

December 1867.

A sky o'ercast with darkening clouds
Which presage coming storms;
Cloud piled on cloud, a massive veil
Of strange fantastic forms,
While here and there a streak of blue
Just let the glimmering sunlight through.

G.E. Brackett

1 Sunday: a bitter cold day: Lucy started for home in the West. I carried her to Liberty; Miss Hills joined her there, and they went around to Mr. Gardiner Shermans where they are to spend the night and take the stage in morning. Jackson & Louisa went over; Jackson carried Lucy to Shermans; Louisa & I came home. Orley is going too, we met him, when we were coming home, going to Shermans; hope they may go in safety to their destination. We have enjoyed Lucys visit very much; am glad she came home. She is a nice woman.

2 Looks much like a snow storm this morning; is snowing some now. Lewis butchered at Alfreds today. I sold the old cow to Foye in P.M. for 55 dollars; was sorry to part with her, she has been a faithful old creature. My back is very lame today. I can just make out to do the chores, and get a little wood.

3 Tuesday: somewhat cool today; I visited the Vose school in the A.M. Mr. Hall teacher; it is his first school; he seems to be doing very well; they have fixed the old school house some and it is fairly comfortable now.

4 Very cold; I went to mill at Freedom; suffered with cold going up; got my grist and got home before sunset. a very cold bitter day.

5 Quite warm and mild; Lewis helped me kill the hog; the speckled one; that was all I did today. went to Lodge in evening. not many out.

6 A beautiful morning; but come up cloudy and snowed in P.M. the wind blew fearfully all night; I did not know but it would blow down the house, but it didn't. rained some in the night. boisterous weather.

7 Very windy; I went in woods today; I forgot to say that I cut up the hog yesterday, it weighed 270 lbs. Riley Gilcrest & Granville Thompson were here to see if they could buy some ash timber for shovel handles; they couldn't buy. I went in woods in P.M. it was not very cold, but windy; in evening went to Carrs got the papers. a pleasant evening, the moon is nearly at its full. So Saturday night shut down once more, the night that ends the weary week.

8 Sunday: a pretty cold day; Jackson & Louisa come over; the sun shone quite warm, but it was windy and cold; I do hate such cold weather, awfully dread it too. a pleasant evening by the fireside, I was reading a spiritual book, lent me by Leander Tobie, "Messages from J. Quincy Adams." Some very pretty reading I think; after reading we had an animated discussion; but reached no definite conclusion.

9 A bitter cold morning; the cattle shiver with the cold nicely housed as they are in the barn. Hollis T. Goin come in A.M. staid to dinner; I hired him, to help me one month, am to pay him 22 dollars per month; pretty good pay but I suppose he is a smart man to work. a bitter cold day and night; the moon shone with unusual brilliancy all night. at about its full and runs on high.

10 A storm of snow set in in A.M. I visited our school in A.M. Mr. Foster is doing very well I think; the scholars are very docile and the school appeared very well indeed. Exavier & George Sproul are great young men, nice looking fellows they are too; they will soon get through with school years. In P.M. I did the chores and then night come down; a pretty cold day but not so severe as it was yesterday.

11 A little snow fell last night; a beautiful morning. I visited Mr. Elders school at Ranlets cor. a very good school. come up squally at noon, and was very windy all the P.M. I did the chores, went down to Nats in evening. a splendid eve.

12 Thursday: a cold day; wqs about home. went to Lodge in evening, was so cold there was not many out; got home at 10 o'clock.

13 Very cold; done chores in A.M. Visited school at Mcfarlands cor. in P.M. Mr Gilman of So. Montville, teacher; he is doing very well, but the school appeared rather restless and some were not doing what they ought; I urged upon them the importance of doing the best they could; had a very pleasant visit; got some mail, traded some, and then came home; it was awful cold coming home with the wind in my face squarely. Called at Lewis's & took supper,

then came home. my cold increased wonderfully, and I felt miserably on going to bed; have taken a severe cold somehow.

14 Quite mild today; did chores and got a load of wood in A.M.; went to conference in P.M. had a very good meeting. went to Jeb Clements & saw a calf; am to get it Monday if I have it at all. price 25\$ John P. Carter was here in A.M. got my key to Greenleafs Algebra for Nellie who is going away to teach.

15 Sunday: at home all day; not very cold. Samuel Rollins & wife were here, too dinner with us. I paid him my note of 20 dollars which he bought, that I was owing Mr. Rollins for stable etc. Jackson & Louisa & George were here in P.M. so ended another sabbath.

16 Monday: a severe snow storm, the wind blew most awfully; I did nothing but chores; Jackson came over and we settled our accounts, reference may be had to small book for a statement; so night closed in a drear night enough.

17 Quite pleasant, Mr. H. T. Goin, our man to work, come this morning before we were up, knocking at the door; abt. 6 o'clock. we went in woods cutting & hauling wood; George Lewis was over at night to get their colt which had run away.

18 Pleasant, not very cold; we worked in woods all day; got quite a lot of wood started; quite good working in woods now;. about a foot of snow fell in the storm of Monday.

19 Very cold; Lewis come over and we killed a hog and five sheep; quite a day of butchering I thought. Mr. Goin is not very well tonight, guess he works too hard. tonight is lodge night, I have a bad cold and so did not go, a very cold night, the wind howls dismally. the hog weighed 204 lbs. a pretty little shoat.

20 Master Ralph is a year and a half old today; he is as smart as a little man need to be; is so much company,-we love him very dearly; "Father our darling, guide and save." Snowed some in P.M. we worked however in spite of the storm. these days seem quite lonesome, no one passes by as indeed they cannot for the road is blockaded with snow; so all I can do is to read Whittiers "Snow bound" and be contented.

21 Saturday: a beautiful morning and forenoon; somewhat cloudy in P.M.; I thought winter had broke, it was so pleasant; Were culling and starting out wood; Mr. Goin went home at night. "How pleasant is Saturday night, When I've tried all the week to be good."

22 Sunday: Winter asserts his authority again today. a pretty tough snow storm is raging. "Let the hurricane roar, It will the sooner be o'er." I read some, wrote some, did the chores a good deal, and so passed the day, a long lonesome day.

23 Quite pleasant this morning; come up a huge squall about noon; and in P.M. it was quite cold. we worked in woods hauling wood etc. Mr. Goin got here after we had been to breakfast. I went to Carrs in morning carried chains to get mended. got some mail, papers a letter from Lucy etc.

24 A pleasant morning; come up cloudy in P.M. Mr. Goin went home at night, he is to attend Christmas tomorrow. started out some basswood logs in P.M. we shoveled manure in A.M. pitched over the two great heaps.

25 Christmas day; a pleasant morning; I went to mill at Freedom, went down to Ranlets, sold him the bark for 6 dollars per cord; called to Henry Beals too see if I could buy bass boards, he will sell for 15\$ per thousand. got my grist and come home. the sky was thick and black as one could well conceive.

26 Thursday: a rain storm today; it rained most all night last night; rains real hard this morning. cleared off in A.M. Mr. Goin come about noon, he worked in woods in P.M. & I went to Bachelders; called to Carrs got some mail; a paper from Belfast with a little apron in it for Ralph from Trantie Warren, it is very pretty. ought to have gone to lodge, but did not go.

27 We worked in woods, commenced to start logs & bark rained in P.M. quite a hard rain, we got some wet.

28 A fine day, some cloudy: M. Goin went to get the oxen shod in morning; I went to Aarons, carried butter, two firkins, 70 lbs. got 30 cts for it. total \$21. Come home on the Bradbury road, and went to Bachelders got the horse shod; paid him my bill amounting to 47.42. got home about sunset. the sleighing has all gone, some ice & much bare ground. So ends another week. Mr. Goin went home at night.

29 Sunday: some squally; Jackson & Louisa come over; George Lewis & Charlie Howard come over towards night. the wind blew up cold towards night. " A sabbath well spent etc. "

30 Cold; we worked in woods; Willard Vose & Eb. Poland were here to make complaints about their teacher. We broke the ring of the ox yoke and had some bad luck, have got just fairly under way getting out bark & logs. It is pleasant working, if the days were only longer.

31 Tuesday: Colder this morning than yesterday, but moderated some before night. A pleasant day, Samuel Curtis & Stephen Myrick were in the woods sawing logs; Alfred was in woods getting some timber also. got out quite a lot of bark and logs today. Mark Vose has

lost his little babe, it was only a day or two old, it was brought home and is buried today. Eva feels bad no doubt. this is the last day of the year.

And so another year is gone, a year of joys almost uninterruptedly no earth shadows have been cast upon me, but my spirits vision is clear, and earth looks beautiful and Heaven more lovely still. And now as I close my journal of the old year writing 'finis' on the page, it is with a silent prayer for that protection which cometh from on High; for the assistance which only God can give.

It is sweet to feel at peace with all mankind and feel the divine approval is also ours; such may be the case with all.

So the year closes, another is to begin. May we have the strength to do every duty and gain many spiritual victories in the conquering name of Our Savior.

Finis.