

Scraps by the way

written
At different times

For spiritual improvement

"Help me with care to shun my errors past
And make each day a critic on the last"

July 7th 1844

Godliness is profitable unto all things,

In this book I intend to note down my thoughts and feeling from time to time, for my own spiritual improvement on the way, and my satisfaction hereafter. I do this with the ^{hope} that the remembrance of this determination, to record my thoughts, may make me more watchful in my conduct, more rigid in self-examination, and more faithful in discharge of every known duty. Yet I do not rely upon it as any thing powerful in its self, but intend to use it as a means of conquering myself, and sincerely desire the blessing of God to attend it. The work of self-improvement is truly onerous and difficult; I have been long labouring in it and now see that I have accomplished but little. While I am correcting one error, another is forcing itself upon me—breaks down my resolutions—destroys my devotional frame of mind—and banishes peace and joy from my hearts. But self-improvement is so desirable, that I am determined to be more vigilant ^{more} resolute in my efforts, to reform my habits of thought and conduct. My resolutions have been often broken—and my plans frustrated—but I now renew my covenant with God, and commence again ^{my} attempts to accomplish that, in which I have so often and so infinitely failed. And upon this work I now earnestly ask the blessing of Almighty God.

M. O.

"Let that same mind be in you, which was also in Christ."

Sunday July the 9th 1844

* During the last week, I have been forcibly impressed with the extreme vanity and sinfulness of this world's fashions and customs, and having given up myself too much to them, I feel deeply grieved and much distressed. I do very sensibly feel my want of Sobriety and holiness, and am indeed desirous of reforming my life. My reading awhile in "Mason on Self-knowledge" has added strength to my desire for a godly life; and having heard a pointed and powerful sermon from the words; "Sanctify them through thy truth" I am almost overwhelmed with grief, that I am so barren in spirit, and, that I have lived so long a professed Christian, to so little purpose.

Saturday July 22

* I feel thankful to God for the spiritual blessings which he has bestowed upon me, for the last two weeks. I have been thinking much on the subject of missions, and feel more strongly than ever moved to devote myself to that work. During the last month Brother Ruhl and I have conversed frequently and seriously about the claims of the heathen upon us. We both are willing to go whenever we are convinced that such is the will of God. My conversation, on this subject, with brother Cutler has been both pleasant and profitable. My earnest, frequent prayer is that God will direct me in my meditations on this subject and lead me in the

He shall guide me by his counsel and afterward receive me into glory
path of duty. I thank God that I have but little desire for the
things of this world, for if it is my duty to leave my native coun-
try, I can do so with little regret. A great part of my life has
been spent in wickedness and open rebellion against God, which I do
bitterly regret. But since I have professed to be a follower of Jesus I
have sinned and sinned so frequently, and have felt so little desire for
for the promotion of Gods glory in the conversion of sinners, that I am
filled with shame and grief. Oh that I may in future be more
humble, more faithful, and more devoted! I desire no longer to be
satisfied with earthly things, but to labor and pray for the salva-
tion souls. In this I desire to spend the rest of my days upon earth
and then I shall reap an eternal reward ⁱⁿ Heaven.

Sunday July 30 - 48

I have had great enjoyment in the divine life during
the past week. On several evenings while reading Mission-
ary works, and praying for direction on that subject, in the
grove alone, I felt willing to do whatever God would allot me.
And I now am willing to spend my whole life, whether it be
long or short, in toil and labor for the conversion of the heathen
world - or if this is not my duty I will cheerfully spend my
life here in any work which may be pointed out as mine.

My desire and determination is, ^{to} cast off worldly cares, ^{and} thoughts,
and banish selfishness, pride, and envy, from my heart; but

He that continueth to the end shall be saved.

This is a great work, for I feel, that my heart is very wicked, that my thoughts are vain and trifling, and that my affections are too much set upon earth. Oh! that my selfishness were entirely banished, and that my whole soul were taken up in a desire to do good. I must now go to my Sabbath School in the country may God prepare my heart to discharge well my duty there, and ^{may} He bless my humble efforts for the salvation of those children and their parents; some of whom live in extreme ignorance, and fearful wickedness. I hope to have a precious time with them this evening in religious conversation and prayer.

Saturday night Sept 30 — 44

The vacation is past — the Session has commenced; and I by the mercy of God am still alive and well. During vacation, while traveling through the country, I was more than ever before, impressed with the lamentable truth, that professing Christians do too little to spread the Gospel and glorify God. But let me turn my thoughts upon myself — let me examine my own heart, as it has manifested itself in my past actions. It is my duty to be constantly engaged in doing good — but I have wasted many hours — have neglected many opportunities of instructing the ignorant — reproving the wicked — warn-

The dearest idol I have known, What see that idol be,
ing the negligent—comforting the afflicted and en-
courageing the weak. It is my duty to love God with
all my heart—but Oh! how weak are my affections
toward Him. If I loved him supremely how could I
neglect him so much—and bestow so great care upon
the things of this life. Surely I do not love God as I
Should. When I think of the vanity, and even sinfulness
of my secret thoughts, I am disgusted with myself; but
my trust is in God; by him I have been created, and re-
deemed—and called to repentance—and since I have pro-
fessed the religion of Christ I have been constantly warn-
ed and instructed by the Providences of God—and to
him I must still look for strength to subdue the evils
of my heart, which I yet hope to overcome:

Monday night Oct. 9 — 46

During the last two days I have felt much in-
ward peace; and have prayed earnestly to God that he
would aid me to consecrate myself entirely to his service.
I am heartily weary of my sins, and am seeking to be de-
livered from them more and more. I wish to be trans-
formed, from the follies, and fashions of this ungodly world;
for after all its fair promises it affords but little. This ev-
ening I enjoyed a happy season in prayer and conversation.

Help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee

with bro. Imhoff. We could both weep over our past follies and short coming; but we could also rejoice in prospect of deliverance from them; and of everlasting joy when our sorrows here shall cease. The subject of Foreign Missions gives me much concern; I am examining that subject prayerfully and carefully, to know whether it is my duty to prepare for so great and responsible an undertaking, as that of carrying a message from Heaven to the heathen world. Oh that I may be instructed and led by God Himself, through the whole path of duty up to the Paradise of God.

Sunday morning Oct 15th 48

* The last week has been a mixture of grief and joy, I enjoyed much of the spirit at several times in secret prayer, and in prayer with brother Imhoff in the grove; and at one of the ^{monthly} meetings of the African Sabbath School Society on Friday evening - but some things pertaining to my expectations for an agent for the College did, during one night, cause me much unpleasant feeling - However it was but for a night and joy came in the morning. I rode a few miles into the country yesterday afternoon - distributed some tracts among my acquaintances at Enon - conversed with some persons on the subject of Religion, and Foreign Missions - left a copy of "Purcell's Thoughts on Missions" - and returned with a happy heart.

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But drops of grief can never repay, The debt of love I owe
* This morning brother Yancey ^{and} I had some conversation on Missions.
We both think much about going as missionaries to the heathen; Oh!
that God would direct us in all our deliberations on that sub-
ject, and help us know our whole duty. If I only could, at all
times, have the glory of God in view, then would I be happy;
but my selfishness enters into all my plans, and annoys me
exceedingly—Oh! may it soon depart and leave me to my God

Monday night Oct 23—46

* I have great reason to thank God for his abundant mercies towards me. I am protected by him every day and every hour—am preserved in ^{health} life and peace—and have so favorable opportunities to grow in grace, to increase in holiness, zeal, and Faith. I partook of the Lord's Supper on yesterday with more satisfaction than at any time previous; and tonight at our missionary meeting we had a precious time: we spoke to each other in reference to the best method of awakening an interest on the subject of Missions—of bringing about a Revival of Religion among us—and especially in our own hearts. Oh! how God enabled us to pray against our own selfishness; and may that prayer never cease till the victory is ours.
Oh God help me make an entire consecration of my self to thy service—is my sincere prayer *

Here Lord I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do"

Sunday morning Oct. the 29 A.D. 1848

* This morning I feel that I am a helpless, sinful being. When I look back over my past life, and closely examine my conduct, I see that my best deeds are marked with defect. And if I search out the cause of my unfaithfulness to God, it is found to be the wickedness of my own heart. I feel that I am not worthy to do any part of God's service. My former unfaithfulness fills me with shame and grief—and the selfishness of my heart interrupts my communion with my Merciful Father. Oh! how long to be delivered from the evil propensities of my nature. I often feel that there is nothing good in me. But I have consecrated myself to the service of the Holy One and the remainder of my life shall be spent ⁱⁿ making good that pledge; and I thank God that he has not permitted ^{me} to forsake him entirely. *

Sunday morning Nov. 14th 48

It is hard to serve God with such a heart as mine. I arose this morning early, while my room-mates were yet asleep—and desired to commence the duties of the ^{day} with earnestness; and thus find joy and peace. But how grievously have I been disappointed. It appears that I have neither faith to trust God—gratitude to praise

"Help me to live that I may dead

Him - nor humility to implore his mercy. If I could not
ever feel more spiritual, this life would be a dreary wil-
derness, and unmixed sorrow and remorse would fill my cup.

"If I love why am I thus;
Why this cold this lifeless frame.
Hardly sure can they be worse,
Who have never heard his name."

In trying to examine my own heart this morning, I
am perplexed beyond degree. I know not what I am. My
heart seems to be filled with pride. At the commencement
of the present session I determined to be more faithful in
duty than formerly; and I do sincerely think I have been;
but now I am tempted to regard myself as better than
others who have ^{not} been so regular in attendance of the means of
grace and have not manifested so much concern for the
salvation of others. And when I find myself indulging
such thoughts, I am troubled exceedingly; so that I do not
feel fit to attempt any more to speak to any person on
the subject of Religion; and thoughts of abandoning my
intentions of the Ministry, crowd upon. Oh! what shall
I do? Is there end to the pride, vanity, and wickedness
of my heart? And will my agonies arising from them
never! never! cease.

The grave as little as my bed.

Sunday Dec. 10 - 48

I feel that I have somewhat neglected, the duty of writing in this book, which I still think may be profitable to me if done in the proper spirit. But some weeks ago when, trying to examine my motives of action, I thought of this book; and as I was much disgusted with myself and my past conduct, that of writing my thoughts occasionally, also came into my mind; and it seemed to me that I had done it through selfish motives, and the whole became odious, and painful to my mind. I read frequently in "Edwards of the affections" and it seemed to me that I was one of those who possess no truly gracious affections toward God. All my motives appeared selfish. All my prayers, mocking - all my repentance hypocrisy - and all my pretensions to love, toward God, and my seeming desire for the conversion of sinners, deception and a vain show.

And now when I look at myself and compare my conduct with Gods word I see my exceeding selfishness and ^{vanity} vain. My only hope is in God.

Sunday morning Dec. 17th

My heart is full of the world - my mind carried away by selfish motives - and my thoughts are exceedingly vain. It seems to me as though I had never devoted myself

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"Set not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God,
entirely to the service of God: If I think of laboring for
the conversion of souls, my selfishness suggests that it is
not only pleasing in the sight of Him who will be my
final judge, but that it secures to me the title of an em-
inent Saint. If I could be entirely divested of selfishness
it seems to me my joy would be complete. But with
it my peace of mind will always be much disturbed.
May I find assistance and mercy in Him whom I strive
to serve and honor.

Dec. 31, 1848

This is the last day in the year, with what solemn
feelings I sit down to write a few lines in this book
which, on account of absence and the multiplicity of other
duties, has been so long neglected. Yesterday we laid our
faithful pastor and beloved instructor in the silent tomb.
But not without the hope that in the great day of stern-
ty we will again meet never never to part. When Dr.
Keller ^{was} first considered dangerously ill I could not endure
the thought of his being taken from us. But now he
is gone and I am resigned to the will of God. This world
is but a wilderness—a sad and mournful pilgrimage—
a continued scene of disappointment and distress. Well I
^{have} given up the idea of finding happiness on earth. It can

believe also in me; "I will not leave you comfortless"

disappoint me but little; for I expect but little from it. I feel satisfied with my condition and am willing to be guided by God, and to be used in whatever way he may see fit. O! let me have no will of my own.

Give joy or grief, give ease or pain

Take life or friends away

But let me meet them all again

In that Eternal day.

The Sun is now nearly down and I close the year by commending myself into the hands of God.

Jan. (Sunday) 14 1849

The duty of writing in this book is entirely too much neglected. I seem to have so much to do that, little time is allowed me for meditation on my own spiritual state and yet I am ashamed at the close of every week that I accomplished so little.

I could be more useful among the Students than I am and one great reason why I am not is that I do not feel deeply enough interested in their welfare. I long to be wholly lost in doing good. If all my powers were constantly exerted for the salvation of others, my own enjoyment would be much greater. I have been conversing with some of the Students today—but with little of

There are no acts of pardon past, In the cold grave to which we

Monday noon Jan 15 49

Time flies swiftly away and soon I must appear at the bar of God to answer for that portion allotted to me here. That will be an awful day—these students who now surround me will meet me in the presence of the judge—and many other persons with whom I am frequently in company will also constitute a part ^{of that} immense assembly. When I dwell for a short time upon such thoughts as these, I am overwhelmed with a sense of my want of preparation to appear in that solemn meeting. He who now sits with me at this table, busy in his studies will appear there to testify of my conduct towards him. and although I have warned him often, of his unsafe condition and have frequently entreated him to renounce the world and engage in the service of God, yet I might have done more than I have. I have conversed with him till he acknowledged the necessity of forsaking his sins immediately and seeking the salvation of his soul—but I have not prayed so much nor so ardently for him as I should have done. May God help both him and me.

Saturday night Jan 20 -49

Another week has gone, never to return. But during the week I was not sufficiently ~~expressed~~ im-

haste; But darkness, death, and long despair, Reign in eternal Silence

pressed with the truth, that the time which I was then spending would never return. If I had constantly kept this before my mind, and if I had remembered that a strict account must be rendered for the manner in which every hour is spent, certainly it would have prompted me to more diligence in duty, and more watchfulness against Secret Sins

Today several persons were baptised and admitted to membership in our congregation. It was a solemn scene - it reminded me of former days of my own experience; and a mixture of thankfulness and regret, ^{filled my heart} I am thankful that God ever influenced me to seek his grace - and yet I much regret that I have done so little in his service, and so much in opposition to his law.

Tomorrow I intend to partake of the Lords Supper. I am unworthy - have too little love to God, and heavenly things - too much attachment to the world - have not enough delight in prayer and other Christian duties.

I was this day, ^{reminded} of the faithfulness of my Beloved Mother; in consecrating me to God by holy baptism, when no one else felt so much interest for me; and when many careless and wicked persons around us were disposed to think unfavorably, and speak lightly of that duty

Life is the time to serve the Lord.

I well recollect the day and the impression it made upon me, although I had not been willing to be made a subject of that ordinance. I thank the Father of mercies for such a Mother, whom I hope to meet in happiness on high. We frequently used to join in singing and praying to God at the close of the day - but now we are separated and perhaps may never unite in such duties and privileges again on earth. At least I do not expect to enjoy her Society much more till after we shall have arisen from our graves to enjoy eternal rest, peace and pleasure.

Sunday June 27 - 49

This day I have thought much about our beloved and departed Pastor; and each time my mind is turned towards his toils and self-denials for the cause of Christ; I am reminded of my own unfaithfulness, my pride - and my selfishness. I feel that there is need of much more holiness and uprightness of life than I now possess. I have just returned from our African S. School - my class was not present, and on that account I feel somewhat discouraged in reference to them; but the scholars

The time to ensure the great reward

afford us much encouragement. I have visited
urged, persuaded, and entreated them to attend
but they manifest no interest scarcely on the sub-
ject. Oh! How dark the prospect before them.
How deplorable their condition! and yet how
self secure they are. The heart of man is, indeed
wicked, selfish and stubborn.

I have been much grieved today on account
of my want of zeal for the spread of the Gos-
pel. It sometimes appears to me that I feel no
interest at all in the cause of Religion. May
God who is able give ^{me} a better heart. O that
he would increase my love toward Him!

Sunday evening Feb. 11 1849

I have been reading in Henry on meekness
and trust I shall be profited by it. While reading
I saw plainly a great lack of this grace in my
own heart. I am too proud, too stubborn, too selfish,
and too hasty; and it is my determination to make
more effort to cultivate that desirable quality. I often
am delighted to ^{see} others possess so much of it. But
I am grieved daily in finding that but a small
share of it belongs to myself. At almost every reci-

I own I'm base, I own I'm vile;

tation I either say, or do something which afterwards grieves me. And often when retiring to rest at night, my heart is burdened with my improprieties during the day. It is easy to theorize on patience, meekness, faithfulness, and watchfulness; but it is difficult to reduce these theories to practice.

However, in this work of conquering myself, I am determined to continue my labors till this my earthly existence shall have come to a close.

I frequently see, by attempting ~~to~~ in my own strength, ^{to} overcome my evil propensities; but even then I can thank God for the disappointment; for it tends to humble me; and to show me more of myself. Oh! God Thou that knowest my outward acts and secret thoughts - Save ^{me} from the vanities, the sinfulness, and the stubbornness of my corrupt nature! I now see to how much greater extent I might be useful if only these were removed and in Thy Strength Oh! My Saviour; I set out anew in the arduous but needful work.

Monday Morning April 9th 24

This morning I am entirely alone in my room and have been reflecting over my past life - my

Give joy or grief, give ease or pain

We have conversed much, and with much seriousness. And have become much attached. But ill health and the unwillingness of friends to be separated if I should hereafter feel it my duty ^{to} become a missionary will perhaps cause us to abandon our former design. In this matter I have but one desire - that we may know and do Gods will, and I pray that he may give me grace to make duty, and not inclination my choice, and not instruction and the path in which to walk.

I arose this morning with a sorrowful heart - read some in the Bible - went to town to put a notice of the commencement of the Summers Session in the paper - came by the post-office and received a letter from my sister informing me of the sickness of my father. He is dangerously ill - So now I have sorrow upon sorrow. But most of all do I lament that my father has always so greatly neglected personal piety.

Perhaps in a few days I will be called home in consequence of my fathers death - This thought itself would be deprived of all its bitterness, if only I knew he were prepared for a world of bliss - While writing this I am obliged at times to desist and give vent to my grief with tears. May God be merciful to him in his distress.

Take life or friends away; But let me meet them
all again, on that eternal day!
After reading this letter I proceeded to dress and decorate
the grave of my worthy Teacher, my faithful Pastor,
and my dear private friend and counsel in perplexities.
I will now return to town, ^{but} Sorrow and Sadness will
still accompany me. O! That I could yield myself
up to be guided, directed, and entirely controlled by Him
who never errs.

Wednesday evening April 18

This is the last evening of the present vaca-
tion and I feel distressed that I have not done
more to glorify God. I deeply feel the need of
being constantly engaged in doing good in order
to avoid doing evil. Today brother Imhoff and
I numbered the books of the African Sunday
School library - carried the book-case which I
got made, from the Shop to the African Church
and put the books in it. It is quite a neat
little library between 15 and 20 dollars worth,
bought by money which brother Ruhl and I collected
among the officers themselves, for that purpose.

I will strive to become more Heavenly minded;
for I am entirely too vain and trifling.

"The path of duty is alone the path of safety."

Thursday April 19th - 49

Today the Session commences - I feel grieved that so much of my life has been mispent. Oh! that my time in future may be spent more profitably.

Saturday evening April 21

Another week has passed, and is forever gone. Like most of my weeks and days, it has been spent to little purpose. In taking a close view of my past life I can discover little else than error. I have erred in every thing which I have engaged in. Ambition - Selfishness - pride - Idleness - envy - Intemperance in the use of food - and constant violations of my solemn vows to God are some of the sins which annoy me exceedingly.

My health has for some time been declining and this has cost me much anxious thought. I had supposed that almost constant exercise, during vacation would remove the complaints which is one of the stomach. I have been on my feet either walking or standing at my desk nearly all day, but I ^{feel} worse than at any time previous, and cannot sit more than

Sect live deprive death of his terrors.

a few minutes without great uneasiness. A physician told me today that my System is in a very bad state. What it will be in a few weeks is very uncertain. The most grievous reflection connected with my condition is that, It most likely is the result of my own, intemperance, and negligence. I feel this evening that I am not fit to offer myself to God - but what more can I do?

Oh! for love to the Saviour, which will surpass all other love - and will prompt me to constant labor for the honor of his name.

Sunday evening April 22 - 49

This day has been one of considerable enjoyment. In teaching my Bible-class of Students this morning I felt a great desire to benefit them - especially to show the unconverted of them, the Sinfulness and folly of their course. O! may God help me to pray while I teach. and may his spirit accompany his truth. Under preaching I enjoyed myself well but in teaching in the African S. School this afternoon I felt particularly interested, and enjoyed it well. My Stomach is much better and I hope that with prudence and care I will be able to continue my Studies with success.

There is no real enjoyment aside from duty

Sunday morning May the 13-49

I have neglected writing in this several days
On the morning ^{Thursday} of the 26 of April I received a
letter from my brother-in-law stating that my fa-
ther and one of my sisters were very ill. After
some reflection on the condition of my friends, I de-
termined to visit them; and accordingly left this place
at two O'clock the same day. I arrived at home
on the Saturday evening following at 9 O'clock-
found my father and sister much better than I
expected. I remained at home till Wednesday
about 10 o'clock and then started for Springfield.

In my way here on Thursday I ~~had~~ visited some
persons belonging to the Mt. Zion congregation ~~and~~
and got \$800 subscribed to the building of the
College edifice. Went thence into Sinking Co.
Secured \$1200 for the benefit of the Philopian
Society, collected some money which I had secured
last fall for the college, and on Friday morning
started for College, where I arrived on Saturday
evening. I then felt desirous of writing in this
book but as I had left it in my trunk in
town I could not enjoy that privilege till it

The only way ^{to} keep from evil, is to be constantly doing good

would be brought over - brought it over on Monday
but partly through negligence, and partly on account
having so much to do, it has been deferred till the
present time. - (Sunday evening

It seems to me that I feel very little interested
for the spiritual welfare of those around me. I am
truly grieved that I do not think more seriously
upon this duty - that I do not converse with them
more in reference to their salvation - and that
I do not pray more, and with more faith, for their
conversion. During my last visit home I had
more satisfaction and pleasure in conversing with
my father, than ever before. I think he is much
concerned about his spiritual interests - and is think-
ing much about connecting himself with some branch
of the Christian Church. I believe he is a man of
habitual and earnest prayer. O! how it delighted
my soul to hear him answer me so reasonably
when I spoke to him of his duty ~~in~~ toward God.
May God influence and controul his mind, and
lead him to true repentance and newness of life.
I left my sister very ill, but resigned to her
condition. She earnestly requested me to pray for her.

My disappointments and troubles here teach

Oh! That God would give her patience in affliction entire resignation to his will, and a preparation for death. And may her husband share similar blessings. This evening I had some conversation with an unconverted student - he was deeply impressed with the necessity of conversion and a holy life. I read to him the 14th chapt of the Gospel by John, which seemed to afford him some comfort. But I felt unworthy to speak to him about holy things. May God help both him and me.

Sunday morning May 20

I feel this morning that I have been too light minded during the past week. Have not prayed enough nor talked with the impenitent around me. Brother Ruhl and had a long conversation on Friday night, in regard to the manner and means of the greatest possible improvement in learning, health, and piety; and agreed that we and Brother Imhoff would try to meet once every week for conversation on those subjects. Bro. Imhoff accompanied me to the country a few miles; and we had a very pleasant ride. I was trying to sell a perpetual

me that this world is not my home

Scholarship for the College but did not succeed in entering into definite agreements. We returned in the evening, buoyant in spirits, confirmed in the determination to serve God during life, and strong in the hope of an everlasting crown, when the turmoils of life shall have ceased. I was conversing with some of my friends in the country, about having a Sabbath School celebration on the fourth of July and I think they will make arrangements to do so.

x Sunday morning May 27 - 49

I this morning feel much peace and inward joy. Although during the week past I was much perplexed, and dejected on account of the opposition of ~~my~~^{our} friends, to our alliance for life, yet God supported me and gave me to see and feel that, "Earth hath no sorrows that Heaven can not heal."

I can now say that I have no will in that matter farther than to submit to the will of The Most High.

Last night we had a good prayer meeting, and I returned from it renewed in spirit. This morning I took a walk to the wood with my dear brother J. and we had a pleasant and profitable talk on our own spiritual state.

There is a pleasure connected with a conscientious

Monday morning May 28 - 49

This morning I feel truly anxious to improve both mentally and morally as much as possible. I am becoming more forcibly impressed with the truth that I have nothing of my own, and that I should use the time and talents which God gives me, in his service only.

Yesterday was a day of much pleasure to me. In the morning while teaching my bible class, I felt deeply the importance of such duties, and the necessity of connecting with them earnest and faithful prayer. In the afternoon I went with brother S. to his Sabbath School in the country - taught a class of small boys - and addressed the School - trying to show them the importance of Sunday School. As there was no preaching at our church in the forenoon I went to the Presbyterian Church and heard the Rev. Mr. Galoway deliver an address on the necessity of prayer and other efforts for increasing the number of Ministers in our own country. I think it was the best discourse I ever heard on that subject and it made me think much of abandoning my thoughts of going to labor in a foreign land.

discharge of duty, which can be found no place else.

Sunday morning June 3rd 1849

I had much enjoyment during the last week and have accomplished more in my studies than usual, but from some cause, this morning, I feel cold and indifferent. It does not seem to me that I can go to meet my bible-class this morning, with as much delight, and anxiety, as I have done at other times.

I feel that my heart wants many ^{virtues} in a much higher degree than it now possesses them. I am not sufficiently zealous for the spread of the Gospel—have not that fervent and constant love toward God that I should have, and in consequence of these deficiencies I often neglect duty and indulge in vain and sinful thoughts. Yet I have firm confidence in God and am determined to continue my efforts to improve physically, intellectually, and spiritually; for I regard ^{this} a Christian duty.—Yesterday at 3 o'clock P. M. I met two students at my room and spent an hour with them in conversation and prayer. They are both much concerned about their souls, and are anxious to converse on the subject of religion; and therefore I have agreed to meet them, together with any others who will attend, on every Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock

"Abstain from all appearance of evil".

Sunday evening

Another Sabbath is nearly passed and another day deducted from the number which I will spend on earth. I taught my bible class this forenoon with much pleasure, and enjoyed the preaching tolerably well. This afternoon after teaching in the African S. S. by Mr. Imhoff and retired to the wood and spent some time in conversation - engaged in prayer and then returned to college. Although I always try to avoid religious disputes, especially on the Sabbath, yet at supper this evening, I became engaged ⁱⁿ that way, and the dispute grew quite warm before ending. It originated thus. One of our students by the name of Smith, has been in the habit, for some time, of teaching Singing School on Sunday. He teaches the rudiments of music - and receives pay, the same as he would for teaching on week-day. At supper several of the students were talking about his school and during the conversation I asked Mr. J. who sat near me whether he believed it was right to teach the rudiments of music in that way. He answered that it was dependant

earthly.

66 Set your affections on things above and not on things on the

upon circumstances, I then told him to mention some circumstances which he thought would justify it. After some hesitation he said that were any that would justify it. But several others undertook to show wherein it ~~was~~ is right by comparing it to some other things which were countenanced by community. But they were unable to prove from the Bible that these customs are right.

I then asked them to show wherein it was better to teach and study the rudiments of music on Sunday than for student preparing for the ministry to study the Greek verb. This they did not attempt to do but seemed considerably displeas'd at me on account of what I had said.

Sunday evening June 10-49

I looking over my conduct during the past week I see many imperfections, and failings of duty. I cannot pray with sufficient earnestness for the salvation of souls. I have not enough of sympathy for the unconverted. O for a better heart! O for more love to God! and O for a greater interest in the spiritual welfare of those with whom I daily associate, and who are not Christians.

It is better to discharge little duties in a proper manner

Our new president and professor of Theology, the Rev. S. Specker arrived yesterday evening and preached this morning from Revelations V. chapt. 5. Verse 5. and one of the Elders saith unto me weep not: behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah the Root of David hath prevailed to open the and read the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. He made a good, sensible, and affecting discourse. I am well pleased with him, having conversed with him a few minutes last evening I think him an humble, devout man.

Sunday afternoon June 24-49.

This is indeed a day of pleasure to me. Our new president and Professor of Theology preached this afternoon from Mathe 20. 4. Go ye also into the vineyard. It was a plain, practical, powerful discourse holding forth enlarged views of Christian duty; and especially of Christian enterprise and zeal necessary in this western country. I was much edified and encouraged to labor more faithfully and ardently in the cause of Christ.

During the past week I was not sufficiently faithful in duty and consequently had not so

, than to perform more important things badly.

much enjoyment as I could have had - untill yesterday afternoon I rode 7 or 8 miles into the country with Prof. Deible and in conversation with him I had much pleasure while conversing on the state of the Church, the prospects of the College, the necessity of entire consecration to the service of the most high, and the joy and peace connected with discharge of duty. I staid all night with my friend Dayton who has been lately bereft of his earthly companion - conversed with him and the rest of the family - urged upon them the importance of immediately embracing religion and walked to Springfield this morning before 8 o'clock - attended the meeting of the A. S. teachers - and at 9 o'clock taught my bible class.

Tuesday night June 26 - 49

This day I desisted from my studies and commenced to superintend the work of building the college edifice. Worked hard at the stone quarry and was in town till late, engaging teams to haul stone and brick.

It was with some reluctance that I left my studies and undertook this arduous task. But as the Building Committee could not procure any ^{one} whom they could trust and as I regarded the ^{the} Institution, of the

“(Whether we live we live unto the Lord, and we live, or die therefore we are the Lord’s) first importance to the Church I determined to undertake it and do the best I could. It is a work upon which I can consistently ask the blessing of God, and therefore I desire to enter upon it relying upon Him for support under trials of patience - and for guidance in perplexities and doubts.

Saturday morning June 30 49

I have now been engaged several days in the tedious duty of Superintending the work of the College edifice. I like the employment very well; but it so occupies my mind that I often find it interrupting my secret devotions. I however feel that in this as well as in other duties I must be supported and guided by Him who can not see. I find but little time for study; for there are so many bargains to be made that such business employs all the time - which I do not spend with the hands in the quarey, or at other places of washing - except from the time of rising in the morning which is half past 4 o’clock till breakfast at a quarter after six.

whether we die we die unto the Lord, whether

Sunday evening July 1st 1849

We this day enjoyed another privilege of partaking of the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord and Saviour; but I had but little enjoyment—perhaps owing to the depressed state of both body and mind. I feel unworthily entirely unworthily of the privileges which I here enjoy. O! that God I would teach and enable to to transact my worldly business ~~with~~ promptly and correctly—and at the same time not neglect my duties toward God. I believe it possible for a man to embrace a good cause and to zealously labor in a worthy enterprise till ~~he~~^{death} and yet be lost. He may at first engage in it with proper motives, desiring only the glory of God, but after having become immersed in it may lose sight of the great object and think only of completing his undertaking. In all enterprises we should not ^{only} commence with Gods glory in view but we should also constantly have ~~it~~ it before our minds. May my Heavenly Father help me so to do.

"Thou shalt guide me by thy counsel, and

almost one year has fled since I commenced writing in this book; and during that time I have had many thoughts and various feelings. I must say that I have not made that improvement which I then anticipated nor that which I might have attained; but I think this writing my thoughts from time to time has been a great assistance to me. During the last year I was more careful to improve my time than ever before. Short time after this last year I commenced operation as an agent of the College - travelled during the fall vacation, and a part of the Spring vacation - wrote letters to persons on that subject during session - and by thus laboring I succeeded in securing upwards of one thousand dollars; and did not neglect my studies on account of my agency - but have kept up with my classes all the time until I commenced superintending the building. During that time I taught twice each Sunday - a Bible class of students in the morning and a class of young men in the Testament in the afternoon.

In future this may fall into the hands of some one who will think that I mention this boastfully but I feel guilty for having mispent much of my time

afterward receive me into glory"

and for having neglected many opportunities of doing good.

Sunday evening July 8, 1849

Today I feel exceedingly languid both in body and mind, perhaps owing in part, to my having labored excessively during the past week. But my low state of spirituality is most owing to my carelessness and neglect of duty. Sometimes I think of excusing myself on the grounds that I have so much to do; but I am well convinced that the best way to succeed in discharge of any duty is to live near a theme of grace to make God my counsel and to rely upon him for support. I therefore must charge myself with folly and wicked neglect of God during the past week. My heart is pained when I think of my selfishness and unfaithfulness. I do feel a desire to be entirely consecrated to the cause of Christ. If I could just feel that I have no selfish interests - but live for the good of others dealing out my life in useful labor wherever ~~and~~ and to whomsoever it is needed - then it seems to me my happiness would be complete. I will try to become more and more consecrated to the service of Him to whom I entirely and rightfully belong.

"If in this life alone we have hope, we are
another week has passed away and I must
again record my unfaithfulness towards God. My
duties as Superintendent of the building of the College
edifice are of such a nature ~~that~~ ^{as} to prevent
me from attending the Missionary meeting on Tues-
day evening; and this causes me to become less
interested in that subject; for the more I attend
such meetings and the more missionary reports I
read the more I become interested in behalf of
missions. I know I might live a much better
life if I would be more watchful and more pray-
erful and the thought that I am thus living
beneath my privileges grieves me. I now daily
experience something of the cares of this life - but I
enjoy my employment; because I believe I am in
discharge of duty.

Sunday evening July 22

I have just returned from teaching my class in
the colored S. School - the school was smaller
today than usual and I did not teach with
as much feeling and freedom today as usual. My
labors during the week are so oppressive that, although
I desert from as soon as possible on Saturday evening.

of all men most "miserable"

They do exhaust my strength and weary my mind
that I feel languid during the Sabbath. O! may
God help me - and constrain me to follow him
more closely than ever I have done. I sometimes
long to enter upon the duties of the Ministry. But
if only I am employed as God wills all is well
and I am satisfied. I feel that I am unworthy
of membership in Christ's Church. Yesterday (21 of
July) I was 26 years old when I think of my
age and then of the time I must yet spend in prepa-
ration for the Ministry, I scarcely know what to do
but I must commit myself into the hands of God.
I must engage in whatever duty presents itself and then
my life may rapidly pass away, and my change
will be a happy - happy one.

Sunday evening July 29 1849

My labors during the last week were excessive
owing to frequent and heavy rains we were much
thrown back with our work. It therefore required
increased efforts on my part to keep the work going
on. Yesterday I spent part of the ~~day~~^{day} at a S. S. cele-
bration 3 miles west of Springfield. Addressed the
Scholars in the forenoon, and the teachers in the afternoon

Let this world toss me to and fro - it's ^{all} upon
power to trouble and afflict me must cease soon

We had a very interesting time - and ^{all} present appeared
to be highly delighted - except one poor, wicked, igno-
rant, wandering, wretch who came near and contra-
dicted us while speaking connecting oaths with nearly
every sentence which he spoke - poor man - I returned
by 4 O'clock in the afternoon and resumed my labor
here which I continued till 10 O'clock at night. Today
I walked three miles to the country to Superintend
brother G's Sunday School - he having left for home last
week - I feel much fatigued and languid both in
body and mind. I feel a great need of greater watch-
fulness, prayerfulness, and faithfulness in duty. The sermon
this evening by ~~the~~ Prof. I was plain, practical,
forcible, and scoldable.

Saturday night Aug 4th 49.

Through the toils of another week, by the blessing
of God, I have passed. I do feel grateful for the
health and prosperity he has bestowed - although exposed
much, to the night air and inclemency of the weather
yet I have enjoyed good health - feel though that
these favors have not been bestowed because I am
worthy; for I am guilty of great neglect of duty - and
numerous transgressions, in thoughts, words, and actions,

done in the hour of God's Remuneration
I being as ready Remuneration

was not with me to comfort and sustain me
and afraid lest I in the midst of my labors and
cares should forget to put my trust in God and
afraid lest if called away suddenly by the Sholea
I would not be prepared to meet my judge

I therefore arose from my bed put on my close
and prayed God to help me feel my sinfulness,
and help me turn to Him with my whole heart.
I then read slowly and prayerfully the form
of Self-dedication found in "Doddridge's Rise and
Progress" and now I will try to consecrate myself
anew to his service, to whom I entirely belong—

O! God my sins are grievous and I have nothing
to recommend myself to thee— But help me to yield
my whole heart, my physical and intellectual powers
to thy service as long as life with me may last.

Saturday evening Aug 25 '49

For several days I have been considering the
Missionary Subject and have been comparing that
work with the duties which I now perform
here and perhaps will perform if I remain.

X I have compared these two fields of labor, not
to select the one requiring the ~~but~~ less toil

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which

but to ascertain to which of them I should devote my energies. In consequence of being now so connected with the Institution, as to be perhaps more useful than I could be any place else and because I can not with the approbation of the Prudential committee, and others concerned, be released from my present duties, I have concluded to remain and Superintend the building and study as much as I can. I think this is my duty, yet my prayer is that if God wills otherwise, he may so controll my circumstances and so influence my mind that duty will become known to me. I earnestly pray Him to enable me to labor for his glory, putting my trust daily and hourly in him.

Monday morning Aug 27 '49

I do feel this morning that I am a great sinner in the sight of God. I have been unfaithful in duty - careless in my conduct - vain and foolish in conversation - and have not for a long time exerted myself, much to benefit others. My heart this morning is grieved while thinking of my past unfaithfulness and sins

are not convenient, but rather giving of thanks.

I desire humbly in the fear of God, solemnly to dedicate myself anew to the Service of him to whom I rightfully belong.

Oh! Thou that knowest all things, look upon me in my Sinfulness, and pity, and forgive. I desire to be entirely thine; and by thy help I will follow the path of duty wherever and into whatever it may lead. I will abstain from intemperance in the use of food— from levity and folly— from anger so far as possible— and will daily and hourly rely upon thee for support and assistance in my duties— and will seek thy guidance in all my plans and resolutions— and now, O! My Father help me to be faithful evermore until death.

Thursday evening Aug 30th, 49

My Soul is filled with Shame and bitterness— and my heart is pained at the thought of my past unfaithfulness, and inconsistency. Yesterday morning by request I brought Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Speaker— from town to the College to attend the funeral of Mr. McRight and ^{after} returning to town with them, I fell in company with several ladies who were going

There is no room for trifling, here, for worldly hope,

to the college. I accompanied them there and back to town; and during that time indulged much in vain and foolish conversation, which is hurtful to the cultivation of piety in our own hearts and disgraces the cause of Christ.

After meeting, I retired to my room; and while thinking over the follies, and sins, and neglects of the day felt the keenest remorse and guilt; and have felt so ever since. I do not feel worthy of a place among the friends and patrons of the Institution, to whose interests I now prefer to have devoted my energies.

I pray for mercy, through Jesus Christ.

Wednesday morning Oct 3 1849. Room at

Mr Oliver Blackes

It has been long since I have written anything in this book. Doubtless if more of my actions and feelings during the last two months had been recorded they would ^{have} been of benefit to me hereafter - and would have afforded me much satisfaction. But so it is with me I neglect too much of every thing which engages my attention.

or worldly fear, If life so soon is gone.

I continued Superintending the work at the College edifice until the commencement of the present Session (Sept 27); but was not constantly employed as there was not much done during the last month, however I labored most of the time with the hands employed, and spent the rest in visiting my acquaintances and others in Springfield and in the surrounding towns and country. During these visits I was much delighted and I trust some benefitted by the company of those with me.

A few days before the commencement of the Session Prof. Seihl requested me to take charge of the Grammar School of the College. I did not immediately tell him what I would do, for I scarcely knew what I ought to do. But after serious thought for some time I agreed to take the School and do the best I could with it. On Monday the 1 of Oct I commenced with 8 Scholars and yesterday I had 13. It will require great care and labor to revive that School as it has been declining for more than one year, and

When I would do good evil is

at the close of the last session was nearly broken up for want of Scholars.

I feel my need of both learning and grace to discharge my present duties. I still Superintend what work is done at the College.

Monday morning Oct 8 '49

My enjoyments in religion are very low, owing to my consciousness of unfaithfulness in duty and frequent sins and unsemiting follies. I feel both unworthy and incompetent to fill the place that I now occupy. I am determined to strive against my evil propensities and by the help of God overcome them. Oh! how often I have determined to do so; yet my sins appear to evil over me and destroy my peace and joy. May God who is able deliver and keep me!

Tuesday morning Nov. 6 '49

This morning I feel unworthy of the name of Christian. My heart is burdened with folly such as is a disgrace to the Christian profession. Last evening having been invited to

Against thy law, against thy grace.

Here I feel the weight of a dejected heart and a smitten conscience. I am not grieved with one sin or ^{one} class of inproprieties but am disgusted with my whole life. I must reform or at last be excluded from heaven. I seriously ask myself the solemn question. Which will you do? My whole heart seems at once ~~to~~ to respond I will abandon my sins and follies and go to heaven. But how often have I made a promise of that kind? The number can not be told - but not one of them has been fulfilled. Oh what a reason for shame sorrow and self-reproach! Jesus help me ^{and} I will again try to forsake my follies and follow thee!

Tuesday evening Jan. 1st 1850

Another day has fled, and I have entered upon a new year. Solem feelings pre-~~pare~~pare my heart when I think of the fleetness of time and the awful consequences of its end.

I desire and am determined to make renewed efforts to cultivate and improve my intellectual and moral powers. By the grace of God I will do more to improve and prepare for duties here and happiness hereafter than I have ever done in any part year of my life.

"Except ye become as little children ye can

Sunday night Jan. 6th 1850
Another Sabbath has passed but I trust
not entirely without profit to my soul. I
had a pleasant meeting this morning with
my bible class enjoyed a sermon preached
by the Rev. Fink. Read a considerable part of
the afternoon in Stanley's Life of Christ and
was much edified by it; it is a pleasure
to read and reflect upon the actions and char-
acter of the Blessed Saviour of men. Tonight
again heard a plain and earnest discourse
by Rev. Fink, from the words. This is the
condemnation that light has come into the
world and men love darkness rather than
life because their deeds are evil. I desire to
improve in every respect and prepare for life
and for death.

Sunday evening Jan 13, 50
The past week has been one of consider-
able Christian enjoyment. I have been more
attentive to my duties than ordinarily and have
accomplished more - but then my selfish heart
wants the praise - it would tell me that

not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

I have employed my time well and am better, on that account. Thus it is when I am inactive I incur guilt for neglect of duty and then when I for a time apply myself closely to duty my spiritual pride arises and sends my motive of action impure. I am often influenced by wrong motives to perform good acts. And in that wrong spirit I do them, although I daily pray and strive against it - How necessary it is that Christ should possess the whole heart! I will continue as long as I live to give up my entire self and interests to him.

Sunday evening Feb 10th 1850

This afternoon has been one of joy and peace. And yet I cannot tell why, only that it is because God is merciful.

Yesterday afternoon I rode from 2 o'clock till six - Lectured on Temperance at D - Rode home after lecture - had pleasure in reflection while riding alone - and today feel healthful and hopeful. Was alone in my room most of the afternoon - read in ^{the} *Life of Christ* - and now I feel like humbly submitting myself into the hands of God.

My conduct is proof that nothing but the

Sunday evening Feb. 24 1850

Such a sense of sin and deperavity rests upon my mind this day that I have reason to doubt my Sincerity in professing Christ,

Oh! how can I escape from these sinful habits which destroy my spiritual enjoyments.

Saturday March 23 1850

Today again I take up my residence in the College. Am alone in my room. Feel somewhat depressed but am determined to set myself earnestly to work. Intend to Superintend the building during the Summer. Am determined to cultivate pious feeling more than I have done and will write more frequently in this book.

Sunday March 24 1850

I this day heard an instructing and powerful sermon by Dr. Sprecher, from Exodus 8 and 19. Then the Magicians said unto Pharaoh this is the finger of God! He dwelt upon the special government of God his providence in bringing about what is his will how

-human heart

grace of God can overcome the evil propensities of the

he supports whatever is consistent with his holy law. It was particularly encouraging to us in this gloomy season in regard to both the Institution and the Congregation. But it will be great condescension if God now favors us and gives us success - we are unworthy to be employed in his service - May he make us fit to labor for him - and may he give us grace for all times and circumstances.

Wednesday morning April 10 - 50

I feel this morning like living for heaven. This life is short why then trouble ourselves so much about its concerns - it uncertain why then make so much calculation for it - it is full of disappointments and sorrow why should we continue expect so much from it. Last night I had a pleasant and profitable time in my room alone - reading in "The Church in Earnest" - and meditating upon my past life and then with penitence for my sins and neglects of duty outscating God's pity forgiveness and grace. The building is now going on, I have but little time to write.