

## March 1871

But what awak'st thou in the heart, O Spring!-

The human heart, with all its dreams and sighs?

Thou that giv'st back so many a buried thing,

Restorer of forgotten harmonies!

Fresh songs and scents break forth where'er thou art:

What wak'st thou in the heart?

\_\_\_\_\_Mrs Hemans.

1 Wednesday: March opens blustering and cold, snowing some and blowing much, - true to its nature. John dressed with extreme care, and started for East Knox early in the morning. a violent snow squall in A.M., clearing up real spring like in P.M., - an essence peddler was along; I was writing my report of schools, - got it pretty well along, - did chores etc., and it was night.

2 Cloudy this morning, but quite pleasant; J.J. Carr went by on official business I presume. The events of the day not remembered, but I was about home, and Ralph & I went over to see Sammy in P.M., he has been sick but is better now; we had a good ride.

3 A rainy day; or at least wet and misty, a Mr. Hussey of Unity got stuck in a snow drift, and I had to go and help him out, - I called to A. Polands a few minutes. a rainy night. but pleasant and calm in evening.

4 Saturday; pleasant, I went to Centre in morn. got the mail, - got 26 cts. for eggs; In P.M., John & I went to Lewis' old barn and got a load hay, - John got home in A.M. we went to singing school at whites corner in evening. had a pretty good sing, when we got home Ralph & Grandma were up having a good talk.

5 Sunday: Pleasant, we went to meeting at the Centre, Preaching by Bro. Knowlton; - Text, "And he went through Syria and Selicia confirming the churches." A splendid sermon, - O what a power there was in it to stir up the heart, and make one think of his responsibility to God; I cannot remember when I have received so much benefit from a sermon; - making me ask myself the question, - Lord what wilt Thou have me to do? We came directly home and read & wrote the rest of the day.

6 Very pleasant: town meeting day in Montville;--Chose Hon. E. Knowlton, moderator; N. French, Clerk; John W. Barker, J.B. Thompson, Jona. Bartlett, - Selectmen, Assessors etc., Nelson Allen, Treasurer. Voted to choose a Supervisor of the schools instead of a Committee; consequently there was quite a hussle preparing votes; and the vote was finally declared, - J.H. Terry had 21 C.W. Whitten had 30 or more, - H.M. Howard had 133. Before the vote was declared Bro. Kknowlton whispered in my ear not to decline, else I think I should have declined,-as my convictions are in favor of a Committee; but I concluded to try and serve to the best of my ability; Chose O. Murray Collector & Constable. Then come up the highway question and much time was spent discussing it, pending which the house adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock; the town voted unanimously to instruct the several school Agents to employ the teachers; -----I came home quite sick and tired, - had an ill turn as usual.

7 A spring-like day again; Sam'l Rollins & I went to town meeting in morning; the highway question took up a good deal of time, - but was finally decided in some manner, quite unintelligible as usual; Various other matters were decided, - the question of setting off Hazen Ayer & John Bradbury from Dist. No. 9 to No. 2 caused much discussion, and no little feeling was shown on the part of J.L.Twitchell & Mr. Ayer,- I was sorry to see such a bitter spirit-shown, - Voted to raise 2000\$ in payment on the town debt; a list of jurors were accepted, my name being in the box. And now my principal cause of dissatisfaction is because J.J.Carr was not elected, he has done well and his only sin is making a few of the rich men pay their tax on money at interest, but as I told him- "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again."

8 A cloudy morning; John went to mill at Freedom; looks like a storm of some kind, - I was about home Uncle Robert & Aunt Sophronia come in P.M., we were very glad to see them, - had a fine talk.

9 Cloudy & misty; Uncle & Aunt went to Lewis' in morning and come back here at night; We went in woods in P.M., the snow is most all gone and it is really like spring.

10 Friday: misty, clearing up some in P.M., we broke the road some towards the Cobbossee, the mud is quite deep,- snow almost gone,- all but drifts, and it is real spring like; it will seem hard to have winter come again now, but it seems too early for spring yet. Uncle has told me lots of stories today, some of the very laughable, he is a jolly old cove. We cut some wood, - John went to Centre got the mail, rained hard at night, and as muddy as possible.

11 Pleasant: Uncle & Aunt went to Alfreds this morning; we got a load hay from Lewis' old barn; I cut wood in P.M., John went to Murrays with the oxen and got the sowing machine, Jackson and his steers, hauled it up with ease; rained again at night; I made my poetry book in evening, a saturday night well enjoyed. the season is very early, wild geese are flying

yesterday and today; the snow is almost all gone, the ground is breaking up, mud very deep. an early spring some think.

12 Sunday: a wet rainy day; Louisa come over,- Samuel Rollins come over in P.M., and we went down to Alfreds, had a good call, and a nice chat on the road, Samuel is a dear good friend. a sabbath well enjoyed, a days march nearer home.

13 Cleared up this morning; I helped Jackson saw wood with the horses; we sawed a large pile;-

14 Pleasant: helped Jackson saw wood, we got it done late at night, - and hauled the horse power over here;- it is very hard work to tend the saw but a quick job,- am glad to get a days work done.

15 Very pleasant: we sawed wood here at home,- Jackson & George, A. Poland helped us; Ed. Rowell was here to see how the machine went; he sawed very well, - he is going to have it to saw up his wood, we got ours almost done, and the machine broke, so we did not get quite done; J.J.C. is 42 yrs. old today. a pleasant evening, so calm, so quiet, so still, seeming almost a holy calm.

16 We finished our wood in morning; and then moved down to neighbor Polands; and went to sawing after dinner, - we worked briskly and sawed a large pile in P.M., Wm. Poland & wife were over visiting today, - I was very sorry I was not at home; - come home just in time to sing a little before they went home; Emma Averell & children were here staid all night.

17 Friday: a wet misty day; we finished sawing neighbor Polands wood before dinner; staid to dinner and sung some, - and then Geo. Lewis & I come home,- Maria & Mary, - Emma Averell & children were there,- and now I fell a sadness coming over me, and a thought comes to me that we shall all, never meet again on earth, who but just now in their pleasant sitting room joined our voices in songs of harmony. Geo. and I came home abt. 3 P.M., dear good Geo. a good boy he is, I love him dearly; My old friend Judson Hall was here when I got home, I was glad to see him. spent an agreeable afternoon and eve. conversing with Judson.

18 Cooler, some windy; Samuel Rollins went to Freedom we sent 20 doz. eggs to Henry Thompsons, - got 20 cts. per doz.; Lewis & Jackson come over,- Lewis carried his wheel timber to Geo. Goins to get his wheels made. Jackson staid to dinner, - Marcena come, - told us Ann Poland was dead; I was reading writing etc., in P.M.; John Cookson went away today for good; to seek his fortune.

19 Sunday: a beautiful morning; the wind come up with clouds, and it was quite cold; I went to Carrs in P.M., called into Samuels as I came home, - Wm. Poland was there, - we sung a very little. Now it is evening,- I have not been to meeting today, - the travelling is so very muddy one can scarcely get about. there is not a single patch of snow to be seen from our back windows, an uncommon thing at this time of year.

20 Monday: The Almanac says, Spring begins today; It is very early for this time of year,- snow all gone, frost most out etc., We went to funeral, Ann Poland deceased, - I went to the house and managed the services; -which were held at the Vose school house,- sermon by Bro. Clark,- Text, "I would not live always." Had good singing; I went to Bro. Polands took dinner, then went down to Williams and sung a little, - then came home, William come along a piece with me;- I called at Alfreds,- Mary got home before me getting a ride in Alfreds team. Louisa staid with mother & Ralph;- had a very well ordered funeral and a good spirit was there.

21 The first snow of the month is falling this morning, but it will turn to rain I think soon, a raw easterly wind this morning, chilling to the bone. A great fall of rain, - it fell in torrents most all day,- the brook ran furiously,- large puddles stood all around,- I was doing chores, reading, etc.,

22 A snow squall or storm this morning; wind to the west. Cleared up before noon;- Mr. John Brown of Knox was here in P.M., to get some spokes, there was none to suit him; Nat'l Averell called a few minutes,- the rain yesterday washed the roads very bad,- I split some wood in P.M. a hard wind.

23 Thursday: froze hard last night; looks quite pleasant this morning;- I worked in woods in A.M.,- Mary went to sit with Maria after dinner,- then as mother and I sat talking a boy come over the hill,- who upon nearer approach proved to be John Curtis,- Jackson come to get a piece tobacco, and borrow some tools. I went to Alonzos and he and I went down the road,- the rain tore the road dreadfully, I never saw such awful gutters washed out;- it will take a deal of labor to repair it as good as it was before; Mrs. A. Poland went to Marias, and at night she and Mary came riding along talking as loud as a military man almost.

24 A rough cold windy morning; had a little bossy come last night,- a pretty red one,- feminine gender. I split some wood, did the chores, and went to Centre at night,- it was bad travelling,- Louisa was over in P.M., John Curtis went away after dinner, to his grandfathers.

25 A terrible windy day,- the chimnies smoke so, we can have no fire, and it is cold enough; the dust blows along the road in clouds,- and it is a rough day sure. Our spring begun wrong and first I am afraid, the first part of spring being mild and pleasant, but since the 20<sup>th</sup> of

March it has been very windy and rough, - these terrible westerly gales are disagreeable. went to a circle at A. Polands in evening; had a pretty good meeting. Mrs. Morse medium.

26 Sunday: a terrible hard wind last night; - and this morning, still continues to blow; Sam'l Rollins has just gone by, he will call when he comes back,- a cold disagreeable spell of weather. I went to Mr. Curtis' a few minutes towards night,- the old people were alone, and we had a good talk; they will soon pass the shining river,- I always liked them very much; Geo. Lewis was here in evening,- just run in for a few minutes; I coaxed him to stay all night but he did not tell them, so he went home again. He is a handsome, likely and interesting young man.

27 A severe snow storm; a hard wind and snowed like great guns all day;- I did little else but chores. read, wrote, looked over papers,- and in eve. made my poetry book;- the snow on the window looked wintry.

28 Cleared up some but it is still cloudy; quite a lot of snow has fallen,- not less than 8 or 10 inches I think. I went and started out a load shingle stuff in A.M., then I discovered the horse had a broken shoe, so I went to Bachelders and got it fixed; Mr. Bachelder is a very learned man in the scriptures,- his ideas are very liberal and comprehensive; a cold night. A cold turn of weather just now; Jackson had the oxen today to haul logs. I read in evening.

29 Wednesday: a clear cold morning. I hauled shingle stuff today; went one load in A.M. & two in P.M.,- very good doing; business was very lively, a good deal of lumber was going in to the mill. a fine day.

30 Warmer and the snow went fast; I went two loads to the mill in A.M., had a headache and was not very well,- Cordelia was up visiting in P.M., we had a very good time indeed; I was almost sick with a cold,- a sort of distemper.

31 A warm day, snow going fast; mud quite deep;- We went to a funeral at Vose school house,- Frances (Sylvester) Colson deceased;- the plate on the coffin read,- Sarah F. Colson died March 30, 1871, aged 29 years. She was married to James Colson a few days ago; - a large circle of mourners were in attendance; Sermon by Eld. Knowlton,- very good discourse,- had good singing;- went to the grave and sung; - Frances was converted eleven or twelve years ago this spring, and baptized by Eld. Clemens;- most of the converts baptized at that time are now passed to the land of spirits, tho, some are yet alive; before her death she became very happy and died rejoicing in the hope of immortality and glorious life beyond the grave; and so another one of my youthful friends is gone,- one after another we are passing on to Peace and Rest at last.

