

1968 January: 1868

Oh God, Our God!

Faint and weary are thy children,
 Toiling up the steep of time,
Seeking for the Eastern token,
 Listening for the morning chime;
Waiting, waiting ever waiting,
 For the voice of long ago
With its soft melodious accent,
 Soothing every human woe.
Know they not the star has risen,
 And its glory gilds the earth?
Hear they not the sounds of angels,
 O'er this glorious second birth?
"Peace on earth! Good will from Heaven!"
 Sing that white robed angel band,
"Peace on earth! Good will from Heaven!"
 Echoes over all the land.
Oh thou God of Past and Present!
 Oh thou light of every soul!
We will chant the deathless praises
 While Eternity shall roll.

(Selected)

1 Wednesday: Another New years day: A time for new and noble resolutions; and may we strive to improve as the years go by, strive to grow in every good way unto a more perfect stature. Help us Oh Lord is our earnest prayer.

We worked in woods in A.M. starting logs. A fierce snow storm came down in the A.M. it raged furiously in P.M. with hail; did not go in with oxen in P.M. Mr. Gowin went in and swamped roads some. the wind howls dismally tonight, and if anyone has to be out they must perish surely.

2 Quite pleasant: We went to Centre in evening. I went to see Geo. Norton about some doors, making them. We agreed to go to Beals to see some lumber, next Monday.

3 Pleasant as usual; we were logging smartly. Alfred is in woods, getting wood; Samuel Curtis is there starting bark so we have quite lively times.

4 Cold; did a good days work today. Mr. Goin went home at night. I went to Carrs in evening got the mail. a letter from Lucy and some papers etc. a cold disagreeable night.

5 Sunday: Cold; I went to Unity; found them all well but Isaac; staid there a hour or two and came home, Isaac came with me; we had quite a cold time coming home. the wind blew awfully.

6 Monday: Cold and windy; I went to Henry Beals in morning to see his lumber, it was not fit to make doors. I bought a thousand and a half basswood boards; they are quite good boards I think. went in woods in P.M. I hurt me sliding quite seriously.

7 Warmer than yesterday; Jackson & Louisa was over today. Geo. Lewis got the sleigh to go to the spelling school, I hope he will not get unsteady. it is a splendid evening, nice moon.

8 Pleasant: Geo. Lewis brought the sleigh home in morning; Isaac went home with him; Mr. Gowin went home to-night. Mary went down to Emmas in P.M. In evening we had a family jar, Father said some hard things; he said I had not used him well, that the stock was his, and also said that either my wife should leave or he should; so I gave up building the house at once. It seems hard sometimes when I think of it, that old people will make arrangements for their children to live with them and in a little while will get uneasy and do so as to disgrace themselves and children too. I am resolved that I will do nothing towards building a house until I am sure it will not be taken from me at some future day. Father has told me that the bond was broken, that I had not used him well, and has told that I had better find out whose land I was to build on before I commenced. And I think just so, and shall do so.

9 Thursday: a snow storm today. Father and I resumed our conversation this morning, came no nearer in conclusion than when we begun. I told him positively that I would do nothing towards building till I was sure of something definite. Dexter Bennett was here, took dinner with us. I did not go in woods in A.M. quite a smart storm of snow in P.M. came up squally in evening and blowed with violence all night.

10 Wind blew with great fury all day; and as there fell just a little snow yesterday it was very disagreeable. the logs hang on smartly, seems like we may never get them all out. Such cold weather is almost too much to endure.

11 Cold, but not so bad as yesterday. Lewis was over, took dinner with us. Mr. Gowin went home at night. And so ends another weary week.

12 Sunday: a very cold day, windy & disagreeable. Alfred & Sarah was here in P.M. they got their cheese. a severe cold day; was glad the cold day passed at last..

13 Cold, not quite so severe as yesterday. we worked on logs again to-day. have got them almost conquered.

14 Quite cold yet: I worked in woods in A.M. went to Elisha Carters with the pig in P.M. quite cold riding, I think by the looks at Mr. Carters that they know what work is. they are pretty rich.

15 Wednesday: Father & I had another conversation this morning, one thing he said was very true no doubt; -"if we both had lived nearer the Lord it would have been better", and when I tried to live near the Lord he said, "I was going to Heaven on his expense". The most inconsistent man I ever talked with. We come no nearer anything than when we begun, and Isaac coming in interrupted us. Dexter called as he was going by. In P.M. I visited the school in Bryant Dist. the interest has not been very well sustained I think. came home in a thick snow storm. went over to Lewis's in evening, got the bags. It was very late when I got home.

16 Cloudy; I went to mill at Freedom, got Miss Elder to cut my coat; went down to Ranlets; got my grist and got home about dusk. heard that Mr. Rollins died last night. So another one has gone home at last.

17 Cold but pleasant: We finished logging, have almost 130 single length logs. I paid Mr. Gowin for his months work; (\$22) and he went home for good at night. Mr. Lampson of Freedom came down and surveyed the bark in P.M. he called it 12 cords and three feet. gave quite good survey we thought. am glad that we have got out the bark & logs for it has

been a hard job. now it will be a hard job to get the bark to market and the logs to the saw mill. the world is made up of hard things.

18 Saturday: Pleaant: I went to funeral at the Freedom meeting house; Mr. Rollins deceased; sermon by Bro. Small; Text, "Nevertheless the foundation of God remaineth sure", they took his death quite hard; he looked very natural just as he used to look; he was buried in the burying ground at Freedom village. Came directly home, they were digging Mrs. Averells grave on the old place whwen I came along. She died in Boston and will be brought home and buried. Vesta Howard & Lucetta Thompson called here a few minutes in P.M. they went to Carrs to stay all night. A Mr. Walls of Searsmont was here to get a certificate at night. is to teach in the Dist. at the Plains. I certified him immediately as he is a teacher of good reputation. Benj. Norton who stops at Mr. Averells came up to get me to go down and set up tonight. I was preparing to go down when he got here; I accordingly went down, met the family with much friendship as I always do; they opened the box and took out the coffin after which the family went in to see her; it was a mournful scene; she looked just as natural as if she had been asleep; dear, kind Mrs. Averell, she was a good woman; we shall miss her so much, got home at last. Benny & I sat up or rather laid down as ther was nothing to be done, the night passed away tolerably quick. Mr. Mellus, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Bartow came down with the corpse. We enjoyed an evening of quiet conversation, before the family retired for the night.

19 Sunday: Pleasant; went to Mrs. Averells funeral, services at the house; speaking by a medium, Mrs. Doty, Text, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". A very good discourse, many excellent truths were spoken, her address to the mourners was very affecting, and as beautiful as any words I ever heard spoken on such an occasion. We sung twice, "Joyfully, Joyfully onward I move," and "There is an hour of peaceful rest." sung very well I thought. the children took her death very hard; the procession formed and moved to the grave, and so this is the last of earth. Mother, Mary & Ralph went; Ralph behaved like a little man paid good attention to the speaker; and kept real still. We came home feeling somewhat lonely, Louisa stopped to supper. I was very sleepy and went to bed very early.

20 A cloudy day, with raw South wind; Lewis was over to get scalding trough; I did not do much in A.M. or in P.M. either; in evening Mr. Hall, the teacher in the Vose dist. accompanied by Mark Messer was here; he is having some trouble and wishes me to come over and settle it.

21 A cold disagreeable day; I visited the school in the Vose dist. found it better than I expected, there were three that were badly disaffected; Willard Vose, Marcena Poland, Loren Penny. The rest thought we had done as well as could be expected of a young teacher; I heard the evidence for & against, and came to the conclusion that, these boys were rebellious disobedient and ought to be used rough awhile; I found them all disposed

to submit to the teachers authority except Willard Vose, he said he would leave the school first. I reasoned as long as I thought consistent with him, trying to get him to change his mind, but it was of no use, he said he would not obey and I told him he must obey or leave; I gave him his choice to leave peaceably or be expelled and he left then and there. After he left the school went on quite orderly, and I talked to them as plain as possible, telling them the law in such cases, and I think they get along through the school now if no other serious trouble should arise. the teacher is young and inexperienced, and more than this I think he is some afraid of the boys. Agents that hire a young teacher must expect a young teachers school.

22 Wednesday: a new clearing this morning, cold but very pleasant. I must go to work now. was doing chores, cutting wood etc. all day. In evening the teacher in the Vose dist. and Will Vose were here, they request the presence of the committee in their school again. I told them I would go tomorrow.

23 Looked like a storm in morning, and come on to storm about noon a violent snow storm with hard wind. I started in morning to visit the Vose school, went by way of White's cor. and took in Bro. Murray; when we arrived at the school house, we saw quite a gathering around the house; We went in and proceeded at once to business Capt. Poland, Dea. Vose, Mr. Gilcrest, Madison Whittten, John Lamb Esq. William Poland of the dist. were present. Heard first the new charges brought against the teacher, they consisted of the following; that guns had been fired in and around the school house, but not in school hours; this had been done some five or six times. The teacher had also been left alone in the school house with a young lady, and one scholar said she had been the last to leave and the lights were blown out, when she left. these were new charges that I did not hear the other day. Much was said by all present, I briefly went over the work done the other day; some of the inhabitants Mr. Gilcrest and Mr. Whittten had no fault to find, the rest of them found fault, Dea. Vose and Capt. Poland were especially bitter against the teacher. after hearing all the evidence for and against, Bro. Murray and I brought in our decision; We censured the teacher for allowing such proceedings, and decided that Willard Vose must obey orders or leave the school, we asked him if he would obey, he said he would not. We then went up to Marcus Vose's and wrote the order of expulsion; when we got back Willard had yielded and promised to obey and be an obedient scholar the rest of the time that he went to school. We staid awhile and he made his word good by coming out and reading in his class. then we came home. a violent storm, I suffered considerably coming. hope we may not have more trouble.

24 Friday: Cleared off beautifully in morning. Mr. Myrick was here in morning, to see if he could get bark to haul. I am to haul it myself. Come up some squally in P.M. I threshed beans, cut wood etc.

25 Cloudy; I went to Belfast, carried pelts. Bought me some clothes; coat, pants & vest; coat 7.50, pants 6.00 vest 2.60 got some corn & meal, 1.55. it was quite cold coming home; as the wind was in my face. got home abt. 9 in evening.

26 Sunday: a storm of snow today; was at home all day doing chores, reading etc. Wrote a letter to O. B. Vose who is out in Minnesota. a sabbath well spent at home.

27 Continues snowing this morning; was at home doing chores all day; cut some wood etc.

28 Cleared off some today; considerable snow has fallen. In P.M. I visited the school on the Plains, Mr. Watts teacher, found the road drifted some; the school is doing well; they have a new school house very pleasant room. got home abt. dark.

29 Cloudy in A.M. a snow storm came down in P.M. a lonesome day, "O Solitude where are thy charms."

30 Snowed in morning; cleared off about noon, guess the wind is going to blow, and if it does there will be a merry time. I went in woods in P.M. Exavier was up in P.M. an old friend.

31 Quite pleasant; I went in woods in P.M. the snow is quite deep now; and so ends January; I went to Elisha Carters in A.M. carried the pig. one month of the year gone.