Some of the first cases among my acquaintances I had put (?) in my power to render some, and probably felt a little lifted up in my own estimation that I was superior to such a degrading fear. And the Lord was pleased to put a stop to my self righteousness by laying me on a bed of sickness where I suffered much bodily pain for about ten days I learnt that I should remember I had nothing but what I had received & that I should always ____ to myself the interrogation of the Apostle "Then why shy doest thou glory as though thou hadst not received it." The Lord was exceedingly gracious to me in my afflictions, for he permitted me to feel perfectly resigned to his will in the prospect of a speedy death. I was considered dangerously ill by my physicians and I thought myself twice near death's door. Oh! I have reason to exclaim Bless the Lord O myself twice near death's door. Oh! I have reason to exclaim Bless the Lord O my soul – for his loving kindness & unbounded goodness. He gave me kind and attentive friends & skillful physicians and every comfort that I could desire on a sick bed when hundreds as deserving & more so ___ suffering for the want of many comforts. By the providence of Him who healeth above I was permitted to have the attendance of a very skillful physician who was on a visit for a few days in this neighborhood from Kentucky. He was extremely kind and attentive & I hope to remember him with gratitude. And if the Lord grant he will be remembered by me at the throne of Grace for a long time. I have resolved with the blessing of God to be more active and more devoted to the cause of my Redeemer when I am again permitted to go forth into the world. There is nothing worth living for in this world by to serve so good a Master & I pray fervently that I may be

permitted to love Him with supreme devotion & serve him continually with all my strength.

August 2nd

Wrote a letter to M.S. & endeavored to say something to rouse her to seek the Kingdom of God. Find myself much disposed to indolence & have resolved to write a number of letters during my convalescence in which I may have an opportunity to urge upon my correspond_ the _____ & repentance.

6th August

Spend the Sabbath the day before yesterday in reading the Bible & “Baxter’s Saint’s Rest.” Found Baxter’s work extremely interesting, tried to judge myself by his “marks” of those who will inherit the Saint’s rest. I can say that I fervently desire to love & serve my Lord & my God and that I would not give up the little assurance I have that I have been adopted in to the family of the righteous for all this world would live (?). O! Heavenly Father let me never wander from thee – Never forget thy loving kindness & tender Mercies – Wrote yesterday to Mrs. Lee of Louisiana & urged her not to neglect her soul’s salvation. To day I have been indolent & forgot that I was to write to my sister – how often do we neglect the most important duties & trifle away our precious time –

7th

Find the time somewhat wearisome for the want of active employment & exercise and they will not permit me to leave the house for fear of a relapse tho’ I think myself quite well enough to visit my sick neighbors. I might to be sure read more than I do - & pray oftener. Alas! We have need to pray unceasingly both for ourselves and friends. It seems as tho’ people were if possible more careless and forgetful of God since that scourge the Cholera has been amongst us than before. O’ Lord have mercy upon them & have mercy upon my poor misguided father! There is not help for us, but in Thee thou Blessed On! Pity us –

9th

Yesterday visited a neighbor for the first time since my illness. Had the privilege of speaking with some fellow Christians about the goodness of God. Wrote a letter to my brother bud did not say as much as I ought to have done about his eternal interests, but as the letter will probably fall into the hands of another person, I am in hopes the few

remarks may make some impression. I have sometimes been able to pray with fervor & in faith for my unconverted friends – and especially, since his departure for my late physician Dr. I will the Lord in mercy bless him with spiritual knowledge of the way of salvation and permit him no longer to abuse the great privileges thou hast granted him. O! that I could be yet more grateful my dying relatives & friends, but I am oftener stupid and cold to their Eternal interests.

10th

Visited some near neighbors with the determination of saying something to them about the necessity of repentance and faith. It was with great difficulty I could find an opportunity of getting in a world so anxious were they to avoid the subject. It is lamentable indeed to think how constantly we neglect the duty we owe to our friends of warning them of their danger. We believe and that if they die in their sins they must be lost & yet day after day we will suffer to ___ without so much as letting them know we consider them in danger. Wrote to my mother & sister Mrs. A.

12th

Yesterday was the Sabbath. Spent a pleasant day, found the “word” peculiarly interesting in the morning. Saw with wonder how plain the prophecies are – and how much we have to be grateful for, in the promises made to our sinful race – was enabled to pray earnestly for my friends. O! that I could be faithful in warning them of their danger. Wilt thou O Lord teach me my duty and give me strength & courage to perform it, in the way to produce the most good.

13th

Had the privilege of visiting some of my Christian friends this evening to whome I am much attached. Conversed nearly all night with Mrs. R. about the lost of so many of our Christian friends lately by the Cholera and about our own religious experience & feelings. I had for some time thought it my duty to tell her that she made herself liable to be spoken about by the enemies of religion by her attentions to Mr. H., riding with him alone & I had heard that the subject had been spoken of before my illness & told the member of our Church who informed me of it that it was her duty to have put Mrs. R. on her guard. But we both disliked the responsibility of telling her – She took my advice kindly & I felt satisfied that I had done my duty.

15th

Read with much interest two tracts – one in particular “The almost Christian” I thought extremely good and would be very appropriate to send to a friend of mine in Kentucky. I marked a few parts with a pencil and forwarded praying ____ to go with it.
Saturday August 17th 1833

To day I have had a trial of a peculiar nature to undergo. Heavenly Parent may I be able to endure all such tribulations with meekness and humility, without being induced by the fear or favor of my fellow worms of the? to swerve from the performance of any duty. I owe to thee or to my fellow creatures – I commenced this spring the little school I had last year consisting of seven or eight young girls – on the plan I have long thought necessary for the good of the rising generation. That is the women instead of being raised helpless & dependent beings should be taught a habit of industry & usefulness. Especially that they should be made to consider it a privilege and duty to wait upon themselves to be perfectly independent of the enervating effects that slavery has produced almost universally upon the character of the people of west and South. In carrying out this plan it appears some persons have made themselves busy in circulating stories about my domestic arrangements in which there is not truth and in other cases have exaggerated so as to produce an unfavorable impression on the minds of some of the parents of the children; and induced them to request a friend of mine to inform me that they wished me to alter my course with regard to some particulars.

After explaining to my friend wherein these reports were false, I told him I should not condescend to listen to the gossip of a neighborhood, that I endeavored to do my duty to those under my care from a sense of responsibility to a higher tribunal than any erected by the opinions of the world or a few intermeddling individuals. That if the parents of the children had not confidence in my integrity and desire to promote the best interests of the children I wished them to take them away. Yet my wicked heart makes this a severe and sore trial to me because the good opinion & praises of men is what the depraved heart is peculiarly pleased with. Had they taken hold of my religious arrangements and instruction to my pupils as a subject of abuse probably my spiritual pride might have sustained me – but as it comes I find it hard to bear with composure – Yet I see it is good for me to thus afflicted. How many times does my conduct displease my kind Heavenly

Father, but when His disapprobation is expressed how little feeling do I manifest when I should be mourning in the dust, it makes comparatively little impression on my obdurate heart – Which on the other hand the disapprobation of a few depraved & wicked beings like myself cause me anguish of mind, altho' I am conscious of having incurred it by the performance of my duty. Oh! the depths of wickedness in the heart of fallen man. What a dreadful state must they be in who in the world of fallen spirits are continually reproached by associates as wicked as they and from whom they cannot fly to any one who has the power or the will to relieve and comfort them. I have my dear Redeemer to flee to in all my trouble “Call upon me (says the Lord) in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee & thou shalt glorify me.”

August 19, 1833

Yesterday was the Sabbath as it is still considered by my friends imprudent for one to expose myself much, I was debarred from attending divine Worship. I feel extremely anxious to meet the friends of Zion once more in the public Ordinances. Found many promised in God's word very precious and was permitted to cast all my care upon Him who sustains the universe and to feel that if the Lord was with me I would be willing to become as the Apostles were “The filth of the world and the off scouring of all things”. Who would not give up the horrors of such a world as this for the approbation of Him who made it. This day is the anniversary of my marriage. I was married very young and have spent many years in folly, vanity, & sin. How much evil we can commit & how little good we can do is a subject of mournful reflection. Our evil is natural to us & we love it. The good we are indebted for it to the constraining influence of the Holy Spirit. O! that the Lord would “work in me to will if to do, of His own pleasure.”

I wrote a letter to the parents on the subject mentioned on Saturday as I may wish to refer to it at some future day I will copy it here – “Having reflected on the subject you consulted me about when last here “I sought the direction and blessing of “Him who rules in the affairs of Men”. I have concluded to write to you, that you may inform our friends of my determination – I will not at any time condescend to notice the false reports raised by talking children and servants, exaggerated & circulated by ill-natured and intermeddling persons. And I would have you understand that I now write solely for the following reasons. 1st because Major Phillips & Mr. Ridgely may not have understood

my plan and object in devoting my time to the education of the few individuals placed under my care and 2nd because, if they were not aware of them by any fault of mine it is but just, that they should receive the information, and be left free to act upon it. One of the great objects I had in view, indeed I may say the principal one, in undertaking such a task is that as far as my influence and example can go, it shall be exerted to do away that pernicious system of education, so common especially in slave countries, which turns upon the world thousands of my sex helpless dependent creatures, mere Doll babies dressed up ___ for exhibition decorated with external accomplishments, very pretty to hold in the Drawing room or Ball room but of no manner of use either to ourselves or their fellow creatures, when called upon to take their stations in society as wives, mothers & heads of families. Then they need to be practically & experimentally & what is worth more than all habitually acquainted with all the various duties of Domestic economy & arrangement. In proportion as they are so if, with this essential knowledge is combined a liberal education do they become the pride, the comfort, the stay of their relatives and friends, whereas on the other hand they become a burden to all with whom they are connected. Now to produce the results I propose so desirable in the education of girls it is absolutely necessary that I should have the entire control of their time and employments. That every one should be created precisely alike and obliged to conform to the same rules – That the young lady who when at home may have ten or twenty slaves at her heels should be on exactly the same footing as the one who is dependent upon her own exertions for a livelihood. And here I would observe, how often do we see, in the changes, the ups & downs of this transitory world these individuals changing places. The delicate girl who could scarcely bear the idea of helping herself to a drink of water is thrown at some period of her life upon this cold world an object of charity (and truly she is an object of scorn & rebuke for that very inability to help herself which has been produced by the injudicious course of education pursued. When the other by the same changes, rises in society and becomes still more capable of filling her station with honor in consequence of her practical & useful acquirements. But to return to the management of those under my care – It will likewise be seen that as I am in earnest about their being practically & habitually acquainted with domestic duties that I should defeat my own object if they merely had to follow a servant about the house and look on, While they

themselves were perfectly idle. I should likewise defeat my object if I suffered every one to interfere and say to my children “you should not do this or you ought not to do that, it is a shame for you to do what servants do or –“ I recognize no such right of intermeddling. If on due consideration with a full knowledge of my plan the parents think proper to place their children with us I expect them to have perfect confidence in my integrity & desire in all I do, to forward the best interests of their children. I should suppose it was hardly necessary for me to say, that their studies are pursued with diligence and attended to faithfully & that some of the parents have acknowledged the improvement of their children to have given them entire satisfaction and to have been more rapid than usual elsewhere. Such being the case and the children when here being contented & cheerful I find no good reason for altering my course. I expect there will always be found those who would properly appreciate the advantages of such a situation and whose good sense will lead them to rise superior to the prejudices which grow out of the overwhelming propensities of our people to encourage luxury, indolence & efficiency. If not; it will be their loss; as for myself my leisure hours can be employed I trust in some – other way for the benefit of my fellow creatures. I will not be accessory to the guild of bringing up immortal beings in the manner too many are brought up in our land” –

24th

was sent for to day to visit a sick neighbor and friend, and member of our church. She is perfectly resigned to die and rather anxious to go to her redeemer where sin shall trouble her no more. How little do we realize the awful responsibility of living in this world. Ho much have we to do; & yet how indolent we are & how many duties do we neglect. I find every night reason to ask pardon of my God for doing so little & for living so little like a Christian & I may say feeling so little too – and the next day it is the same thing. Oh! If only our sins of omission were marked against us what a mountain would they make. If we had to save ourselves by our own merit alas! What would become of us.

25th

Remained this day with my sick friend – heard that very few persons were at meeting in St. Charles to day – How awful it is when the judgments of God make no

impression upon the minds of a community. When they appear to be rather hardened those otherwise and some disposed openly to set at defiance the power of the God of Heaven. O' Lord have mercy upon this people & may my soul bless thee for all they mercies to me thine unworthy handmaid. But a short time since I was as one of them – may I remember “Who maketh thee (me) to differ & what have I that I have not received? Now if I have received it, why should I glory as if I had not received it? Now if I have received it, why should I glory as if I had not received it?”

27th

Attended as usual to my little school – received a letter stating that Major P. had declined sending back his daughter after reading the letter, a copy of which is on the foregoing page. That like most children was anxious to remain at home and to induce her parents to keep her there I suppose thought it necessary to make some complaint, in doing this I am sorry to say she made statements not altogether correct. I pray she may be renewed in the spirit of her mind and feel that it is not against me that she is sinning but against the Lord her God whose commandment is thou shall do unto others as we would they should do unto us.”

29th

Was sent for this morning to attend the funeral of Mrs. B. the lady I left on Monday morning. She died very composedly as it regards her _____, but suffered a great deal of bodily pain. I felt as though we ought not to regret her death. She has made a glorious exchange. Spent the day in assisting the family & returned home in the evening & regretted that even Jesus death ____ marred so slight an impression upon our feelings & that our hearts are often hardened under afflictions.

August 31st

Mr. Ridgely sent up his daughter to day & wrote to me that he entirely approved my course of education & that he was perfectly satisfied with the situation of his daughter here. I wish to be diligent in my duties as teacher – above all I would hope to do my duty as in the sight of my Maker. WE often seek the applause of the world in what we do. May this never be my governing motive in any thing!

2nd September

Yesterday had the pleasure of attending Church for the first time since my recovery. During the first prayer I was overwhelmed with a sense of ingratitude & hardness of heart. For I stood in the midst of many mourners who had lost their relatives at the time I lay on a bed of sickness - & I had received many temporal blessings and my dearest & nearest friends had been all spared, & had yet an opportunity to repent and turn to the Lord my God - while members had been called to mourn their departed friends. Oh! When will the time come when we can feel the realities of our faith & live according to our profession. Help me Dear Saviour to be more grateful to love thee more & more - To serve thee better & better

5th September

have been empty in my usual routine of duty attending to my pupils since the _____. I am enabled by the grace of God to find pleasure in meditation and prayer occasionally during the day - but I lament that I do not find more keenly the situation of the unconverted & am not able to ___ them on the arms of faith in the presence of my Saviour - ____ this day to visit St. Charles, may I not forget to watch for an opportunity to say something that will with the blessing of God _____ to reflect. And may I likewise be humble & meek in my _____ in all my intercourse with the world. Grant it Dear Lord for the sake of Him whose example I wish to follow. Heard this evening that my dear sister Rupella & her husband have joined the Church at Palmyra. Oh may I be thankful for all the goodness & mercy of God to me & mine. Three of my sisters thankful for all the goodness & mercy of God to me & mine. Three of my sisters are now members of the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Gamble, Mrs Geyer & Mrs. Anderson. The latter was sent when about fourteen to convent to school while there she was secretly baptized by a catholic priest. The wonderful care of our Heavenly Parent is visible in rescuing her from the dark superstitions of the Romish Church and bringing her into the marvelous light of the Gospel.

6th

I have to lament a disposition to neglect morning meditation and prayer. I excuse myself by finding so much that seems to need attention in my family concerns. But I know that attention to the one thing needful is of far more importance and I feel guilty whenever I neglect the duties of the closet on many accounts. In the first place such

neglect is highly criminal because it is the height of ingratitude to my Father in Heaven not to remember & return thanks to him for preserving me through the watches of the night and 2nd it is the only way in which I can be qualified to discharge the duties of the day with fidelity to God & my fellow creatures.

8th

To day heard a sermon from a very ignorant Methodist preacher but nevertheless I enjoyed the sermon very much. It was the gospel ___ laid down and explained experimentally. When the man first commenced I felt disposed to mirth at hearing his sad mistakes in grammar and in the use of English word but I checked myself with the reflection “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” and that notwithstanding my supposed superiority this poor ignorant man might be far more highly favored in the sight of our God than myself or any of our more learned brethren. In the afternoon went to visit a sick & distressed family, set up nearly all night with the sick. Poor Mrs. Shannon has been confined to her bed two months & is now delirious. Her family is large and helpless and her husband the Judge is so dissipated that his family must suffer frequently for the want of attention. Heard that Doc ___ drank hard. O’will the Lord have mercy upon him. There is nothing will save a man who has acquired this habit & make him fit either for this world or the world to come but the Sovereign grace of God constraining him.

9th

Attended as usual to my school. My brother-in-law arrived this evening, find him as usual disposed to cavil at religious people. I feel guilty that I do not think oftener what a dreadful situation he is in – An open enemy to the religion of Christ, he exercises a very pernicious influence over my sister & her children. She was a widow with two children, both she & them had dedicated themselves to the Lord.

We have in this a proof of the wisdom of injunction of scripture “Be not unequally yoked with unbelieved.” At the time she was married I did not think of these things as I do now. I now see that is is wrong for a professor of religion to marry one who is out of the Church.

16th

Since Monday visited Mrs. Shannon's family twice. She departed this life on Thursday 12th and has left a most distressed & helpless family. How little can we any of us do in this world to help each other or _____ the evil effects of sin. The bad conduct of one individual can involve a whole family in ruin and distress which the good o ___ of a dozen can not remedy. Yesterday attended our Sunday School – few were there and comparatively few attended to hear the Sermon. Since the Cholera has left us the Church has been in a state of stupor and those of the community who oppose Christianity are apparently more wicked & inveterate _____ the Sacrament feast approaches. _____ hoped that the followers of the redeemer would _____ from their lethargy – but many of our Church appears forgetful of their duties. I acknowledge my own wicked heart leads me to wish the Lord would do his own Work by the word of his power & leave us to take our case. I know we can do nothing to merit a blessing upon our friends or ourselves - & that they must be converted by the grace of God, but yet I know the Bible informs us that we have active duties to perform which if we neglect we cannot expect to be blessed. Oh our Father in Heaven pity the creatures and mark not our inequities against us, but for thine own Blessed names sake have mercy on this community. May the people see their sin. May they repent & mourn over their transgressions & turn to the Lord our God & love & serve Him.

23rd

We have had the privilege of attending the Lord's house since Friday & hearing several good sermons and engaging in public prayer with the elders of our Church. Yesterday partook of the Lord's Supper. My ingratitude & sins were heavy upon me yet I did not feel their enormity as sensibly as I ought to have felt them. Our meeting was rather badly attended and we all had need to humble ourselves in the dust before the Lord. Our brother given St. Louis Mr. Potts gave us some very interesting discourses. How sweet is communion with saints! If we have such pleasure conversing with poor frail human beings on the subject which revealed to us in the Bible how delightful it must have been to the apostles to listen to the conversation of him who knew no sin and in whom dwelt all knowledge & goodness. O! my Lord & Master dost know that it is the desire of my heart to be thine & wholly thine. To day we had a Church meeting to decide

who we should employ for our minister Mr. Halls year being nearly out. Nothing decisive was done. Some were anxious to settle a minister and others were willing to employ one by the year as we have done heretofore. Mr. Hall is young and inexperienced and the slanders that was abroad against him when he arrive has never been cleared up in any other way than by his irreproachable conduct since. We have great difficulty in procuring a Minister who will suit this place. May the Lord provide one who will be instrumental in doing much good.

29th

Have endeavored to be more particular in appropriating the morning hours to prayer and meditation reading. I rise generally before the sun, but find so many family affairs which beset me in the morning before school hours that I sometimes an involved in them before I know it an I am called to breakfast without having spent even one hours thought on my immortal interests. I always feel guilty during such a day and resolve that I will neglect if necessary my worldly duties rather than neglect my closest duties. We had a prayer meeting this morning in the neighborhood. Only two male members of the Church attended consequently we had but few prayers. There were a number of ladies & four young men not of the Church. Our house is more commodious for such meetings than any in the neighborhood but I cannot propose that the meetings shall be here because my husband does not approve of prayer meetings. The Lord will change his heart in his own good time. I am guilty that I do not feel more deeply the awful situation of my unconverted relatives & friends. How weak is our belief of these truths we find in the word of God. We should never rest night or day importuning for mercy to be extended to our unrighteous friends did we firmly believe the threatening denounced against the impenitent. O! how miserably inconsistent are we all.

30th

Heard a very good sermon from Mr. Hall yesterday. Went in the evening to see some members of the church that we might agree upon either calling Mr. H. as our pastor or agree on some person for a stated preacher. We had our church meeting to day and decided to authorize the _____ of the Church to write to the Board of Home Missions to select one for us ___ would probably suit this people.

Oct 1st

I have nothing of importance to record except that I have been more impatient in Spirit for several days than is consistent with a follower of the meek & lowly one. I think those who attempt the task of teaching ought to be the very best of Christians. It is difficult for even a Christian to do always what is right when exposed to constant irritation. The Lord only can cure us of these infirmities (sins, perhaps I should say) and I find when I have neglected prayer more than usual that I always suffer my evil dispositions to get the better of me.

Oct 2nd

Have had very little comfort in prayer & my fretfulness of disposition continues _____ me.

4th

Attended prayer meeting this evening and had a very pleasant time. Mr. Hall who is to leave on Tuesday lead the prayers and appeared very much affected in view of his separation from us. May the Lord grant him strength to do his duty. Visited a sick family, members of our Church found them dispirited.

7th

Yesterday heard a sermon from a Baptist preacher and saw the sacrament administered to the few Baptists sisters who are here. Felt what poor ignorant _____tils we all were – when even as Christians we cannot commune together – one or the other must be in error. There can be but one way laid down in the Bible but we are so ignorant and so much warped by prejudice we can not all arrive at the same conclusions – Set up with a sick girl last night = Tried during the night to read the Bible but became sleepy. Attended the meeting of the female Society, not enough there to transact business. We who were there resolved with the blessing of God to meet every Saturday in the form of a female prayer meeting – if we can find a house where we met to day the lady is a member of the Church, the husband who is not, objects to the meetings being held there. The whole Town seems to be given up to opposition to the Kingdom of Christ. _____ the prevalence of the Cholera – Attended the meeting for the monthly concert – few there – Came home and complain – when I should have remembered that it was my duty to bear patiently with the infirmities & neglect of others. If those who profess to the things of time have a powerful influence over them, the question may justly be asked wherein do

the Children of light differ from the children of darkness. The light of Christians should instruct them to put a proper estimation when every thing belonging to this world.

On Saturday 12th

Attended our Female prayer meeting. Still not numbers sufficient to transact the business of the Benevolent society. We conducted our prayer meeting in regular manner and covenanted that we would try to continue the prayer meeting faithfully.

13th

Attended Sunday School and heard a Methodist brother preach as there was no preaching in the afternoon – took the opportunity to visit a member of our church who has since the prevalence of the Cholera appeared to neglect all his religious duties and to have suffered his family to do the same – talked with him on the subject. He seemed considerably moved with my remarks and even shed tears but attempted to justify his desertion of his Redeemer's Cause by blaming the ministers of the Gospel. He promised before I left him that he would send his children to the Sunday School but did not say whether or not he or his family would attend Church. Visited the same evening a Methodist sister who was sick.

24th

Have had considerable company in the house and no comfort in secret prayer & meditation

8th November

have been sick for several days confined to my bed two days of the time and had some comfort reflecting upon the perfections of God. Wrote letters yesterday to two friends. In one to Louisiana gave an account of the plan I pursued with the pupils under my charge and requested that he would mention to some of his friends that might send their daughters here. I am anxious to have it in my power to educate some of the young ladies of the South that they may carry home some of those principles of the Christian religion which are so little known to the inhabitants of the Catholic districts of Louisiana. I believe I can live in this respect to the Glory of God – by being faithful in the education of those I inculcate and be the means of doing good in the world.

It is a very laborious and arduous task the one I have undertaken and I think if it was not that I am sustained by a desire to do good I should give it up. The Lord enable

one to serve Him by Serving his Creatures. Almost every moment of my time is occupied and I have no leisure for recreation and amusement & yet the only thing I blame myself for is for not doing more, & being more diligent in serving my God.

December 11th

It has now been more than a month since I have made an entry in this Book of my acts & feelings, and yet almost every day my conscience has accused me for the neglect. Many things have transpired within the month of which I should have taken note. The principal of which is the departure of Mr. Hall (the missionary who has been with us the year last) and the arrival of Mr. Nichols who has been invited by the Church to take Mr. Hall's place the ensuing year. As Mr. H. has been mentioned several times I will remark that during his stay here his conduct was sufficiently honorable and upright to exonerate him from the charge made against him on his arrival here, by the enemies of Christianity. But still some circumstances which took place not long before he left here involved him in the suspicion that his piety is not altogether as much above worldly influence as it should have been – And indeed what Christian's is? It is a lamentable fact that we do too often give the world cause to reproach us justly for living at variance with one _____.

The arrival of Mr. Nichols who takes Mr. Hall's place is a matter of considerable importance to us, as a church. We have been for some time without that evangelical preaching which is calculated to stir up the Christian to a sense of duty. As for myself I have been in such a dull cold state for some time past that I have performed my religious duties with a listlessness that has been a burden to me.

December 16th

I feel my sins heavy upon me but still can not feel that brokenness of heart for them which I know I ought. In view of my state while endeavoring to draw nigh unto my Saviour and my God I have come to the conclusion that I have not exercised self denial sufficiently and to put it in practice I have resolved to govern my appetite for food and as I am not appropriate consistently with my other duties a day exclusively to prayer & fasting I will deny myself meat a species of food. I am remarkable fond of and fast somewhere as Daniel did until Christmas Day the anniversary of all his mercies high upon my head that I am not more devoted to his service. What was I spared for when so many of my friends were taken from this _____ of action. Surely because the Lord had

yet some work for me to do. O'Heavenly parent let me not idle away the precious moments when I could be doing my Masters business in the pursuit or the vain joys this _____ can give.

18th

My resolutions are broken again and again with regard to keeping this journal & the only excuse I have is that I have so little time to myself or rather no place of retirement where I can be along – but still I might do better if I would use more self denial – and sit up later or rise earlier. I wish I could get into some regular habit but the early part of my life was spent in acquiring such irregular ones following my inclination and consulting my personal case so much that I cannot very easily break myself off from bad habits especially where the inclination goes against my resolutions. I am too fretful in my temper for these few days thus it is with our sinful hearts we amend one fault and straight way fall into another. O when shall we be perfect “as our Heavenly father is perfect.”

December 10th

When shall I feel the reality of those things which the world of God tells us are true & which my reason, judgment & all that is withering, pronounce to be true, but which “the world the flesh & the Devil” are continually tempting us to forget & to reject as not necessary to our Salvation. Mine is indeed a continual warfare against my own sinful heart and I am sometimes tempted to believe that I am still and unregenerated being. When the beloved disciple says “whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.” I would indeed despair since I know that my own heart I am not willingly a slave to sin, but do groan to be delivered from its bondage. O! Lord come and take unto thyself the kingdom of the earth & reign from the rivers unto the ends of the Earth”. Mr. N called to day with an agent to the Colonization Society who is to preach to night. I wish the cause success with all my heart.

20th

Went in to the village to hear the Sermon last night. It was on the subject of the salvation of Man – One, which ought always interest the heart of a Christian. But I do not know how it was but I felt was so light and frivolous I could scarce give the common attention, every trifle wandering of the thoughts on vain & foolish things of the world has

troubled me very much latterly in my devotions. I do not feel the awful responsibilities that rest upon me or the dreadful condition of my unconverted friends.

23rd December at Sunrise.

One the day before yesterday went to the female prayer meeting, but four of us there. We had the privilege of pouring out our feelings before God for ourselves & our friends. I thank the giver of every Good that I had some feeling during my prayer on Saturday but that also yesterday on the Sabbath I was blast with a _____ sense of importance of what I was engaged in for a few minutes at a time. I was still much troubled with the intrusion of worldly & wandering thoughts. The agent of the Colonization was enabled after delivering a eloquent address to form an Auxilary Society and collect considerable for this place. I am a Member of the St. Louis Auxilary Soc. But thought I would likewise join His for the sake of the example. It is a cause that I feel very much engaged in.

December 25th

Had intended to spend the day in devotional exercises but was requested by a young friend of mine, a member of our Church to assist in preparing for her wedding which took place on Christmas eve.

Jan 1st

Had resolved to spend the commencement of the year in fasting & prayer but several friends arriving on a visit I was again frustrated in my resolutions. Excessively cold weather coming on I have been deprived of the opportunity of making any notes of the passing moments in this book and now.

Jan 7.

I am seizing the time when all the Family have retired to rest to write a few lines. Yesterday being the Monthly concert for prayer & fasting for the conversion of the world I kept the day as an Original Sin for the St. Louis Observer a religious paper Edited by some of my friends. In the evening went to Town to see if there was prayer meeting found not appointment had been made in consequence of the excessive cold and the failure of the Minister to keep his appointment to preach on the preceding Sabbath.

Jan 8th

Have prayed less to day than usual – Having neglected retiring in the morning, I forgot until on my way to the Village about 12 o'clock that I had had the temerity to start out on horseback without so much as having asked God's blessing during the day. I was so fully of having my remarks sent to the Editor in time for his next paper I could think of little else. Even when employed usefully of how apt am I to leave the most important matters undone. The world has still such a hold on me that the least praise makes me forget that I am a poor dying perishing sinner full of sin & inequity. In the last paper a brother of the Church under the head of "Reminiscence of a Missionary sketched some of the _____. – as of my conversion, and spoke in a flattering way of some incidents of my life – I have been puffed up with vanity every since. Thou O! my Saviour who _____ all the secret sins of my heart grant me a deliverance from their bondage. I sometimes hate myself for not hating sin more.

Jan 10th

Yesterday received a visit from the Missionary who has charge of our congregation the present year. He told me he was anxious to have a visiting committee appointed to visit the members. I do not know that I was right but my advice was rather against his plan for this reason – that there were not enough members of the Church that could be got to act as a committee, who piety was of such a stamp as to command the respect in any eminent degree of the members of the church. I told Mr. N. there were two (mentioning their names_ who had the confidence of the Church and were highly appreciated for their religious character; but asked him where he would find two more who would not be looked on rather as intruders were they to visit officially. It is strange (we think so sometimes) tho' revelation explains the mystery, that so few Profession Christians live up to their profession and that so few them of intelligence out of a Community become converted. I have much to condemn in myself in my present state of feeling or rather want of feeling. Alas! When I look back and sum up my transgressions, my cold and formal prayers, my willful ingratitude to my Gracious Lord "I can hardly deem myself a Child". My only hope is that I have committed myself to the Lord and he is able & willing to fit me for himself & to do for me whatever is just & right. Grant O Lord I may over confide in they goodness & truth & tho' I doubt all else may I never doubt thee.

28th Jan.

It is two weeks tomorrow since I was called upon to bear a severe trial which had I not been permitted to see relief from on High I could illly have borne. My dear Mother in passing from a neighbours home in high spirits stepped upon a plank which rested on the ice and it giving away she was precipitated into a drain and injured very much. When we received the intelligence we were told she was almost dead. The shock nearly deprived me of reason for a few minutes for it seemed as if I had foreboding that some thing was to befall her and ____ now I feared realized. As I went in to see her my heart sent up a fervent and continual prayer that she might give herself to the Lord, that this affliction might be the means of bringing her to reflect upon her need of a Saviour. And this has been my unceasing petition ever since. I found her not so materially injured as was at first supposed. She will however it is _____ be confined to her bed a month or two. I have been with her almost every night for ten days. While sitting up I have written some for a religious paper with the hope it may do some good. On the 26th my birthday I endeavored to spend as much as I could of it in contemplation and prayer. Fasted all day and felt an humbling sense of my unworthiness. I have had many a struggle as what is my duty to my parent in her present affliction whether I ought to speak to her on the subject of religion or not. O! my Lord and my God direct thy weak and ignorant hand maid in the path of duty. Let me not shrink from any task which will do good to any of thy creatures in its performance. I desire to dedicate myself unto thee again & again. O Lord Pity me for I again and again wander from Thee and break my best resolutions. I have reason too to rejoice for some things, I have been gratified to see oppressions in a speech of Mr. G's to the Senate expressions which seem to intimate him to be almost a Christian. Our bosoms thrill with delight when we observe any change in those for whom our prayer shave ascended day after day to the Searcher of hearts. When the children of the Kingdom meet in their mansion prepared by the Blessed one will it not be a source of heavenly pleasure to recall past scenes and understand the interest we have had for the salvation of each other in this world of woe. Tho' se may never meet in this world in that to which we are hastening there will be no strangers among brethren of one family in the presence of their Father & in their Father's House. The past year of my life has I believe been more usefully employed taking it altogether than any previous one;

tho' I have left many, many things undone, that I ought to have done. And now at its close I would lift my heart unto Thee thou Holy One in praise & thanksgiving that Thou hast been merciful & gracious to me, full of tender compassion and loving kindness. O! that I could love thee with all my heart strength soul and body and serve thee faithfully throughout my whole existence, is thee fervent prayer of thy poor handmaiden.

Jan 29th 1834

Was with my Mother last night, she is recovering slowly but does not appear at all affected by her affliction. I have not as much feeling it appears to me as the brute or I should be more grateful to my Heavenly Parent for all His mercies. I have been rather indolent for a few days pleading to myself as a kind of excuse having been a good deal disturbed in my rest at nights. But is it more self indulgence than any thing else.

30th

I have suffered this day to go by with attending very languidly to my ordinary duties as teacher mistress of a family & I have been reading a book lately with which I am much pleased "Young Christian" by "Abbot" I think the work calculated to do much good. I left it at my Father's house with the hope that my Mother might take it up and be enough interested in it to read it through. It is lamentable how we who call ourselves Christians do loiter away the time occupied in the trifling things of time when there is so much for us to do. Day after day goes by and carries no record with it of any thing done for the sake alone of Him who said "if ye give a cup of cold water in my name verily ye shall have your reward" O! that we could do better.

10th Feb

Since my last entry several incidents have transpired which I ought to have recorded. My Mother _____ find that so far her affliction has not softened her heart and led her to see the hand of God. The Lord reigneth and he will order all things for his own Glory. I can trust him. Written several pieces for the Observer hope they may be the means of doing some good. It is I believe the desire of my heart to live to the glory of God, but my wicked heart constantly obtrudes self into every thing. I undertake. O my Father work in me to will and to do of thy own good pleasure. The extreme severity of colds that last month put a stop to our prayer meeting and Sabbath School. I resolved and pray that I may be able to keep my

resolution to lay by one tenth of all I receive to be appropriated to the cause of religion during this year 1834, and I supposed I had recorded my determination but on looking over the last few pages I have neglected to do so. In reference to what I ought to give I have been guided by the case of Abraham. It is a great blessing which we do not fully appreciate that the Bible contained direction for every situation in life and for every duty. One day last week a Jesuit Priest called here and begged Mr. S out of \$4 subject to build a nunnery. I did not see him for I feel that those priests are so far from doing their duty that I have too little charity for them. I know not how far we ought to let such feeling operate. We know however that we are not required to smooth over iniquities & not to feel any indignation at it. But upon the whole I think I was wrong in shunning the interview. We know not the heart and may sometimes let fall a word which the Spirit of God will impress deeply upon the mind of our associates. I believe firmly that the Jesuits and Romans are for the most part any thing but Christians but I hope I should be willing to make great sacrifices if by so doing they would open their eyes to see the truth.

16th

Went to town and stayed all night with my Mother. While sitting up wrote on the subject of slavery for the Observer. I pray that this stain on our national character may be removed.

17th

Commenced the day of yester dafter waiting on my Mother in reading the scriptures and meditation and prayed that I might be able to call in my wandering thoughts and fix them on Him who is alone worthy of all the attention a Universe could bestow. When I went to Church saw an aged minister enter pulpit who was a stranger. He rose to address us and we had a most excellent sermon which made by heart expand with love to the Dear Redeemer in the evening commenced an African School which with the blessing of God we hope to continue and make it the means of doing some good. Spent part of the afternoon with our Minister in company with the good old man who preached in the morning. He is from Washington City where he has been pastor to a Presbyterian Church. He is full of love to his 'Divine Master' (as he calls him) and his conversation is calculated to do much good I think.

18th

A friend spend the day with us. It is a great treat to meet with a fellow Christian it is like meeting with a congenial soul a blessing that the worldly minded are ever romantic enough to seek for but never find. There is no congeniality of mind that binds _____ together among the wicked. The good old Mr. Brackenrige preaches this evening and most of the family have gone to hear him. Oh! That he may be the means of doing much good here.

24th April

During the last week I have enjoyed the society of several Christian friends. I particularly enjoyed a visit to my old friend Father Lindsay the husband of my dear Sister Margaret Lindsay now a saint in heaven. I spent a night there on a visit to his niece who lives with him. After much persuasion the good old man agreed to let some of his writings be made public. He has studied the prophecies for many years and has collected many observations which no doubt would benefit the community. Yesterday attended the Sabbath School for white Children in the morning heard two good sermons and attended African School in the evening, this school has more than as an any again scholars as the Sunday before.

The black people appear very much interested. The simple prayer of these poor people at the closing of the school is really affecting. I have felt happier after closing this school of an evening than I have done for a long time in the performance of any single duty. I trust we shall be able to persevere and be instrumental of doing them soon good. Oh my Lord and my God thou seest how much of pride there is in my heart. It is indeed a "cage of unclean birds" O cleanse it' – and grant me thy blessing.

26th

Attended a Temperance meeting had the pleasure of seeing Mr. L take part in the good work and of hearing him advocate the cause of Temperance with ability. Heard a sermon in the evening by Mr. Brakensize. Felt edified and comforted by his views of the plan of salvation. But I feel a load of guilt resting upon me continually because I dnot feel a more lively interest for the Spiritual welfare of my friends. I do not make sufficient exertions to lead them to seek the Saviour. I ask too often as though I did not believe what I profess.

28th

Spent the day as usual in teaching school and what leisure I had in writing off some calculations of a friend for ascertaining the true time of our Lord's death or for the "Ob." Attended a prayer meeting not very much interest after my return in reading Abbots Young Christian to my girls & explaining the authors remarks. Received a letter from my beloved sister Rupella may the Lord shine down his choicest blessings upon her & hers . My mother is recovering quite fast but no impression appears to rest on her mind or her Heavenly Protector. Oh! My Saviour have mercy upon my Mother. O' that she would see her ingratitude and sin in thus neglecting thee & thy commands. O that she would repent and turn to the Lord.

3rd March

Yesterday was a Sabbath of rich enjoyment and __cisitude of feelings. While at the Sabbath School in the morning was present with a letter from a friend in St. Louis stating that my dear brother was considered as having undergone a changed of heart & has given himself to God. At first for a minute I felt as if I knew not whether to be glad or not, the first idea that occurred was, this will convey another pang to her bosom but there was soon a re_____ of feeling and I lifted my heart to God in praise & thanksgiving for his Goodness & mercy. My prayers were answered in the war that the Lord knew to be st. O surely goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life. Heard a most reviving sermon from Mr. Spaulding again to the Presbyterian Education Society. Had a pleasant time in the afternoon both in listening to the sermon and in attending the Sabbath School for Slaves. To day have been as usual engaged in my little school – have not been as patient as I should have been. Write a letter to Mr. Lovejoy, the Editor of the "Observer" on the proper manner as I supposed of conducting towards the Jesuits, Papists & Infidels, who are declared to be united in the latter days against the Children of God, to stop the progress of the Redeemer's cause.

21st March

Scarcely a day has passed for two weeks in which I have not felt that I was neglecting a duty in neglecting my journal. Truly I must not make any more resolutions on the subject. I often neglect this duty as well as many others, by putting it off to a more convenient reason. I had _____ of interest which I wished to record, but I have let the moments pass by when the recollections of passing events was fresh in my memory and

now they have crowd on my mind in such confusion that I can not select any thing with any precision. By the request of my Mother I went to St. Louis to see a sick sister. I found my sister recovering and the rest of my friends in good. Healthy. Spent two delightful evening in the company of some of my Christian friends. Communion with the Children of God is indeed delightful and the numerous blessings which flow to us from this service should fill our hearts with the deepest gratitude to our Heavenly Parent. On my way down to ST. L. I had an opportunity of saying something to a gentleman who accompanied me & who is nominally a Roman C. How little I improved the opportunity thus given me to urge the truth up ____ I said something but not with that zeal and _____ which every Christian ought to express their feelings in the view of the Great Atonement made for fallen man. Alas! The sins of one man are heavy upon me. It is now two years since I have had a hope that I might with time call myself by the noble title of Christian. And the little improvement I have made of the great and condescending kindness of my Blessed Master is a source of regret and I wish I could feel it as great a sin as it really is. The day after tomorrow is our Communion season & part of this day I have had to myself to read & commune with my God. I have abstained from the use of meat this week and have fasted to day – not because I think there is any merit in fasting, but because I wish to exercise a self dying spirit and because the good men of the Bible practiced it & therefore it must have been productive of some food. I feel my affections cold & dead, no life or heart for fervent prayer. Oh! That the Lord would rouse me from this stupor and give one a heart & voice to praise his goodness. Surely I am vile when all these continued blessings are descending upon me & mine day after day that I can not love my benefactor more & more each day of my life. My Redeemer I am thine, I desire to be thine and as I again approach that table at which I am particularly enjoined thy dying love may I be enabled to make a consecration of my all to thee with a renewed zeal for thy Honor & Glory. In truth though often straining & only kept by thy powerful hand from ruining myself and deserting thee, yet thou knowest O'Lord the desire of my heart is to love thee supremely with a perfect love & perfect obedience.

24th

Monday Morning – Bless & praise the Lord O my Soul for his Mercy & goodness – I have been again permitted to sit down at the Lord's table and unworthy and vile as I

have been & am my soul has been refreshed and I have been able to give my all into the hands of my Saviour with a perfect resignation to his will. It is hard to be resigned when we see sinners such as we of this Earth are casting dishonor on the Person of our Holy God. It is hard to see the efforts of God's people to inducement to accept of Salvation scoffed at and ridiculed and it is hard to bear the disappointment when our expectations are raised high & we hope the spirit of the Living God is striving with man to bring them to repentance to see the pride of heart of a minister get the better of his humility - & induce him to say something calculated to check the rising tear or repentance in his hearers – But O! Lord we will trust thee. Thou wilt over rule all things for thine own glory & bring light out of darkness. I was visited this morning by three ministers. They did not remain long. My husband was irritated by the course pursued last night in calling sinners to the _____ seat and did not meet them very cordially. When I read a chapter this morning in my school & prayed there was great feeling manifested by my pupils & I was blessed with a heart to pray currently for them & myself. Oh! That the dedication of myself and them to the Lord made this morning might be acceptable to the Lord. Was greatly disappointed that there was no preaching to night and I begin already to feel dull & stupid. O Lord preserve me from sin of every description.

25th March

It is two years today since I publicly made a profession of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have not had any reason yet to regret it. I have had more real peace of mind since than I ever had at any former period of my life – And tho I have made so little progress in Christian grace I would not give up the little hope I have that I am a Child of God's for the procession of a thousand worlds. My routine of duties are about the same every day. I sometimes _____ indolent and listless in the performance of them, and to day have been more patient than I ought to have been – Oh! How badly should I perform my duties of the Lord's restraining grace did not keep, guide & protect me from coming cold in his sight.

26th March

After spending the fore part of the day in my school sent in the afternoon to spend it with the minister & his wife who are missionaries for this place. Mr. N. mentioned to me that some of the members had spoken to him about my suffering my school girls to

dance by the Piano & they did not see any difference between going to balls and dancing at home. I told Mr. N. that I saw a very great difference – That during the weather in the winter when the girls could not get out to take exercise I had suffered them to dance by themselves to the Piano about an half of an hour in the evening after they had done their lessons for exercise but that I surely did not wish to do any thing which would be objectionable to any of my brethren or sisters in the Church & by the grace of God I may say with the Apostle, “I will not eat meat so long as I live if it causes my brother to offend” – I told Mr. N. likewise that I should just as soon have received the rebuke from those who told him as from himself. That I had no intention of doing any thing displeasing to God. – I did not ask him who they were, nor do I wish to know. Surely it is my earnest prayer that all God’s people shall act worthy of their high calling & I humbly hoped I was included in the number of His people. Went after candle light to the weekly lecture & was sent for to stay with my dear Mother who was ill from the effects of a cold – remained all night with her and wrote some little on the subject of worshipping the “Virgin Mary”.

27th March

Spent the morning & day principally with my scholars find them still reflecting seriously on the important things which make for their peace.

28th

Some Dutch people came here to day & several visitors from Town. Gave the Dutch some tracts and engaged them to distribute more among their people as soon as I could procure them.

Went over to visit a sick neighbor and then in company with several others attended the prayer meeting. Had some freedom in prayer especially for several wild young men who were at the meeting. But still do not feel the importance of the salvation of the soul as I ought to. On our return home found Mr. Lovejoy from St. Louis spent an hour or two in pleasant conversation and after social prayer retired to bed at peace with God & man.

29th

Spent the principal part of the day in conversation and singing. When praying at night with my girls and another young lady who was here on a visit I felt for them more

than usual. It is a blessing for which we should be grateful to the giver of all Good, when we can know our duty and have the heart to perform it.

30th

Sabbath morning had some conversation with E.D. on the one thing needful. Went to the Sunday School. Gave instruction to my class on the duties which were brought up by a consideration of the lesson. Had the pleasure of hearing Mr. L. preach morning and evening. Attended the African school for the evening and gave the whole school advice & exhorted them to repent explaining to them the meaning of repentance. They were very much disposed to give attention to what was said. At night heard another sermon felt in the afternoon & during the evening dissatisfied with myself and sinful in the sight of God, vain thoughts would arise and pride & self righteousness would get the mastery. Had some conversations with Martha B. and explained to her what surrendering her heart to God meant. Mr. L. who came home with us from meeting introduced the subject of the _____ of persons upon the conduct of those around them in leading them to sin. My husband assented to the truth and acknowledged the importance of his not delaying to search the scriptures. He told Mr. L & myself that on the subject of interfering with those who were determined to serve God he was superstitious. That several circumstances had transpired which were of a nature to convince him that the hand of God was in it, one which he had never related to any mortal he told to Mr. L & myself. Which was that at the time of Mrs. Lindsay's death while lying by my side on the bed I being asleep he saw Mrs. L. appear & lean over me extending her arms to me and whisper something in my ear and then vanish. That this scene made such an impression on his mind that when I not long afterwards resolved to come forward and make a public profession it did not surprise him & his objections which he might have had previous to my taking such a _____ were _____ less. I could not see the faithfulness of the blessed one to all trust him. Mr. L. knew nothing of the change that had taken place in my mind, he had been accustomed to hold inside principals & told me boldly advocate them and tho' in this _____ I had changed sometime before yet he did not know the extent of my convictions. That I had sinned against light & truth and I _____ when I _____ the subject of joining the Church that he would oppose it strongly and tell me that I would know my duty as well out of the Church as in it.

Oh! How shall I ever feel or express the wonderful goodness of the Lord – I was guilty, or how guilty in the sight of the Lord yet he had mercy and rescued me from the pit of destruction. Alas! What secrets will the judgment day reveal. It would appear that there is a desperate struggle by the powers of darkness made to keep a lost soul who has served them zealously – Alas! Such a soul was mine – The Lord had given me talents but I had perverted to fashionable, & intelligent Infidels of the day, admired & caressed by numbers, reading the productions of Byron & other fascinating writers of the same stamp. All principles were lost, right & wrong were mere terms to _____ what was agreeable or disagreeable to the wicked and depraved heart or what the selfishness of the individual lead him to believe was his chief happiness. Among the fascinating young men of the day was one who had fixed his affections for some time on me without my being aware that he had any other friendship & good will. Time & opportunity were however afford and he had gone so far as to make known to me his passion, a thing he would never have dared to have done, had not my own wicked & infidel principles encouraged him. About two years before the time of the appearance of my beloved Christian friend in the manner related above, this young man died suddenly, and a day or two before he died Mr. S. had alarmed me & the family by a dreadful outcry in the night of a most unearthly noise – he did not at the time inform us of the cause – A year or more afterwards he told us that he had seen the young man above referred to standing by the bed & then departing to the world of Spirits & that the cry was intended to call him back. My guilty conscience told for whom this lost Spirit had come. He was cut off in the bloom of life suddenly, in the midst of his sins, which in all probability were unrepented of, his death made a great and abiding impression on my mind. I now see the loving kindness of Him who said, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me” – And what am I , or what are any of my father’s house that Thou shouldest “have had mercy on me.” The astonishing condescension of the Saviour – Let me never depart from thee Blessed one _____ even in thought.

31st March 1834

Mr. L. left us after breakfast after making some remarks to my girls with which they were deeply affected. While reading & explaining to them a chapter in the New Testament, they were interested & affected one of my scholars soon after came in who

goes home every Friday evening. She is rather gay & disposed to be wild, after sitting awhile she related a dream she had the night before. She said that she thought that herself & Martha Rupert one of the girls to whom she is much attached & myself were on a large block of ice in the middle of the river. The ice was cracking and giving away in every direction – That she was in great alarm as were the people also who were on the shore watching us that I kneeled down & prayer with her & Martha that I observed to the m never fear the breaking of the ice you & Martha & I will soon be in Heaven. When she had related her dream, I observed there may be truth in one sense in your dream – All are standing on as dangerous a situation as you supposed yourself to be, who had not bade their peace with _____. That in truth we knew not when the ice would break with us & we be into another world – At dinner time after we were through with the morning lesson before I observed Eliza went out of the School room and when I was called to dinner she had evidently been weeping considerably. After dinner I climbed upstairs to go to my private devotions and in the entry I found Eliza bitterly and Martha not far from her – I called them in & closed the door so we should not be interrupted. I then asked Eliza what distressed her she said she thought that her dream had given rise to she had been told that Martha was asking the Saviour & she could bear the idea of being separated from her eternally. I asked her if she had ever felt herself a sinner in the sigh of God. She answered yes she had done so some time ago & that she felt she was one now. After pointing out to her merits of Saviour & his willingness to receive all that come to Him, we kneeled down together & I prayed for her & Martha & myself. When I stopped Martha threw her arms around my neck and told me she rejoices in God her Saviour. That she believed she had made an unreserved surrender of herself to her Dear Redeemer & was accepted. In the evening of yesterday, she told me that he had never felt so happy in her life and this world appeared as nothing to her. That on last Sabbath she had longed to be with us at the Lord's table. Eliza & two others are under conviction I believe and O that I could pray more fervently for them. Trust the Lord O! my Soul. No one ever trusted him and was disappointed. I feel angry with my cold heart that in the midst of all these mercies my heart is so rebellious that I do not rejoice with joy unspeakable – On Thursday that ____ went in the evening to hear old Mr. Brakenrige.

The old man was taken ill in the midst of his sermon and obliged to stop. My Mother's house being nearest I obtained her permission that he should be taken there. I remained with the old man all night and in the morning he having recovered I came out home. As Mr. B. speaks very freely and his age commands respect I hope he may say something which will make an impression the mind of my dear mother. Spent the day Saturday at Mr. Lindsay's in company with Mr. B. Three of my girls went over with me as I hoped they would & he benefited by the conversation. Sabbath day was an interesting day to me heard two good sermons & had an opportunity of giving away some tracts to a woman who seldom comes to meeting. Found the exercises of the African School very interesting. The school is increasing fast. Some however came & returned their books and said they were forbid to attend by their Masters. One woman appeared to be grieved about it very much. The other two had been permitted to attend the school until a man who has been opposing every good in the Village for a long time too the trouble to make to their master many misrepresentations of the school. We told the poor girls to pray for their masters and be obedience & all would be well with them if they served God.

Monday

Reaped part of the day in attending to company, the garden & my school. Wrote for the O' on the subject of the sin of worshipping the V. Mary "as is done by the Roman Church. The Lord grant that I may be made the humble instrument of opening the eyes of some of these poor deluded people, who are so led a stray to designing priests – how many toil hard to propagate error and put to shame by their diligence in serving the power of darkness, those who are engaged in a holy cause. I feel myself ungrateful in a culpable degree that I do not feel is sensible the goodness of God who has given me so many many privileges and has brought me to a knowledge of the truth as it is revealed in his holy word.

April 24th

Since my last entry I have been called to watch with the sick and witness the death of a young man in the bloom of life. He had put off serving the Lord because he thought himself too young to give up the pleasures of the world on his death bed he felt his quilt and after a good deal of mental suffering on that account he became resigned to

the will of God and hoped in his death that he might be saved but he had none of those
yous which are permitted to some of those whose lives have been spent in the service of
the Lord. I have likewise spent some time nursing and watching with a young lady of our
acquaintance who is much beloved in the community and who has had some serious
moments but from some cause she has never openly made a profession – She did not
express any opinion on the subject of religion or appear to be aware she was in danger of
dying. Her mother requested me to inform her of her situation. When I asked her if God
should now call her to himself would she be willing to go “She answered “I don’t know”
– after pointing her to the Saviour & asking her if she knew the way of Salvation, she
said yes” – I then asked her if she had ever given her heart to God – She replied “I have
tried” –after endeavoring to impress upon her mind the importance of fixing her thoughts
upon God & praying continually I left her. The information that her friends considered
her dangerous did not seem to alarm her at all or agitated her mind in the least. I have
been enabled to distribute several Dutch, French, & English tracts this week or two past.
April 28th

Received a letter from a lady who has commenced a Sunday School about thirty
miles from here. She asks for books and she has ____ 20 to 30 scholars every Sunday. I
have concluded to purchase a few for her and write to her the method weadopt in our
school to raise a fund by subscription to purchase books. On Sunday night watched with
a young lady who came up on a visit to her friends and was taken sick the day after she
arrived. She was dying yesterday evening apparently but breathed her ____ at about 12
o’clock today. She is another instance of the danger of putting off serving the Lord. She
expressed to a young friend while yet in her senses that she had neglected the warnings
she had received and treated with contempt ____ prayers of a pious sister and other
friends. She left no evidence that can be any consolation to her friends. She asked her
mother to pray for her one of the conversation above mentioned and her friends seize
upon this to comfort them. But alas! It is true that a bed of sickness is not a time to
repent. It should never be left to the hour of death. We know he calls upon us to serve
him without delay – I have not enjoyed my praying hours as much as at other times. I am
cold and my wandering thoughts trouble me- often when we are most employed in active
duties we are more barren _____ spiritual comforts – we are so sinful by nature it seems

we can not do more than one thing right at a time – indeed I know I should do nothing right if left to myself ‘By the grace of God I am what I am’ His be the Glory.

19th May

I have been hurried and perplexed by a great variety of occupations and seem which have occurred lately. What with visitors and numberless other interruptions I have neglected meditation and prayer more than formerly.

July 25th

Alas how is every duty neglected and how far we wander from God when we suffer either the cares or pleasures of this world to draw off the affections from God. We are apt only to fear the influence of pleasure but I have found the cares of this world have caused me to neglect closet duties and especially the writing in this book as I should have done – The scenes I have lapsed through in the last two months have been various and trying in the extreme.

I have been sustained and upheld by the goodness of God his Mercy ever undeserved on my part has been peculiarly great when I have been wandering far from Him – The first trial I have had to encounter came in the form of the resentment of the Father of Martha Russell. In consequence of his aversion to her becoming religious principally (though there were other causes) he came and took her home and expressed a great deal of anger that his daughter should have been converted by religious people. He said that it was strange children could not be sent any where to school now a days but their religious opinions should be meddled with. I told him that as to advising his daughter to join any particular church or to hold any sectarian doctrines I had never done it – but as to the great truths of the Christian religion which I consider essential to salvation I should always consider it my duty to impress upon the minds of my pupils their importance and would not receive any into my house to whom I could not speak freely on such an important subject. He went away in a great rage – Poor Martha, may the Lord preserve her amidst the temptations and trials she will meet with. On the 5th July I was called to witness the death of my father. He left some evidence of having made his peace with God which is a consolation to me that I am thankful to my heavenly Father for giving. His life was for many years one of misery here and if he has gone as I trust to his redeemer he has made a happy exchange. I have fasted three days previous to two

Sacramental occasions one I partook with the Methodist brethren and the other in our own association. Brother Potts from St. Louis being here I was much refreshed by his remarks sermons or – On Monday last I stayed a night & part of a day with Miss Fulton who was dangerously ill – on Wednesday night I was sent for and found her dying. She is a considerable loss to our community having been one of the most active & liberal members of our Church in St. Charles – yet she died without expressing either hope or fear – in the commencement of her disease she desponded very much and has during the whole of her Christian course been fearful she was not a Christian. Mr. Potts conversed with her and says he thinks it was owing to early impressions that she not satisfied with the evidences she had. She was looking for some supernatural evidence which it was not likely the Lord would grant her in this world – But she has now entered upon the reality of those things which to us here are eternal and _____.

July 28th, 1834

Had the pleasure yesterday of hearing two excellent sermons – Messrs Kingsberry & Byington Missionaries who have been among the Choctaws for a number of years and were on a visiting tour to the different tribes of the Missouri stopped here over the Sabbath and called at our house this morning. I had some interesting conversation with them. I do hope that the efforts of the Missionaries may be successful to preserve the remnant of at least some of those powerful tribes who once inhabited this vast Country. There is no hope from any other source – If they become Christianized they will adopt the habits of civilized life and thus provide for themselves the means of subsistence. Game is at this time so scarce that numbers of Indians who subsist by hunting perish every year from hunger. I was sent for to see a sick woman and visited her this evening. She has been a member in Kentucky of the Baptist & Methodist Church but since her removal to this place has neglected the ordinances of the Lord's house – Since her sickness a number of her neighbors have been in & out who are Roman Catholic and have as she says troubled her on the subject of her belief. The priest visited her and wished her to be Baptized by him, telling her the Baptism which she had received was only John's Baptism. She resisted his arguments and appears to be satisfied that her Saviour alone can help her. I gave her some advice on the necessity of serving her Redeemer better than she had done if she should recover. Told her that if she did her

duty in this respect & went to preaching often it would probably induce her husband to go and might be the means of his conversion O I asked her if she were not to die had she any fears of the consequences she said no – and intimated in the course of our conversation her firm belief that the Lord was able and willing to save her.

She was in a little cabin scarcely large enough to hold a bed and cradle & a few benches and appeared to be destitute of many comforts which sick people usually require – When I reflect that at the same time last year I lay on a sick bed surrounded with every thing to make me comfortable I can not but say that my ingratitude to the giver of all good is of the blackest dye – I am continually receiving unmerited mercies from His beneficate hand and am as often making no return of any kind for all His goodness – Grant me O Lord a purer heart O leave me not to myself, but make me what will be pleasing in thy sigh –

29th

Went this evening to see some sick neighbors. How backward do I find myself in saying any thing to those around me on the necessity of serving God any excuse to myself suffices to avoid the subject. O when shall it be my meat & drink to do the will of my Saviour –

30th July

I have done little to day to prove that I am not seeking altogether the things of this world. I frequently find myself giving way to irritability of temper which I ought to subdue. My trials, though of a petty nature, frequently, yet they are the more calculated to excite impatience – Went in to see my Mother this evening – O’ that he afflictions would bring her to a Saviour.

31st

Two of my scholars started home to day. My vacation commences on the morrow have been too fond of telling my own acts. I have determined over and over again to try to be more like my Saviour – Who directed us not let our left hand know what our right hand doeth – If we were more cautious not to boast of our actions we would do much more good – But what are resolutions made in our own strength, they are as easily turned as the idle wind – I am nothing & do nothing only as the Lord in his mercy constrains me.

1st August

-have spent most of the day in domestic work, read a piece in a N Paper which animadvert upon some writing in a Political paper who has been attacking individuals for helping Sunday Schools for Slaves. Our African School has succeeded her in some respects better than we expected – we who are engaged in it, think it our duty to do something to enlighten the minds of those poor benighted creatures on their souls Salvation – We think if the bible should be sent all over the world to heathen nations & is entitled as the word of God to the attention of all His rational Creatures it would be strange inconsistency to say our slaves shall not be taught to read it or shall not know its contents. I believe it to be peculiarly the duty of every Christian head of a family to instruct his servants in the Bible himself or else place them in the way of being instructed – The Lord grant that who have undertaken to teach the few slaves who attend the S.S. of St. Charles may do our duty faithfully, and never be deterred by any persecution from serving our God according to the dictates of our conscience. Miss Fulton, who has gone to her long home, was one of the teachers in this School. She will not render her account at the judgment bar of God less willing for having endeavored to lead some poor ignorant Negro to a Saviour – What is the opinion of this world to her now. It is the approbation of her God she sought/seeks and “God seeth not as man seeth-“

2nd August

-wrote in the morning “Conversation between A Missionary & Chinese Mandarin” for the “Observer” took it with me to St. Charles where I went to send a part of the day with my Mother and sent it to P.O. – visited a sick neighbor in town and said a few words to her on the subject which ought to be always present in every conversation, but which our own sinful hearts keep at a distance – I mean the goodness of God & our responsibility to him – Purchases some German & French tracts for distribution.

4th Monday Morning

-Yesterday being the Sabbath attended the school in the morning for children and gave away some of my tracts. The Lord grant they may be the means of opening the eyes of some of the poor deluded Dutch who are under the influence of the Roman priest here – had prayer meeting in the forenoon. Mr. Hurley preached in the afternoon. My Mother attended for the first time since she was hurt – O my heart was full when she came in & I prayed that she might be benefited by what she should hear – felt a disposition to pray for

the young men of St. Charles – Oh! That the Lord would bare his mighty arm in the midst of us and make known his salvation – Endeavored in the African School to impress upon the minds of the scholars that Jesus has a friend ever present. Went out just before night to see sick family in the country. Fasted this day & was not stupid and sleepy as I had been the Sunday before – I am a poor weak creature undeserving of being heard, but the Lord is condescending and has promised to hear those who cry unto him and I have no right to doubt his promise. He will do all things well and shall result to his glory – When His glorious kingdom shall come the shall what appears dark & mysterious be cleared up – Sometimes when we see to few “coming up to the help of the Lord” we are almost tempted to doubt if it is the Lord whose religion & will is thus slighted – But He knows what is for His own glory

August 5th

Tuesday Morning spent the day rather unprofitably but was called over after dark to assist in making a shroud for a neighbor. He was a man of considerable property but died without Jesus Christ for his friend. He had toiled hard to accumulate wealth which he never enjoyed himself but as it relieved the wants of some of his relatives whom he supported her appeared to think he had done his duty in this world – forgetting that he was an accountable creature to a diving Master for all that he had received, and that to relieve the merely temporal wants of those committed to his care was the least part of his duty or of their interest – They may not need his wealth longer than a few short days, but a preparation for Eternity & treasure in heaven they will assuredly need - & if half his toil had been spent in preparing himself & those dependent upon him for another world his time would have been much more rationally and profitably spent both for himself & others – Heard that the attack in the political paper was made upon the St. Charles Sabbath School for Africans – And that the abuse is most gross & outrageous – The Lord be pleased graciously to open the eyes of the writer of this article to his own true situation and lead him to repentance & faith in him, who prayed for his enemies even amid the pangs of a cruel death inflicted by them – O, Lord my God may every trial of whatever nature draw me closer to thee, may I never shrink from any duty to thee thro’ fear of what man or the powers of darkness can do – May my meat & drink be to do thy will and may I learn to leave the consequences to thee who in Thy wisdom will dispose all events to

thy own Glory. At the time the abusive article was probably written, one of the principal teachers was dying, another was absent attending a sick husband & another was mourning over the recent sudden death of a Father – what will sin not do – and what a Hell would this Earth be was it not for the sustaining grace of God –

6th

-was sent for just before dark to go to Town to see my little brother who was sick – Felt alarmed lest it was the Cholera with which he was attacked. I know that we deserve no mercy as a family from the Lord, an as individuals we might expect chastisement for not living to His Glory. And Sometimes feel as if I expected great judgment to fall upon us. Glory. And Sometimes feel as if I expected great judgment to fall upon us. I found my brother not so sick as I had apprehended and after giving him some medicine I left him this morning and went over about 10 o'clock to my Old friend's Mr. Lindsay's to spend the rest of day – We had much conversation on the subject of the division in the Church and particularly the difference arising out of what are called the doctrines of the Old & New School – I feel distressed that when the church has so many open & avowed enemies that there should be dissensions in her bosom – If it was not for the consolation derived from the knowledge that a righteous God reigns who will bring good out of Evil and will not forsake those who trust in Him I should be in despair – It would seem that the friends of the Lord, those that are acknowledged such ought to be united in His Service.

11th September

A month today I left home on a visit to Pamyra where I have two sisters residing and after a pleasant journey arrived at home yesterday afternoon in good health & found my friends here in health. I have in the last month been peculiarly blessed and I feel that I ought to be a thousand times more grateful to my Heavenly Father for his abundant mercies than I am. I attended two Camp Meetings the 1st I have ever been at held by Presbyterians or any other denomination.

The Lord blessed the efforts of his children and in the two meetings it is thought between 50 & 60 persons were converted & the second meeting had not closed when we left – It was a most solemn scene to be collected in the noble forests of the west a congregation of 2 & 3 hundred persons and to behold the table of the Lord spread & so

many seated around it deeply impressed with the importance of the solemn command of their Lord & Master “do this in remembrance of me” = Twice have I again been permitted to join my fellow travelers to eternity in the sacred feast – and if I know my own heart I am desirous to renew my efforts to serve the Lord with fresh vigour – Oh! My Saviour I am nothing without thee O’ be pleased to work in me to will & to do of thing own good pleasure’. O grant that I may be more faithful than I have ever yet been unto thee –

Copy of a letter to M.I. Russel dated March 1835

Feeling as I do my dear Martha such a great interest in your happiness and eternal welfare, I can not resist the desire I have to write to you at this time. I write in confidence expecting this letter will never been by any other individual than yourself. I have heard from a source entitled to credit, that you are shortly to be married to Mr. L. --, I knew the gentleman in the lifetime of his wife – and as a man of the world I knew of no objection to him then, nor do I now – As to those things which are valued by the worldly minded, I have nothing to say – But I can not bear the idea of your being placed in a situation where your influence will not be exerted on the side of this religion; and where you will have to deny our Lord and Master, or else lead a life of contention and opposition, produced by the prejudices, and early bias of the family which you will be connected – I firmly believe it to be your duty to confess the Lord Jesus Christ before men”, and I likewise believe, that enlightened as your mind is by the Holy Spirit, you could not become a Roman Catholic without renouncing the religion of the Bible and denying your Saviour – Taking this view of the subject, does it not appear, that it becomes a sacred obligation on your part to ascertain previously to your marriage if you will be permitted (I will not say encouraged) to unite yourself with the people of God, and to spent your life in the service of your Maker. I am aware you do not consider these matters in the light that you will view them a few years hence – But permit me as a friend who loves you, to remind you of the words of our common. Saviour Lord & Master “What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own Soul.” And whatever earthly advantage you may attain by the proposed connexion, you will be an awful loser, if you are obliged or if you are prevailed upon to give up your faith to obtain them –

I might enter into particulars and prove to you in many instances that your situation will be exceedingly critical. I might refer you to the probability of your having children to bring up in the nature and admonition of the Lord, “And I might show you by referring to many examples, how tenacious Roman Catholic families are of their right to make their children member of that Church. You my dear Martha probably think the example of Virginia Carr may be followed, & that you will have no greater difficulties to contend with than she will – But remember: the Lord has never done for her what he has for you – The Saviour has received you, & shed a broad light & truth in your soul, and you cannot shut your eyes, and desert Him whom your Soul loveth – Understand me! I am not requiring you to break an engagement – I am simple showing you that you are bound to secure yourself & any who may be under your control, the right to become a member of a Protestant Church when & in what manner you please – If you continue faithful the Lord will take care of you – Pray to Him & do not neglect reading His word, & all will be wellAnd now my dear young friend let me again conjure you, as you value your own Soul, as you value your happiness here & hereafter, to come out on the side of your Lord & Master without delay – Take a stand & be firm – Remember no one can serve two masters – You are & must be either the Lord’s or the servant of Sin – “He that will not confess me before men him will I not confess before my Father & the angels in heaven – says our Saviour –

April 19th 1835

I awoke those morning before sunrise and having been in the habit of indulging myself latterly in the morning I was about resigning myself to slumber, when the thought came across my mind This is the resurrection morn and Mary Magdalene & other women went to the Sepulcher “while it was yet dark” – and surely thought I, “I might pray & read his word this morning” – I arose & prayed & read three chapters and wrote a letter on brother Potts of St. Louis of which the following is a copy “The subject on which I wish to address you must be my apology, if any is necessary for writing to you – I suppose from a letter I have received from Martha Russell that she is married & settled in St. Louis by this time. I believe her to have passed from death unto life” & that it is her duty to make a public profession & confess her Lord & Master before the World – I believe likewise, she will be placed in consequence of her marriage, her husband’s

connections be in circumstances of peculiar temptation – And I therefore have to request that you will visit her frequently and urge her to take a decided stand on the side of Jesus Christ & on the side of Protestantism – I will make an extract from her letter that you may understand more fully my views. “As to our religion, he says I shall never be influenced by him to change and that he will attend our church with me, & I trust our kind Heavenly Father will bless us both and make us his devoted children – I have also heard Mr. L. say that he was very much opposed to “Catholic” schools & that he would never suffer a child of his to be educated in one of them – He has one little daughter of about eight years old, she is a very interesting child and seems to be much attached to me, and I trust that by the assistance of Almighty God, I shall be enabled to fulfill my duty towards her” ... I will say with Martha I trust, that the Lord who order all things will & for the good of those who fear Him, will over-rule what was intended by her worldly minded friends to cut her off from Christian duty, to His own Glory, and to produce a great ___ vest of _____.

I have heard that you intend going to Marian – really my friend! I can not see, with such a field before you to labor in, how you can deem it your duty to desert St. Louis. I hope you will consider well, - I know that education is of immense importance, but surely there are many Souls to be saved in your City, by the instrumentality of preaching the Gospel – There is another person within your reach whom I think ought to join your church. It is Mrs. Sevier now at Jefferson Barick. She came forward here to be prayed for, at the meeting of Synod & when she left me, she expressed her determination to connect herself with some one of the Protestant Churches. Mrs. Potts has acquaintances at the Barracks could not you & she visit Mrs. S. sometimes & urge her to go to St. Louis on some communion season & when I doubt not she would connect herself with the people of God....

Lindenwood May 12 1835

Dear Friend,

I have been troubled in mind about the present state of our church, and having some conclusion as to what is our duty to do I will express it to you freely – I believe it is

the duty of the session of our Church to visit every member of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles to converse with them and take down their names either for the Church or against it. I think you ought to go in a body, you, Mr. Black & Mr. Watson & call upon Mr. Campbell to do the same with you. I believe if you do not take this stand & assert your own rights & the rights of the Church that it will not be long, before these newly self constituted & self called elders & _____ will call us to account, & if we do not attend will expel us from them & claiming to be the church, by this high handed procedure will sure upon the building and claim to be the Presbyterian Church. I hope you will act without delay – There is not one day to be lost, if you not wish to be trampled under foot, together with those who have adhered to the Session – Let the paper be drawn up to this affect “We the members of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles who hereunto annex our names desiring to maintain order & good Govt. in our Church & feeling that we are under obligation to respect the opinions of the Elders do hereby avow it to be our intention to remain firm in our adherence to the rules of our Church & to sustain our session in their efforts to preserve the purity of our religion & the forms of our Church Govt. from innovation – We hold that without consent of Presbytery no part of this church has any right to withdraw and forma new church by electing new elders – That such proceedings being unconstitutional, are null & void – and we will have no hand, part or lot in the Such proceedings & so far we may have had are sorry for it –

Those who will not agree to the above or something like it let the session after mildly admonishing them and requesting them to return to the church take down their name as concerned in promoting disorder & confusion and let them be summoned before the Session to answer for their conduct. I firmly believe after a prayerful consideration of the subject that this is your course & unless you do act as the session you cannot expect to be sustained by the members. The charge has been that you do not act – now let it no longer be so, but let them see you can & do act with promptness & energy not one moment is to be lost & not one of the three should stay behind – visit every member no matter where they are. The Lord will help us – but we must use the lawful means... ME. S. To T. Lindsay,.
Sun July 23rd, 1835

I have to mourn my indolence, my coldness & neglect of Christian graces for a long time past. My journal has been neglected day after day from an idea that I had nothing worth recording. I feel as if the Lord had designed to punish me for my arrogance & pride by depriving me of the inclination to serve Him. When I performed by duties more faithfully and was enabled to write occasionally for the "Observer" I was soon elated with the praise of others and my self complacency was great at the idea that I had done something. But truly we are as nothing – a very little thing puffs us up with self conceit & a very little thing on the other hand casts us down in despair. I have been urged over & over again by Brother L. to write – and vanity prompted me to do so. But He who rules all things and trains the immortal Soul which He has purchased for Eternal action, thought fit to deprive me of powers & inclination to do so, as I believe, in order to show me my utter & entire dependence upon Him to think a good thought or speak a good word. We need not glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. O! my Lord have me not to my self-leave me not to the freedom of that perverse will which leads me from the fountain of all Good – leave me not subject to the bias of that natural ability I possess to sin again thee but take & make me all that thou wouldst have me to be –
July 24th

I spent the morning after reading a chapter & prayer in giving music lesson or two of my scholars. I find this employment a great trial of patience. The mistakes they make the discord produced jars on my nerves sometimes I can scarce endure it and find my impatience is so great as to produce an expression of it. The trials of a teachers life are great & many and surely none would undertake the task unless they had a higher motive than earthly gain. Talked with one of the young ladies on her state of mind and told her of the good she might do after she goes home by keeping Sabbath School in her neighborhood and setting a good example. Two of my girls have written the last three months expressed a hope of having been renewed in heart by the "power" of God. I hope they are not deceived but that their future lives will show that they have passed from death unto life.

25th

This is the Sabbath, but owing to the rain we were unable to go to Church without considerable inconvenience – heard the girls their Sunday School lesson in the morning

and read one of Payson's sermons to them – and heard another lesson in the evening & used another sermon. Spent a part of the day writing. I am at a loss to know whether it is exactly right to spend the Sabbath in writing on any subject whatever though it now appears to me if we are writing with the object of doing good & giving our influence to the cause of religion we may without breaking the commandment to employ the Sabbath. I wish for amore humble heart – pride is ever lifting me above my proper level. I have nothing to be proud of except that I am of that race which the Lord Jesus has condescended to redeem – and while I may exult in His goodness & benevolence I have reason to mourn my hardness of heart that keeps me from loving Him supremely.

July 31st

Rose this morning at sun rise; this is the day (Friday) when I perform an imperfect obedience to the command, respecting fasting & prayer. Since Sunday I have felt how entirely worthless are my prayers & every thing else I attempt – at least at times I feel so. I do not have that pleasure in prayer that I desire. It is often an effort to keep my mind fixed on the objects I am praying for or the Being I am praying to. Have endeavored to ask for better prospects for our poor church in St. Charles. But Oh! How feeble & cold are any ___tions. I do not deserve to be heard. But when do any deserve such favor & never, it is all of they free grace – Lord! What should we be but for thy mercy & poor, lost, degraded creatures –

October 9th

My life has been truly an unprofitable one thus far how little have I affected since I consecrated it to my Saviour. How little have I even attempted to effect? – and I feel as if I was becoming daily less spiritual and more taken up with the plans and projects of this world. I have got so now that I do not feel the importance of the conversion of my fellow creatures, and I may say with truth – “I remembered God and was troubled. I complained & my spirit was overwhelmed” – Will the Lord cast off forever? & will her be favorable no more?” – Is His mercy clean gone for ever – doth His promise fail forever more” - As a proof of my hardness of heart, I will mention that I have actually let two monthly prayer meetings pass without knowing the day on which they were held, or rather forgetting the day until it was past. It was a female prayer meeting appointed to be held on Monday of the first week but few and often no one but myself attended it during

this Summer & the person who resided in the house, where it was appointed. Some time ago I requested that my Alton lot should be sold & the proceeds applied to the building of the Presbyterian Church in St. Charles in the event of my death before the lot was sold – I supposed it worth then about \$300.. It is now worth \$1400 and I have been applied to, to sell it. I have agreed to dispose of one half – The other half if still unsold at my death, I wish my husband to appropriate to the same object, the building of the Presbyterian Church in St. Charles.

December 27th

This day have had a delightful meeting Mr. J. Gallahan preached three times during the day & came home with us at night together with another gentleman from Pittsburg a Mr. Mc_____ who is a warm hearted Christian. They left us on Monday morning the 28th for Cincinnati. The 28th of December ought to be a memorable day with me. After the departure of our friends I commenced my daily duties in the School room. About the middle of the day I went into the room where my husband usually writes, on some errand I met him crossing the ____ & he arrested my attention by saying – “I am going to write father Lindsay that I will join the Church the first opportunity” – I felt for an instant as if I could not believe what I heard, & then my next emotion was self condemnation, mixed with gratitude to the giver of all good – I felt condemned, that which I had lived so little in the exercise of faith & had felt so little compensated with what I ought to have felt for the salvation of my friends. The Lord had not forgotten to be gracious – I retired to my room to give vent to my feelings in prayer to God, to thank Him for kindness so _____ on our part – and to ask for wisdom, prudence & all things needful to render me a help meet to my husband who was not united to me by a new tie – one that shall never be broken.

January 13th

Within the last two weeks I have had my feelings _____ by a most shocking occurrence – I do not know when I relived a death, before of which was not a witness – Information of the murder of Mr. Israel B. Grant, reached us on New Year’s day, he had been here & stayed all night on the week before Christmas D was here an hour or two the week before he was killed. He was a very pleasant man. I felt quite attached to him – having two of his daughter with us at school at different times. We had become well

acquainted with Mr. G. He was not a professing Christian tho' there is a strong evidence that his convictions have been very deep & that several times he almost resolved to be a Christian – for several days I felt as though I would have given worlds if I had them to have been assured he was saved, & that I should meet him in heaven – I was almost haunted with the idea, is he lost, is he lost? – Oh! How little do we realize the dreadful importance of living in this world – I have tried to impress on the minds of my girls that an awful responsibility rests on every one that lives in this world who is old enough to reason & act – They appear cold & thoughtless – The admonitions of man, what are they? They fall powerless on the heart of his fellow man until the spirit of the Lord quickens of Mr. Clay's only daughter. He has outlived a number of children. I could not _____ offering up a prayer that this affliction might bring him to a Saviour – I hope he will yet do much good as a Christian. I have been much distressed to see my mother still obdurate, and enraged against the cause of Christianity- And encouraging my younger sisters to go to public Balls – where then thoughts will be fixed on vain & sinful pursuits – Oh my God we will trust thee, thou wilt do all things well – We have no right to murmur & complain –

Jan 17th.

Oh how little avail are all our resolutions? Sin still triumphs over us – Oh thou blessed Saviour what would we be but for thy mercy.” Thy watchful care & restraining love – I desire to have no will of my own but that thou wilt work in me to thy will & to do of thy good pleasure. O! that I could love thee with a perfect heart.

20th Jany.

Wrote this day a letter to H.C. and my prayer is that it may be the means of leading him to reflect upon his prospects for Eternity and induce him to resolve to become a Christian. Was much disappointed at not receiving a letter from my dear husband to day. He has been in St. Louis two weeks. I know why it is, but it seems to me as tho' he is more dear to me than ever he was before. I feel as if we are _____ by a new tie since he has expressed the hope that he is a Christian. I still do not feel that freedom in prayer which I have been sometimes favored with. I am but wait on the Lord. He will grant me all His sins for my good.

Abbott's Method of Keeping Journal. Excellence of the Plan – Procrastination –

Indolence

_____ I have intended for some time past to adopt the plan, recommended in the “Good Christian”, of keeping my diary, in the hope of being more regular in making my entries, since I can often write a few lines several times thru the day and not lose the connection of my _____. By glancing at the _____ the last subject mentioned can be ascertained without any loss of _____, and thus preserved from the folly of repeating too often the same thing. There never was a truer saying among men, that that “procrastination is the thief of time” – I have found the disposition to put off and put off until a more convenient season, has told me to commit more sin by a neglect of duty than any thing else, and at this very moment I am strongly tempted to put this book my until I am more in the humor to write and am less sleepy, but if I do so , the probability is that ___ on former occasions the time I propose will never come. Indolence is another vice which I am much troubled with at times and prevents me from doing any thing that I ma not positively obliged to do – These two pro _____ are the Devil’s own agents; and ruin many souls as well as blast the usefulness of thousands in this world. I have to day neglected secret prayer more than I am wont to do except that kind of mental ejaculatory prayer which is common with me.

Jany 21st

Read an account of Mrs. Willard’s Seminary at Troy, from Mr. Hale’s magazine. I am rejoiced that she has produced that pernicious system from her School of giving rewards or prizes. I have always objected to it ever since I was old enough to appreciate the subject. It is encouraging to see what one female may affect by perseverance and diligence. If the domestic instruction

1836 Linden Wood

Private Journal Remarks –

Mrs. Willard’s Seminary

April 12th. Mr James Gallahe

Held a more prominent part I think the plan would be an excellent one, but I am opposed to the plan of making learned women at the expense of destroying their fitness for the peculiar duties allotted them in the station of life in which by the providence of God they have been designed to move. There is yet much to be done towards maturing a good plan

of female education. Whatever their capacities may be, certainly that kind of knowledge vulgarly called “book knowledge” cannot be so necessary to them as to the other sex. I never wish to see that society in which the nobler sex can not be looked up to as superior in knowledge, as they are in strength & energy of character. It would destroy half the delight of our associations if we were not permitted to see that we have a protector in man to whom we can regard as our Superior. I would as soon seek for a Guardian Angel among the intelligences inferior to mankind as desire to unite my destiny with him whom I consider below (beneath me in knowledge or in the capacity to acquire knowledge.....

Mr. J. Gallaher has just left us today for Marion College. I first became acquainted with him about three months ago. On his way to New York he stopt and preached three powerful sermons for us. I felt myself immediately attracted towards him, as I have often by other Christians who seem to have much of the Spirit of Christ. We occasionally meet with persons who appear to be old friends, altho’ we have never seen them before. There is an unaccountable feeling of confidence in them and affection for them which I suppose will be explained to our satisfaction in the world to come. This kind of attachment I have felt for Mr. Fielding the President of the College here and our principal preacher during the winter – Altho a Methodist he feels quite as dear to me as one of own ministers.

Private Reflections

April 12th

Communion with Christians -

love of Christ

What mercies do we daily receive from our Heavenly father and not the least is the communion & fellowship of Saints. When I have had the pleasure of associating with experienced & warm hearted Christians for a few days, I feel as though I had been on a visit to some of the regions above, and now I must come back to the dull realities of life. When the disciples who saw/ heard Moses & Elias conversing with the Saviour on the mount said “it is good for us to be here” let us build these tabernacles _____. I guess they felt something of the same sort of pleasure that I am alluding to. I have latterly enjoyed by Sabbaths very much – my fatigue and trouble thro’ the week is generally proportionally as great. The trouble of teaching, the anxiety of mind lest I should neglect my duty, the thousand little perplexities arising from the misconduct or inattention of my

pupils wear upon my frame considerably, but all this and ten thousand times more I would cheerfully endure to have one smile of approbation from my blessed Lord and Master on his Holy day. I would not exchange all the world could offer of its honors and pleasures for the enjoyment of one hour of love of God shed “abroad in my heart”. O! my Lord, ever teach me to seek my happiness in Thee – Give me a meek and quiet spirit, a constant and patient waiting on the Lord. I know I do not deserve to be noticed by the great Sovereign of the Universe, but as He has promised, in his matchless condescension to notice those who wait upon Him, let me ever wait, let me ever be seeking by “beloved”. I now begin, sometimes to feel the force of the language of the “Songs of Solomon”, which I must confess I have often passed over as something, which did not properly belong to the Bible, something that had crept in _____ thro’ the corruption of Man. But no extravagance of language can express what the soul feels in view of the beauty and excellence of Him.

Notices of Passing Occurrences – Reflections and

13th April – 17th comfort, to be derived from depending entirely upon Christ

whom to know aright is life Eternal. I am often cast down in view of the little I do in the world to serve the Lord. What an unprofitable servant am I, when I consider the talents and opportunities I have to account for, and were it not that I am comforted by the reflection, that I am not to be saved by anything I can do, I should be altogether in despair. I once heard a dying Christian say, “tho’ I should live a thousand years, I should never be better prepared to die by any efforts of my own”. It is true, and it is consoling, that after all it by grace we are saved”, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God...

Today have been detained at home by the rain; altho’ I feel it is a great privilege to go to Church I have not felt the disappointment so much as I sometimes have done. After hearing the girls their Sunday School lessons I retired to read, mediate and pray. I picked up incidentally the last report of the W.E. Society and turning over in my mind how I should get the scholarship,” I purchased recently, supplied I concluded Mr. Spaulding the corresponding Sec. of the Society with whom we are acquainted would be likely to know of some suitable person to fill the place scholarship,” I purchased recently,

supplied I concluded Mr. Spaulding the corresponding Sec. of the Society with whom we are acquainted would be likely to know of some suitable person to fill the place I wrote he following letter to him. "Having been an humble contributor to the W.E.S. I am encouraged in the hope I have, that you will immediately endeavor to render me the assistance I am now about to ask of you. I will endeavor to state my wants in a few words, and will leave the satisfying them, as to time and manner to your better judgment. In the first place, I want a pious young man, whose intention and object is to live for the glory of God; who has capacity enough to preach a good sermon, when he shall have finished his studies, and one who has health and strength sufficient to enable him to cultivate ten acres of land while at college. I want the above described young man to go to Marion

Private Journal

Letter to Mr. Spaulding – building of the Church

April 18th

College, Missouri," and take possession of the place and avail himself with advantages, appropriated to the "Scholarship" belonging to Mrs. Mary Easton Sibley of St. Charles, Missouri – And, in the second place, I want you _____ this without saying any thing about it, to any one but the individual you may select for that _____. If the person sent, answers the description he will need no assistance after he arrives at Marion. Whatever the W.E. Society advances to enable the student to take possession of his place I will hold myself bound to make good to you as its agent, whenever you visit Missouri again. Marion College was full this winter but the scholarships are entitled to preference. Yours with esteem – M.E.S. P.S. A letter from you to Mr. S. Potts will be sufficient to insure admittance in light of my "scholarship" M.E.S. - - I pray that one may be selected who will be the instrument of doing much good – Who shall be entirely devoted to the advancement of the Saviour's kingdom on Earth – I have also resolved, (and pray for the blessing of God on the resolution) that if there is no prospect that our church will be finished shortly by the other members to offer my Alton lots for sale and use enough of the proceeds to finish the building.

A member of the church visited us this evening, much unprofitable conversation about the present difficulties of this church, enquired of this member if he intended (as he

had promised) to finish the Church, said he did, if materials could be had. I have little confidence in the promises, yet know not how to bring about my design so as to do most good. I think it may be best to wait a little longer and see what progress will be made towards completing the building by this individual, who is able to have the work done if he is willing so to do.

Private Memoranda

April 19th

Letter My Mother

Danger of Sister

Yesterday went into town and intended to have had a conversation with my mother, but did not have the resolution to do so. I resolved therefore this morning to write her the following –

My dear Mother, I have felt so uneasy about Alby for a short time past, that I cannot help letting you know the cause of my apprehension that you may guard her against the danger without her being aware of it. I believe Jorjah Brady is trying to court Alby and that she is inclined to encourage him. If her affections become engaged she will throw herself away on a dissipated fellow without character, without principle and without any standing in respectable society. I believe the best thing that could be done for both the girls would be to send them off to a distance to school for a year, and then if you should conclude to move to St. Louis, the young men with whom they would associate would not be the dregs of Society. I do not wish evil to Jorjah, or any other of the young men in St. Charles, but surely you could not bear the idea of your daughters marrying such persons. I speak freely for when the thing is done, it is too late to speak. Young persons who associate together will become attached no matter what prudence says to the contrary and the only way to stop the evil is to remove them from each other. I have watched Alby narrowly and I have reason to believe I am not mistaken. I hope my dear Mother you will not consider this more idle suspicion, but will yourself watch and remove Alby out of temptation before it is too late to save her. Affectionately
your _____

I ought to trust the Lord in this as in all other troubles, I have tried to do so, and it is my earnest prayer that my young and lovely Sister may be saved in every respect from the snares of the

Private Memoranda

July 10th-12th

Visit of Rev. D

Wilson on his way to India

Wicked one – Oh! My God open her eyes to see her danger both spiritually and temporally. May she be preserved undefiled for thy service.

This morning communed with our Methodist brethren, had almost resolved at the commencement of the sermon not to come forward because I felt offended with some remarks of the preacher on the forms of worship – but before its close I felt that I could not deny my Saviour thus before a congregation of people. It was the Lord's table and I was invited to come forward against and acknowledge my need of salvation through his blessed atonement. Mr. Wilson came here on the _th. He is agent for the Assembly's board of foreign missions. He is quite an agreeable man – preached in the afternoon on the Sabbath and formed a plan for a Missionary Society in our church.

He is to converse with Mr. Yantes at Columbia (whither he is going previous to visiting Palmyra) on the subject of coming to this church as its pastor. May the Lord have mercy upon His people and send one to us, who will do all for His Glory

We have every reason to believe that Mr. Y will suit us. We fear that we will not profess unless we have a minister immediately

July 9th 1847

Henry Clay – Faith in the Efficacy of Prayer

After so long neglecting this book scarcely looking at it for years, I am led irresistibly to record my feelings this evening – Reading in a newspaper “Henry Clay” caught my eye and I read with emotion that on the 22nd June “the Hon. Henry Clay was baptized in one of the beautiful ponds on his own estate. He committed himself with Episcopal Church but preferred baptism by immersion. I have now another evidence among many that our God is a hearer and answerer of prayers.

For years I have prayed for the conversion of Henry Clay at times with fervency & faith –especially when he was run lat for the presidency – Oh! The service of the world – May he use those powers of eloquence with which God has gifted him to make known successfully to his fellow beings the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. This even encourages me to hope for the conversion of two youth for whom I feel the deepest interest, and for whom I have prayed and labored that they may become ministers of the religion of the Bible – One is a youth of a Roman Catholic family by the name of Leo Pallardy; the other is the son of an eccentric friend – William Clough.

It is my earnest desire to assist them both in “obtaining a Theological education should the Lord in His infinite mercy convert & consecrate them to Himself. One of these youth the

Leo Pallardy

Mar Clough

Former, has everything to learn, and I am encouraging him to attend the Sabbath School kept for the Germans in order that he may receive the more religious instruction than he obtains at the Sabbath School in town. He is a sprightly youth of a good French family all of whom have been for many generations _____ of the great a____ostace_. Oh! That God in His infinite mercy would open the eyes of his understanding to behold wondrous things in His law – and make him a successful and zealous preacher of the everlasting Gospel. The other youth both are about 18 has a thorough English education and is a fine Latin Scholar could graduate from Princeton in two years, were he to feel desirous to study for the ministry – They are both yet Almighty and I rejoice in His power that hearts of the children of men are in his hand & can be turned as the rivers of waters are turned.

1853

Seventeen & half dollars of the amt received for the mare is to be paid to the

Colonization Society –

July 24th

Paid to Mr. Wilson agent for Foreign Missions through Mr. Loomis -----\$10.

July 22nd 1853

Received for sale of Mare \$35

COPY Lindenwood Jany 7th 1858

Mr. J.J. Johns. Dear Sir, In order that there may be no more mistakes, of which you & Mr. Alderson complain so much & Mr. Alderson likes to have written promises, I hereby notify you, that after the sale of alternate blocks on lots, I shall not sign any more releases to Linden Wood lands, unless I am perfectly satisfied the College is getting the full value of the lands & that for the purpose of endowment..

Respectfully – M.E. Sibley