

March 1870

And when the Angel of Shadow
Rests his feet on wave and shore,
And our eyes grow dim with watching
And our hearts faint at the oar,

Happy is he who heareth
The signal of his release,
In the bells of the Holy City,
The chimes of eternal peace.

: -- J. G. Whittier.

1 Tuesday: A soft spring-like day; Geo. Lewis was here first time since he was sick. Exavier took dinner with us. I carried Geo. home in P.M.,

2 A home all day, quite cold, and stormd I guess a little.

3 Thursday: cold & windy; I went to the Plains dist., our exhibition, had a very pleasant time, the scholars acted their pieces well, the declamations were good, singing good, paper quite good; and the large audience present were well pleased I thought; I came home after the exhibition, a cold ride but I got along very well. got home about eleven o'clock.

4 Friday: Was some sleepy this morning; in morning Ida Poland come after me, as Mr. Rowell was dying; I went down and he was just breathing his last; I assisted in laying him out, he was very heavy. And quite hard to handle; Jesse Rowell, Alonzo Poland & I laid him out; he looked very natural I thought. In P.M. I went to Knox to get Mr. Wentworth the spiritual speaker to preach the funeral sermon. getting home about dark, coming by Centre trading some and getting the papers; read them in evening.

5 A pleasant day: went to funeral at meetinghouse Hollis Goins wife deceased, sermon by Eld. Clark, assisted by Eld. Davis; A large procession of mourners; How well I remember Mrs. Goin years ago, when we used to go to school together, she was always a good girl and a good woman. Louisa come home with me, and then Ralph & I went and carried her home;

I went to Alonzo Polands to set up, took my paper pen & ink etc. down and wrote my report in the night, getting it about half written.

6 Sunday: went to funeral, Mr. Rowell deceased, services at the house, --A. Polands. Sermon by Mr. Wentworth; not a great discourse, tho, there were some few grains of truth among the error; Thomas Cushman & wife, Wm. E. Poland & wife, Lewis & Charley were here to dinner. they all went away quite early, and I went to writing.

7 Monday: Town meeting day; most all the men were out I imagine, for there was many there; Chose E. Knowlton, Moderator. N. French, town clerk. R.L.Keen, J.J. Carr, N.A. Ripley, selectmen, assessors etc., Nelson Allen, Treasurer. H.M. Howard, S.S. Committee. E.H. Carter, Collector. Auditor of accounts, Benj. Bean. a pretty harmonious meeting, got through with the business in good season. Louisa came over with Sammy & Nelly, Ralph was not very well but played a little with them.

8 A stormy day; Mr. Myrick come up to get me to go and assist at the funeral of Mr. Hall on the morrow. I told him I would go, he died very suddenly, fell and hurt him hastening but not causing his death. so the Dr's said; I called in to Alonzo's in evening.

9 A blustery march day, quite cold; I went to Mr. Eells' quite early, made arrangements, had a prayer, and started, for Knox where the services were to be held; It fell to my lot to manage the funeral; we got there and waited some time for the minister, we getting there very early. but at last the minister, Bro. Clark, arrived, the mourners living thereabouts came in and we had the services, passing off very well and orderly; then we buried him and came home. Exavier & I went together, I got home in season to do the chores as father was pretty sick today not able to be out.

10 Thursday: a cold blustery day: I went over the road in P.M., heard Eliza Vose was dead; when I got home Alfred was here, he brought word from Mr. Vose that I was wanted to manage the funeral services, which are to be held on the sabbath. a cold night; more like winter than ever.

11 A very cold day: I carried Mary down home; the sleighing is very poor down that way; Alonzo is very sick but I think he may live some time yet. I came home after staying a couple or three hours, a cold ride, I suffered a good deal from the cold.

12 Some warmer than yesterday; J.J. Carr went by on town business I expect; I must go in the woods awhile. I went to Mr. Curtis's; got a load wood, and flew about smartly; it is easy to work if one is interested.

13 Sunday: a cold blustering day: Eliza Vose was buried today, services at the house, sermon by Eld. Davis. I took charge of the funeral, there were many mourners, as many as sixteen teams in the procession; besides some that did not go to the grave; a large congregation were out; I succeeded pretty well I thought in managing the funeral, things were done decently and in order. After supper I came home, a large circle of relatives and friends stopped to supper; -- and so another friend of my youth is passed away, one after another are passing on.

14 Monday: I wrote Eliza's obituary notice in A.M., went to Aarons in P.M., traded some. a pleasant day, the sky was very blue and clear atmosphere.

15 Pleasant: I hauled wood from the old house and put it in the wood house in A.M.—in P.M., went through to Curtis's and got a load wood in the woods. a spring-like day.

16 Cloudy, looking much like a storm; I went to Knox to Geo. weeds to pay him a bill I owed for hair used in plastering. \$6.40. paid also Mr. Banton for planing \$3.35. got a pair boots at Henry Thompsons; am to pay \$4.50 for them. father went to Freedom with me, he got bitters of Dr. Billings. Jackson went by in evening, left me some papers, "The Wide World."

17 A terrific storm, wind about east, and snowed and blowed fearfully all day long; I had as much as I wanted to do to get to the barn and not stifle. the hardest storm of the season.

18 Continues cloudy and windy, but does not storm so hard as it did yesterday. the snow is piled high in many places, being drifted badly; a hard storm indeed for any season.

19 Pleasant, the wind has sobbed itself to rest, dying almost audibly today; I broke roads to A. Polands and went to the Centre at night, got the papers and read all the evening. a pleasant Saturday night.

20 Sunday: Pleasant; I went to Carrs in P.M., Alonzo Poland was in at eventide, to get the obituary notice which I had written of Mr. Henry Rowell. Northern lights in eve.

21 Monday: I proposed to go to Searsmont today after Mary but it commenced raining and I gave it up; was about the house all day, doing chores etc.,

22 A damp cloudy day but it did not storm much; Allen Sidelinker & a Mr. Kenny of Knox were here to buy a set of hubs; Alonzo Raynes was along at night, he was soliciting subscriptions for his father-in-law Mr. Wyman of Freedom who was burnt out a short time since; I signed two dollars; I went and showed him the way down through the woods.

23 A snowy, windy, cloudy day; I was doing chores reading, writing etc., Ralph is enjoying himself hugely today; he takes solid comfort I imagine.

24 Very cold & windy; I went to Searsmont after Mary; they are all almost sick down there. came home in P.M., it was dreadful cold coming up against the wind; we got home in the twilight. I suffered extremely with the cold, a cold day.

25 Some warmer than yesterday; I went to the Centre towards night; got the papers etc.;

26 A spring-like day, -- I hauled wood and put it into the wood-house in A.M., Geo. Choate was here we went to Carrs in P.M., -- In evening Sam'l & Maria, Mary & I went to A. Polands to a circle, had a pretty good time Samuel & Maria staid all nighth with us.

27 Sunday: Samuel & Maria went home early in morn. Lewis was over a little while; he thinks of getting married again, may prosperity attend him. We had a lengthy conference before he went home. a very windy night betokening a coming storm.

28 A fearful storm is raging today; wind about east, --snow in morning, turning to rain in A.M., a very high wind. J.H. Terry Esq., and Mr. Holbrook were here in A>M>, Harrison wanted to consult me about schools; they went away up over the hill in the storm; I am not very well today, have got a cold by some means or other; what a fearfully stormy day. many a poor creature has perished since the rising of the sun today.

29 Tuesday: Still continues stormy, tho, has abated some; I went to Nathan Frenchs, the town clerk to get the intentions of marriage entered between Mr. Lewis L. Howard and Miss Eliza J. Sheldon; got the certificate, was very tired when I got home. a rainy wet time; bad walking or travelling anyway.

30 Pleasanter than yesterday; Lewis come over, staid most all day; he paid me \$50, taking up his large note. we talked and talked and exhausted many subjects I guess. he went home at night, a pleasant night.

31 A warm spring day; I went to Freedom to mill. getting home between 2&3 in afternoon. a hard time to get anywhere, very bad travelling. so ends March.