

May 1869.

Art thou oppressed and poor, and heavy hearted,

The heavens above thee in thick clouds arrayed;

And well nigh crushed, no earthly tho't imparted,

No friendly voice to say, "Be not afraid!"

God knows it all. (Anon.)

1 Saturday: A cold may day. I went to Belfast to buy nails etc., the travelling is perfectly awful, had a hard time getting down, and started to come home about an hour before sunset. did not get home till nearly midnight; the hardest time I ever had coming home from Belfast. mud deep this side of the Centre horrible in the extreme. yet owing to a faithful horse we persevered and got home safely at last.

2 Sunday: a fall of snow last night an inch or two; lasting in spots all day. I was nearly sick being tired and sleepy, -laid abed most all the forenoon. Maria was here in morning, she had been out hunting after a couple of sheep that had strayed away; she was smart I thought, Samuel is unwell; Our new neighbor Rowell who lives with Alonzo Poland was here in A.M. they have moved and Nath'l has gone to Amos's to live. and so they change about. "A rolling stone gathers no moss." a cold raw day raining hard in afternoon.

3 Monday: rainy again, drizzly and wet. Chs. Curtis is come to work this morning; I am to pay him \$100 for 6 months work. the boys worked at the Cobbossee barn cleaning off shingles, Dexter & I went to Carrs getting home after dinner; we commenced to tear down the old barn in P.M., knocking off boards.

4 A very disagreeable day, snowing most all day, Chs. Curtis went to Mr. Hahns in P.M. to get dried apple. I was almost sick today, having a terrible cold.

5 Quite pleasant: we worked at the old barn all day. C. Palmer helped Samuel Rollins today. we got the roof boards off and cleaned, -nails out etc., a raw wind today.

6 Cold wind; they got the sills on and leveled them, hauled timber down from above the road where they framed it. a book agent was along, I went to Aarons in P.M., the road is quite good, being nice and dry the most of the way. Jackson is quite sick now being confined to his bed, Louisa is some better but rather poorly yet.

7 Pleasant: I hunted sheep in A.M., found a part of them; We raised the house in P.M., our crew being the workmen, (The Bennett Bros. & Mr. Palmer,) Exavier & George Sproul,

Alonzo Poland, S.B. Rollins, Geo. Lewis, & Bro. L.L. Howard, it went up easily, Chs. Curtis I forgot him almost; the boys were very smart. And now the house is raised, my heart take courage and press on to its completion, the Lord reigneth and blesseth.

8 Saturday: a warm spring day, I went to Nathan Bennetts to get a load of finish; Mrs. Bennett was away so I went to the cupboard at dinner time and helped myself. Got as far on my way home as Alfreds and got his oxen to help up the hill; Ira come up with me. the workmen all went home at night and we were left alone once more. a week of labor, of conflict and some enjoyment.

9 Sunday: a cloudy morning, but a fine warm day. Samuel & Maria were here, took dinner; then Mary & I went over to Jacksons awhile; they are about the same. they had lots of company there today. a shower at night.

10 A warm day; it seems that the sun has come nearer. I went to Bachelders got the horse shod; worked tearing down the Cobbossee barn in P.M.; did chores, then it was night. Johnny Curtis come at night, a smart little boy I guess.

11 Pleasant: went to Belfast, got quite a load of things nails etc., pretty good travelling; went and come with ease, and without getting sick, got home about eleven.

12 Pleasant: I went to Lewis's in morning, and in P.M. went to the sawmill to pay the sawbill, paid Granville Thompson &80. he making a discount of 4 dollars in consequence of some timber being sawed poorly. he receipted the bill so that is paid and I am very glad; they sawed 20 M. hemlock, and 24m. shingles. traded some at Chs. Halls. Sarah Foster got a certificate to teach in the Bickmore dist.

13 Thursday: found stray sheep in morning, fenced some. turned the cattle to pasture in morn. for the first time, i.e. cows, they were immensely glad to get out and expressed their joy by running and leaping etc. went to Batchelders in P.M. carried the ox shoes Mr. B. was planting, using his fertilizers in abundance. went to J.C. Schusters at night, getting home abt. dark.

14 A rainy day: got some boards and shingles in morn. then it come on to rain so we had to quit work; they raised the rafters on the house in A.M.; I am well pleased with the house, it will suit well. Mr. Palmer is helping them, has gone home tis afternoon. The boys worked in the barn in P.M., we cut a little wood did chores and then night set in again.

15 A very rainy day: Charles Curtis went and got the oxen shod in A.M.; Nathan & Dexter went home in P.M., We made a trade to keep Johnny Curtis if we like him, and give him \$25

a year, Charles went to his mothers in Searsmont towards night. and so another Saturday night closed in again.

16 Sunday: a cloudy misty day, rainy in A.M., was at home all day; Samuel & Maria went by on a ride. Chs. Palmer come in P.M.; a still, quiet sabbath just such as betokens and makes us think of the eternal rest, when it may be an eternal sabbath in the better land.

17 Monday: foggy and dark in morning, cleared up soon after breakfast. I got a load boards from Cooksons corner in A.M., showery and cold in P.M.; the boys were cutting wood. they were boarding the house today.

18 Pleasant: I went to Mr. Joseph Palmers to see about getting him to build the chimnies; went to the brickyard see brick, they are poor, but am obliged to have them; got 10 gals. Molasses at Bryant & Beans paid 65 cts. went to Alonzo Polands got a load shingles at night. hauled home 100 brick today, pay \$8 per thousand. they finished boarding the house today.

19 A cloudy warm day; Johnny & I hauled brick today, hauled 900; 600at 80 cts. and 300 at \$1 per hundred. we got home abt. sunset, thick cloudy looking like a storm. Samuel Rollins worked on the house yesterday & today.

20 Cold & rainy; rain fell smartly all last night. cleared off in A.M., We commenced to tear down the chimney, got it down below the roof; John & I went and got a load brick in P.M., a pleasant evening.

21 Pleasant: My birthday, am 31 today; seem quite old. got our last load brick in morning making 2 thousand, paid 80 cts a hundred for 17 hundred, and 1 dollar a hundred for 3 hundred, making a total of 16.60. a pleasant eve. seems more like warm weather.

22 Saturday: Very pleasant: was cleaning brick most of the day; Charles helped Lewis plow yesterday and some today. hauled some brick from Holbrooks. And so another week ended, one of toil, but much, very much spiritual enjoyment;

“God is the refuge of his saints,

When storms of sharp distress invade,

Ere we can offer our complaints,

Behold him present with his aid.”

I went to see Jackson at night, he is very sick, the Dr. come again today and says his fever has relapsed.

23 Sunday: a fine morning: was at home in A.M., Mary & I went to Amos's in P.M.; a beautiful evening, a fine sunset: I went to Jacksons he is worse, very sick. Alfred & Sarah went over there just a few minutes.

24 Very pleasant: I went to Belfast got a barrel coal tar and a cask cement; did not get home till abt. midnight. Saw Nath'l & Emma go aboard the boat they go to Boston. so we lose our neighbors that we thought to live by so long; am sorry to see them go but hope a blessing may attend them.

25 Was very tired this morning: we tried some of the tar today; use it on the roof. Lewis was over at night.

26 Pleasant: I went to Aarons in A.M., called to see Jackson he is very sick. is talking about every thing. went to Fryes in P.M. with Geo. Lewis with a cow.

27 Thursday: cold & windy, I set up with Jackson last night, he is very sick. Esq. Dodge called to engage me to keep his school, I did not engage, worked about planting 1 piece potatoes today. an acre.

28 We planted potatoes, finished the piece in A.M., got a load lath boards in P.M.; a busy day with us.

29 Warm & pleasant: I went to Searsmont got a load lime, called at Charles & Orley Whittens and got dinner; had a pleasant journey much enjoyed. got 4 casks paid 3.00 for it.

30 Sunday: a beautiful day: John Tobie staid here last night but went away early this morning. I meant to have gone to meeting today but was so tired I gave it up. the fields are green and every thing looks reviving in the beauty of spring. rested all day; the last Sunday of rest for this summer.

31 The last day of May: Nathan & I went to Belfast in P.M., we thought to go in morning, but it was rainy; we put up our horse at Capt. Beans stable and staid there at Capt. B's all night; had very good quarters; were used nicely.

May has been rather a cold backward month but we have seen some pleasant days. a busy month yet some spiritual things have been enjoyed.