

Diary of Julia Wilbur, January-July 3, 1866

Originals at Haverford College, Quaker and Special Collections Transcriptions by volunteers at Alexandria Archaeology

The transcribed pages that follow are from the diaries kept by Julia Wilbur, an abolitionist from Rochester, New York, who lived in Alexandria, Virginia, from October 1862 to February 1865. She moved to Washington, DC, where she lived until her death in 1895.

This file contains entries from January 1 to July 3, 1866.

The diaries are in the form of packets of paper that she assembled and dated as she went along, approximately 4 by 7 inches. The diaries go from 1844 to 1873. (She also kept journals, which were smaller, pre-printed, leather-bound booklets, one per year through 1895.)

In a cooperative effort between Haverford and Alexandria Archaeology, pages of the diaries were scanned in Summer 2013 (March 7, 1860, through the early 1870s). Alexandria Archeology volunteers transcribed from March 7, 1860, through July 3, 1866.

Acknowledgments

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Key

Each diary page is one scanned file and was transcribed in Microsoft Word. In order to avoid having more than one thousand individual Word files, they are compiled as follows:

- A PDF of the entire period
- Seven PDFs by year (1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, and 1866)

For those wishing to consult the originals, the ID numbers given to different sections by Haverford are footnoted in regular intervals throughout the documents.

Some common things that readers will encounter:

- Dates are centered. Note that Wilbur did not consistently date the entries (i.e., month, date, year) and we have recorded them as she did (e.g., Sunday the 19th)
- Many different types of dashes, underlines, and hyphens were used to indicate breaks in thought. For consistency, we have used an em-dash (—) throughout.
- Where she crossed something out or underlined it, we did, too. Spellings as written (e.g., “staid” for “stayed”)
- &c. means “etc.” It was commonly used convention of the time, even appearing in newspaper headlines. “And” is usually represented by an ampersand (&).
- Where multiple transcribers/proofreaders were not able to decipher all or part of a word, we have indicated with [?]. Where Wilbur left a blank space or some other unusual thing, we have inserted an italicized *Transcriber’s note*.

If you use these files and encounter an error, please let us know so we can correct it in the next iteration.

Wilbur also kept parallel, smaller pocket diaries, the originals of which are at Haverford as well. They were separately transcribed, compiled, and annotated by Paula Whitacre for Alexandria Archeology in 2011-2012, using microfilmed versions in the Local History Collection at the Alexandria Public Library.

[Transcriber's Note: Diary entry is on paper imprinted with "Penn'a. Freedmen's Relief Association, No. 207 I Street, Washington, D.C.

Jan. 1st. 1866.—¹

Unpleasant weather. Muddy.

Did not call at White House. But sent my respects to the President, hoping as it was washing day, he wd. excuse my inability to attend the Reception. But seriously I did not wish to see Andrew Johnson in the place of Abraham Lincoln. I preferred to stay away.

This evening went to Teachers' Sociable at Cor. 14th & M Sts. But few present. Walking so bad.

This A.M. helped Martha wash.

This P.M. unpacked 4 barrels of clothing from Farmington.

Jan. 2^d.

Went to Treasury to attend to Mrs. Peters business. Waited on several persons. This evening wrote Report to Dr. Horner of Fredericksburg visit.

Jan. 3^d.

A great many calls of various kinds. Mud positively dangerous. have not been out.

Jan. 4.

Visited several families

Helped Martha iron & did various things. This P.M. I was agreeably surprised to see Capt. Bohonon. He is just from his home in N.H. & on his way to Richmond. In employ of Treasury Dept.

Jan. 5 very cold

Went out to make calls. Went to Bureau. Saw Drs. Horner & Reyburn. They were glad to have my report.—Walked to 6th. St. to Teacher's Meeting. Address by Gen. Howard.

Jan. 6.

Mrs. & Mr. Earle called. Calls all day. 207 I seems to be the hub of the city. Mrs. Belding called. Frances has been away.

Waited on ever so many people.

Visited several families.—

Sunday. Jan. 7th. 1866.

Very cold. Did not go out. Arranged papers & did various things.

Monday Jan 8th.—

One of the coldest days I ever experienced. The poor must have suffered last night. Went to see Capt. Spurgin & to soup house. Called on Mrs. Breed. Unpleasant interview.

¹ Until further notation, entries correspond to Haverford scans HC13-26009_001 to HC13-26009_074 in their Folder entitled Jan 1, 1866 to Jan. 12, 1867.

Called on Mrs. Thomas. Tells me Lizzie Brown does not do well. Came back nearly frozen.

Box came from Rochester society. Unpacked it, regulated clothing room, gave out clothing. Too cold to go out again.

Wrote this evening.

—Commission from Bureau

Tuesday Jan. 9th, very cold.

dusty. Potomac frozen over to Alex^a.

Very cold at north.

Visited from 9 till 2 P.M. Waited on people here. Want of work the great trouble. Met no extreme cases of destitution.

This evening all but Miss Lane went to Teachers' Sociable, cor. 14th. & M. goodly number present. Quite pleasant. Very tired tonight.

Jan. 10th. Milder.

Visited from 9 till 2 P.M. Then waited on people. Nearly all want wood. Work difficult to get.

Waited on ever so many people. Busy day. This evening wrote.—

Jan. 11th milder

In N.Y. the weather has not been so cold since 1806. The coldest in the past 25 yrs. was in 1857. There for several days a few deg. below zero. Monday. Jan. 8th. 1866. 10° below zero. Albany 15 deg. below zero.

In Washington

To day visited south of Avenue, 16 families. Called to see Dr. Reyburn. Sad to see so many men wanting work.

Letter from home. father well. Tired to night.

207 I St. Friday. Jan. 12th.

Went out early & visited 5 very destitute families.

At 1 P.M. met a Delegation of Ladies in East Room of White House. signed a petition to President against the unconditional pardon of R. Cox former owner of premises now occupied by Col^d. Home for Orphans. The conditions are these he must give up the & 10 acres of land to the N. Assoⁿ. for Relief of Destitute Women & children. If the property is confiscated, the Assⁿ. want the privilege of buying it. I think there were 50 ladies, including Senators wives &c., some of them very elegant ladies.

They nearly filled the large room the President occupies. Mr. Stanton introduced Mrs. Trumbull (Pres. of Assoⁿ.) & several others that he knew. The President looked a little surprised & said he did not know that there would be over half a doz. If he had known

there were so many he wd. have gone down into the E. Room to receive us.

But he was very gracious & listened politely to Mrs. Sen. Trumbull. He said in reply 'that it was a complicated case he could not give an answer then, but all that he could do to help the ladies he would cheerfully & willingly do.—The law must have its course,' &c &c. He was gratified to know that such a large number of intelligent ladies were engaged in the work of elevating & improving the colored people. It was the right way to begin, give them a chance, & if there is danger of their getting ahead of white folks, it may stimulate white folks to improve. Each one should be estimated according to his own merits or demerits. All sh. have a chance &c.—Very good words, but I should like more action & fewer protestations.

The ladies of the President's family held a reception this P.M. Mrs. Sen. Patterson & Mrs. Slover were both dressed in mourning. Nothing uncommon or remarkable in their appearance. Plain, sensible women apparently,

But there were many elegant ladies in attendance; & such magnificent silks, velvets & laces! But I could not linger long to look upon this pageant.

I wonder how many ladies of the del. that waited on the Pres. would go into the wretched hovels & cabins of the colored poor in Washington & come into actual contact with the filth & misery with wh. these hovels abound! I claim no superior goodness for the work I do. It is necessary & somebody must do it.—If ladies are not disposed to do this & are disposed to give their money & influence to improve & elevate the race, I thank God for it.

After I came home I visited several families on L st. Such filth & disorder! Some of these people might do better. I was vexed & scolded them soundly. I hope I shall never be unreasonable & pray that I shall not for a moment forget to make all due allowance for habits acquired in slave life. But what I saw this P.M. was too much even for me, of whom it has been said that "my only object is to make an easy time for these people."

This evening it rained some but not enough to hinder Frances & I from going to hear Anna Dickinson at E st. Bap. Ch. Subject "Women's Work & Wages." It was very fine. She enchained her audience, which was very select, senators, &c. In speaking thus in behalf of woman, may she have great reward. May she go on trusting in God & the right.

Jan. 13th. Saturday

Warm. Lovely day.

Rose early. cleaned my room. Took till noon. Then went to see Capt. Spurgin, Old soup House &c. Went to City Hall to see Mayor. Came back so tired. So fine, every body out in their best clothes.

This evening went to hear Anna D. subject, 'Flood Tide.' She was grand this evening. She was wonderful. A large audience listened spellbound nearly two hours.

She did not spare the President nor his measures & she made some telling hits. Then, she is every inch a lady, such a musical voice! Oh, she is a glorious young woman.

Sunday Jan 14th.

Bright, cooler. Have done but little today. Do not feel like work. Have rather overdone the past week. So much has been crowded into the space of six days!

Jan. 15

Very cold. Visited 19 families.

Snowed all P.M. Stormy evening.

I have been so cold today.

Dirty rooms. Smoky, Dark[?], cold. No fire in some. In others, a very little.

Very tired tonight.

Jan 16

Milder. Visited 11 families, bad walking. Some very destitute families.

Went to Cor. 14th & M for clothes.

A hard day's work. Must write all the evening.

Jan. 17th.

Bright. Went to Treasury Dept. Received Certificate. went to Navy Paymaster, for order, then to First National Bank W. for Draft of \$66.62 on First National Bank Richmond Va. Payable to order of R. W. Manly for Elizabeth Peters. I began this business last June & have

succeeded in getting this draft to send her. She may be thankful that she gets it at all. I have visited 6 families, & waited on people here. Calls from Mrs. Belding & Miss Evans. Very busy day & I am very tired.

Jan. 18.

Visited 21 families & did not come back till 2 P.M. Miss Searing called.

People coming for Tickets till night. Frances gone to Sewing School on Island.

I am very tired to night.

Jan. 19.

Have not been out. Tried to write, but was interrupted constantly. Am as tired as if I had been in the streets all day. Wrote Letter to Standard. Made Report to F's Bureau. Suffrage Bill passed the House Yesterday!

Jan. 20th.

Frances & I went to Treasury. Saw Mrs. Smith.

Called on Mrs. Belding. Dined with [?] Kenyon.

Saw Petroleum Stove in operation.

Jan. 21st. Sunday.

Very cold. Frances & I went to Capitol to hear Mr. Boynton[?]. The action of the House on the Suffrage Question was the inspiration of the Sermon. It was worth hearing.

Spent rest of day at Mrs. Smith's on I st. Pleasant visit.

In evening went to Col^d Bap. Ch. Heard Mr. Dixon, an illiterate colored man.

Jan. 22^d

Spent nearly all day in giving Tickets to people. The writing amounts to considerable. Martha has washed. I am very tired.

Jan. 23^d. Snowy.

Gave tickets till 10½ A.M. Then visited 30 families. Came back at 4 tired & cold.

In evening heard Mrs. Swisshelm on "Woman & Politics." I enjoyed her oddity.

Jan. 24th.

Snowy. Gave tickets till 10. Visited 10 families. How the poor will suffer in this storm.

Letter from Cousin Phebe.

Letter from Mrs. Marsh.

Letter from Mr. Manly enclosing Mrs. E. Peters' receipt for \$66.62.—

Mrs. Beldon called. Sorry to hear that she is going home to-morrow.

Jan. 26th

Dreadful walking. Waited on people here till noon. Then went to Senate. G. Davis made speech against Freedmen's Bureau Bill. Violent, tiresome, & I took a nap while it was in progress. I was so tired that as soon as I sat down I was sleepy. They voted on it. It passed.

Went to the House a little while.

Met Mrs. Stebbins of R. & Mrs. F.D. Gage & Clara Barton. I am to see them again.

Mrs. Kenyon here this evening.

Jan. 26th. Thaw. [*Transcriber's Note: Same date written as above*]

Swift rushing streams in the street. Slosh & mud. Started at 9 &

Visited 25 families. Such miserable shanties, & such filthy places!

Hugh Murray's Row near [?] is dreadful. I saw the landlord, and he knows my opinion of the shanties & the men who put them up & extort all the earnings from the poor colored people in some cases for rent. & then Gov^t. furnishes them food & fuel!—

This evening was at meeting of the Bureau Officers, Visiting Agents & others. Compared notes of work done during month.

Want of work is the great trouble. It is [?] work to some of the Agents. It pained me to hear so many slurs cast upon this people. They were not spoken of with proper respect. I am glad no colored persons were there to have their feelings hurt. Oh how few there are who speak & treat the colored people as they should be treated.

Jan. 27th.

Waited on people till noon. Then went to ~~Senate~~ House with Miss Ford. Speeches on President's Message from G.C. Smith Ky. Baker, Ia., & [?] Pa. Saw Gen. Rosseau Gen. Paine & Horace Maynard of Ky. who is allowed a seat on the floor. This evening attended a meeting at [?][?] Library, Mr. Downing, Jones, Ross & others, wished to meet the teachers & others & learn their opinion of the Freedmen.

Jan 28.

Spent A.M. in cleaning up generally. P.M. & evening in writing letters.

Jan. 29

Frances & I went to Alex^a to see about the Hospital. Find things in bad way. Do not have enough to eat. Must be provided with clothes & Delicacies & an effort must be made to get better rations.

Why is it things are not better managed? I wonder if it is my duty to go back there again! Miss Collier needs help. But how can I leave W.? Secesh are very bad. No security for property or life hardly.

Called to see Virginia L, & Miss Heard. Did not see Dr. Heard nor Mrs. Heard nor Mr. Fish nor Miss Collier. Saw Mrs. Woodworth Matron. Went into all the wards, various things are needed.—Called to see Maj. Lee ass^t. Com., & Maj. Alvord. In the Same house is Mrs. Tazman & daughter & other children. Mr. T is manager of the Industrial School.

Something dubious about things in this house. Well, well, it is in Alex^a. That accounts for all that is strange & otherwise unaccountable.

Returned at 5 P.M. This evening had call from Mr. & Mrs. Lake & Frankie. Wrote several letters.

Tuesday. Jan. 30.

A crowd of people here from 8 this morning till 2 P.M. A new souphouse opened near us. This evening wrote to Dr. R. about L'Ouverture Hosp^l. Went to Bureau twice.

Jan 31st. Hutchinson's Concert.

Dr. Heard called. Gave out some tickets. Then visited 24 families. Went through mud & mire. Did not get back till after 4 P.M. Hard day's work.

Feb. 1st.

Bright. Waited on people.

Went to 10th st. to purchase white kids (\$2) to wear to S. Colfax's Reception. Very busy P.M.— When F. & I were ready to go Mr. Lake came to say that Mrs. L. was not well & they had given up going. Then went to 27, 4 1/2 st. to see Mr. & Mrs. Hobbins. Spent evening there till nearly 10. Then Mrs. S. returned from [?]'s Reception & we all went to Colfax's no 8, 4 1/2 st. Many were leaving.

& others arriving. A carpet was laid from the house to the curb stone. We staid till 11 1/2 P.M. to look at the ladies, their beautiful dresses, laces, pearls, diamonds, etc. Some magnificent ones. Mrs. Pomeroy was the most elegant lady.—Some quite ordinary looking people & some so queer & oddly drest [*sic*]. Mr. Colfax, his mother & sister, stood near the entrance to the parlor & shook hands with every one as they entered. They were all smiles but it looked tiresome for people came from 8 1/2 to 10 1/2.—Then John Hutchinson came & sung a few pieces. We took car wh. run of track at 14th. st. & we walked rest of the way. It was very cold & 12 o'clock when we got back.—It has been an interesting evening. Mrs. Gage was there & Clara Barton & E.D.E. Southworth.—

Mr. C. has reception every Thursday.

Feb. 2^d. Cold

I did not rise early. Attended to people from 8 1/2 till 1 P.M. & in the meantime, overhauled everything in Clothing Room & cleaned it out. A hard, busy day. I wanted to go to Reception at White House & to Teacher's Meeting but have had hardly time to think of them.

Frances not well today.

Feb. 3^d. Cold.

Frances quite sick all day. I did housework till noon. Then I went to Capitol, House in session. Debate on "Bill to enlarge powers of Freedmen's Bureau." Marshall of Ill. spoke at length against it. Said "Government clothed & fed the negroes at the same time they were permitted to darken this House by their lazy presence."

Moulton of Illinois spoke for Bill.

Constantly interrupted. Then (General) Rousseau of Ky. made lengthy speech against the Bill, unconstitutional, &c, &c, Roscoe Conklin took the wind out of his sails twice & Judge Kelley used him [?] once. Rousseau had never heard of Ge. Spinner. Kelly said perhaps all the intelligence of the world had not reached Central Ky. Spinner was on Sherman's staff he thought. Just before me were seated a lady from Ky. & a lady & gentleman from Alabama. They became acquainted at once. Ky. says "I don't like the freed niggers but I have a great affection for the old niggers." Alabama says "yes, the freed niggers are impudent but I have a great affection for old family niggers."— They were pleased with Marshall & Rousseau of course. The dome of the Capitol to be lighted this evening.

Dr. Rapier came to see Frances.

27 I st. Sunday Feb. 4.

Bright & cold.

Cleaned my Room. Took till noon & till 2 P.M. to get things regulated.

I am quite tired of waiting on Miss Laverne. She tries my patience exceedingly. I can hardly endure the infliction. Frances is much better. Dr. R. called. I have done various chores.

Feb. 5th. Very cold.

Intended to visit all day, but people kept coming till noon & I had to wait on them.

Have printed tickets now, but is a good deal of work to fill them up. The Bureau wanted a Report by 4 P.M. Mrs. Griffing has complained to the Sec. of War & the Freedmen's Bureau wish to inform Sec. Stanton how much has been done & what is being done.—

There is much suffering certainly & I sometimes think the Bureau might do better.—

I went to corner 14th & M. A crowd of men were waiting to see Capt. Springin[?] but could not get access to him.—They tell me they wait there day after day for somebody to come & hire them & there is (I think) about one chance for 50 applicants. Yet Capt. S. says he can get work for all.—Another officer says these people do not want to get places. They ask too much wages, &c. &c.

Oh dear! I do not know about all this. But I do know that some of these people I am acquainted with & they worked faithfully as long as work was to be had.

I have to day seen men, women & children suffering from hunger & cold. I have not seen starving people before. Stout able bodied men ask me for bread & own they have to beg or starve.

Many of these while they worked for Gov^t. slept in camps & corrals. Now they have no place to lay their heads, only as somebody takes them in for the night.

There are many returned soldiers

unpaid & they can get no work. Clothes are worn out. They know they are treated unjustly. They are getting desperate. They will take to stealing. I would steal rather than starve.—

The rations are all received from the same window. The people standing outside & many wait for hours in the cold & then perhaps have to go home without them. There should be better arrangements, they should be treated with more consideration. They crowded around me & begged for tickets. I stopped my ears & ran away from them. I have felt condemned for eating or warming myself to day. It has been bitter cold. I had my Report ready by 4 P.M. & Lieut. C. called for it.—

Letter from Rich^d Cadbury. Sent boxes to Hospital in Alex^a.—Letter from Mrs. Booth. Pokeepsie Society ready to [?] for F__burg.

Feb. 6th.

Very cold. Visited 21 families. Took till noon.

Went to Capitol. Listened to C. Sumner one hour & a half. Great Speech on Bill to guarantee to every state a Republican form of Government.—

Crowded galleries.—

Went to House & listened a little while to debate about W. Virginia & the Pierpoint Government.—

This evening Frances & I called on Mr. Baker & Mrs. Smith.

Feb. 7.

Visited 20 families. Out nearly all day. Tired to night, dull & stupid. Have seen some queer people.

Feb. 8.

Waited on people & gave tickets nearly all day. Tiresome work.

Feb. 9th.

Waited on people till 11^o clock. Then visited 16 families. Walked through mud & mire. Worked at weekly Report.

Feb. 10.

Went to see Dr. Reyburn. Tells me things will be better in L'Ouverture. But I do not expect much with the same Ration order.

This P.M. at Capitol speeches in House by Ward of N.Y.; Delevan of O. & Williams of Pa. I was so tired I could not enjoy it. Finished Report this evening.

Sunday Feb. 11.

Went to Unitarian Ch. Heard Mr. Briggs. Miss L. has used my room to such an extent that I could not occupy it to day.

What am I to do? My writing is hindered & I have no place to myself.

This evening went to Capitol. Last meeting of Christian Commission. Report of what it has done through the War & speeches from Stuart Pres. & Bishop Simpson. Rear Admiral Davis. Gen. [?] & others. Singing by Phillips & the Hutchinsons. Gen. Grant present & Chief Justice Chase & senators & M.C.s

S. Colfax presided. Hundreds of people came and went away without getting a chance to look inside. Crowded throughout. I sat partly on a step in the gallery. Hot & tiresome.

Speaking of ordinary character.—Crowd came to see the notables rather than to hear.—

This hall does not hold over 2500. No large hall in the city of W.

Monday Feb. 12

Waited on people all day. Tiresome work.—Mrs. Fish here. F. & I could not get tickets for the Capitol to day.

Feb. 13

Frances & I fixed room for Miss Laverne. I am rid of her now. Such a relief. She has annoyed me so. I have had to wait on her so much. She has hindered me so! Well, I hope it is over.

My room is in order & seems so comfortable now. This P.M. unpacked 2 large

boxes from Phila. Hard day's work.

This evening went to hear Douglass on "The Assassination & its lessons." He said it was a long way from the Cornfield to Dr. Sunderland's Church. Chief Justice Chase presided. A fine audience, grand lecture, but Douglass was sick. Yet he did well for all that. He made some capital hits. Only one thing to regret, so few Colored people there. Lecture was for the benefit of the Colored Home in G.

Feb. 14

Gave tickets till Eleven o'clock. Then visited till 4½ P.M.

Came back very tired.

In evening went with Mr. B. to Sociable at Mr. Bowen's. About 60 present. Very pleasant company. Reviving the Unitarian Society. Frances staid with Mrs. Belding & Mrs. Smith.

Rained all the evening.

Feb. 15th

Very cold. Sudden change last night. Worked in house all day. Gave out over 100 garments. Frances is away. Letter from Mrs. Jacobs. She in Savannah.

Feb. 16th.

Coldest night yet.—& bitter cold today.—Went to P.O. Then to buy Looking glass for \$2.—

Then to see Mrs. Belding. Lunched with her. She came to I St. with me. Called at Davis Hotel to see F. Douglass but he was out.—

Went to Reception at White House. But few present. Weighed 113 lbs.—

Went in to Conservatory. Flowers beautiful, Japonicas, Azaleas, Acacias, Euphorlias, &c.—

Then called to see several families. After dinner called at 212 K st. Saw Douglass, Downing, Lewis D. &c. Very pleasant call. D. leaves tomorrow for Ill. To be back in 10 days.

Feb. 17.

Waited on people till noon.

Then went to Capitol. Heard speeches from [*Transcriber's Note: left blank*]
So tired I could not keep awake.

Mrs. Belding went with me to see Barrack wh. the Bureau has obtained for the teachers to live in if they choose. Looks rather forbidding.—

On some accounts it would be convenient, & on others I should not like it at all.

It is 2 squares east of the Capitol. I had rather remain in this part of the city.

This evening Mrs. Holy called. Also John Jolliffe

I have made my weekly report for the Bureau. Quite a job.

Frances away.—

Sunday. Feb. 18. 1866

Rainy day. Have not been out. Really enjoyed the day in my room, resting some & writing some. Frances away this P.M.

Feb. 19th.

Rained all day. I have given tickets & given out clothing all day. 75 pieces. President has vetoed the "Freedmen's Bureau Bill." Nothing to hope from Andrew Johnson.—

Feb. 20th.

Bright. Visited till 11½ A.M. Mrs. Belding came. I went with her to the Senate to hear the discussion on the Freedmen's Bill, or rather the Veto Message of the President Garrett Davis took up much time. Then Trumbull spoke 2 1/2 hrs. Cowan rose to reply & I came away at 4½. When we reached there at 12½ o'clock, the galleries were full & there was a crowd at every door. We took a position & by slow degrees were pushed in, several having come out. At 3 o'clock we got a seat. Such a crowding & pushing! Some persons are really uncivil & disoblging. Some people seem to have left their good manners at home

The Veto has caused a deep feeling. Mr. [?] made a powerful speech, took up all the objections of the Veto message. The Democrats & Copperheads are jubilant over the veto.

Came home & dressed myself for the Reception at the White House. Mr. Newton was going with us. Mrs. Belding, Mr. Kenyon & all were going, not to pay their respects to Andy Johnson. I wd. not shake hands with such a man. But it is a public place & the public have a right to go there. But at 7 o'clock we hear that the Bill was voted on in the Senate & lost by 6 votes. It is a sad blow for the freedmen & the friends of the freedmen. Frances comes in & says there is no Reception this evening.

Is it because there are so many indignant people here. I should think Johnson wd. be ashamed to have the people he has defied.

Feb. 21st. 207 I st.

Fine. Gave out Tickets till noon. Called at Bureau. [?] Maj. Lee, urges me to go to Alex. If I was at liberty to go there I would like to go, as there is no person but Miss Collier to go among the people.—

Dr. Reyburn is displeased with Dr. Heard & I think he will be relieved. I am sorry he does not give satisfaction. I have so much regard for Mrs. H. Dr. Reyburn wishes me to go to Campbell Hosp^l. with him to see how nicely they got along there.—

Went to Capitol. Nothing interesting in Senate or House. People uneasy. We hardly know what will come next. It seems as if a great calamity had befallen the country. My Flag draped with black has been suspended from my window all day.—

This evening F. went with me to Mrs. Belding's. Then I went to a Unitarian Sociable at Mrs. Johnson's.

Feb. 22^d 1866.

A sad day for the Country. Rebels & Copperheads have had a meeting at Grover's Theater to endorse Andrew Johnson's veto message & his reconstruction policy. Large crowd there. After the meeting, those in attendance (old secesh citizens, returned rebels copperheads & the rabble generally) went in procession to the White House & hurraed for Andy Johnson. He came out & made a speech to them. He denounced the Republications. Called Chas. Sumner & Thad. Stevens traitors & said what delighted the crowd generally. The most undignified, disgraceful speech ever made by the Chief Magistrate of the nation. He has thrown himself into the arms of the rebels & copperheads. He denounces Congress & now will come removal of all republicans from

Gov^t. offices. Stanton & Harlan opposed the Veto, so they will lose their heads. Seward approved it. Just like him. Nothing since the assassination has affected the loyal people like this betrayal of his friends by the President.

Wise men think this is the darkest time our country has ever seen.

Thad. Stevens said in Congress the day after the Veto that "Earthquakes are around us." We have only Congress to depend on now. I fear the Republicans will not remain firm. Sen. Morgan votes with the Democrats.

God only knows what is to be the result. I think an attempt will be made to drive Congress from the Capitol by force of arms & Andrew Johnson will lead the rebels that will attempt it ere long. He is determined that representatives shall be received from the rebel states.

And Henry W. Beecher endorses the Veto & lauds Andrew J. to the skies. "Such a pure-minded statesman" &c. Oh! dear, what will come next?

Frances has been out. Streets full of people. The old fogies & secesh are out.

I have not been out. I gave tickets till 1 P.M. then unpacked boxes. Rested a little. Then fixed for Colfax's Reception. F. & Miss J. Ford & myself went with Mr. & Mrs. Stebbins about 8½ o'clock. There was a crowd, some very elegant people. All seemed to enjoy it. There was dancing & I looked on awhile. It was pleasant, but I do not care to go again.—Nearly 12 when we returned.

Last 22^d. of Feb. there was rejoicing in earnest by all local people over the evacuation of Charleston. Illumination in evening. Mrs. Jacobs, Louisa & Frances went out to see. I had lame foot & could not go out. Union people do not feel jubilant to day.

Feb. 22^d. 1866.

Feb. 23^d

Severe head ache. Almost sick. Visited 14 families. Then unpacked 2 boxes from Phila. Tired out. Could not go to Garrison's Lecture. Frances went. says it was grand. Fine audience. Slept this evening. Felt better. Collation in sitting room in honor of Mrs. Newton's birth day. I partook of it & then returned to my room

Feb. 24th.

Pouring rain all day. Could not go to Alex^a as we intended. Glad I am not obliged to go out. Some of the poor things will be almost drowned in their shanties.

Cleaned my room. Starched my collars. Made Report to Capt. Spurgin. Fixed up accounts generally. Feel rested.

Sunday.

Ground frozen. dust flying. raw wind.

Went to Unitarian Ch. Heard Dr. Briggs.

Then went to H. st. to see Miss Evans. lunched with her. Came home at 4 P.M. In evening Miss Evans came & we went to Dr. Garrett's Ch. to hear W.L. Garrison. A fine audience, colored & white & a very interesting lecture. I enjoyed it much & so all the audience appeared to do.

Monday 26 cold.

Waited on people nearly all day. Gave 50 tickets & 85 garments.

Hard day's work. But I always feel much satisfaction after giving in this manner. I know so many more people are more comfortable than they were last night. Called at Bureau with Miss Evans.

This evening heard Mrs. F.D. Gage at Seaton Hall, subject "[?]" Very interesting lecture, large audience for benefit of Geo. town Home.

Been to look at 2 houses to rent

Tuesday. 27.

Bright. Cold. Visited till 2. 9 families. Long walk.—Wrote up accounts. With Mrs. Belding & others went to Reception at White House. Spoke with Mrs. Patterson & Mrs. Stover but not with Andrew Johnson. I would not take his hand, traitor that he is. It was sad to see him in the place of Abraham Lincoln. We have heard that he was drunk last Tuesday evening & for that reason there was no Reception.

To night there was an immense crowd. But few Republicans & few distinguished persons. All sorts of people, white, some in evening costume & some in working clothes. Soldiers & civilians, fine people & coarse people. I think a large proportion were secesh & Copperheads. Old fogies, been buried for 5 yrs. & just unearthed again. Now that the President is one of them they

both men & women were out in full force to pay their respects to a President that good & loyal people are ashamed of. It was not a happy gathering. It was not enthusiastic. There was constraint & restraint.

We left at 11 P.M. quite satisfied.

Wednesday. Feb. 28.

Last day of winter. Oh! well.

Hard day's work in the House. Waited on people till nearly 2 P.M. Went to Bureau to see about folks from Freedmen's Village.—532 persons on Arlington Farm at present. Rations are sent there for 470.—Government has given up all the other farms. People come here & complain, can get no work there & no rations. I wish I knew the truth about things there.

Unpacked 2 boxes. 3 more large boxes here, no room for them. I am so tired to night. I cannot

behave myself. Miss Flagler called. Mr. J. Joliffe called. Have been seriously disturbed today. But this is Washington & I should be surprised at nothing here.—

Thursday. Mar. 1st.

Waited on people awhile. Visited 9 families. Looked for others & did not find them. Unpacked a large box.

Called on Mr. Downing at Davis' Hotel. Saw Mrs. Dorsey of Phila.—

When F. Douglass was in Baltimore last he was shot at twice when leaving the Depot.— We are evidently on the brink of a rebellion. There will be an outbreak soon. Andrew Johnson & Seward have arrayed themselves against Congress. Things cannot remain as they are. Copperhead papers dare to say that "it may be necessary for the President to drive Congress from the Capitol by Military force."

Mar. 2^d. warmer

Made my weekly Report to Capt. Spurgin. Went to Bureau with it. Called on Mrs. Belding. She went with me to the teachers' meeting. Brig. Gen. C.H. Howard, Ass^t. Com. present & spoke to the teachers. Nothing very interesting done.

Mrs. B & I went to Capitol at 4. The incorrigible Davis was speaking. He was followed by Doolittle, Wilson & Fessenden.—These were interrupted by McDougal, Saulsbury & others.

At 7 o'clock vote taken on Resolution "That no members shall be admitted from the rebel states until Congress declares those states entitled to representation." Passed 29 to 18. Davis asserts that the President has a right to admit them at once & he ought to do it.— Mr. Fessenden is Chairman of the Reconstruction Com. & to save his own reputation, he being

accused of delaying [?] Report, he must explain by saying they have asked repeatedly for the documents relating to those states & for information wh. the President withholds from them.

With neither dinner nor supper Mrs. B & I were nearly exhausted, but we were determined to see it through. (Mrs. B. went home. I went directly to the Meeting of the Visiting Agents at the Soldiers' Free Lib.y. but few present.) I saw the Senate Chamber lighted & I saw the dome lighted. Oh! it is a very beautiful sight, worth going a long way to see.

The street lamps were not lighted this evening & the moon was of no use after it did rise for it is quite cloudy. I was alone in the dark but not exactly afraid. I stopped & bought some cake & eat it in Meeting from sheer hunger.

Saturday March 3^d 1866

Bright & warm.—

Frances & I went to Alex^a on 10 A.M. boat.

Called on Miss Collier & lunched with her. Saw Maj. Alvord, says they issue 1500 rations & he has received \$5000 worth of clothing from the N.Y. Assoⁿ.—

We went to the L'Ouverture Hosp^l. They are quite comfortable now. They have received from Phila. 1 bbl. of sugar, 1 bbl. of rice, 1 bbl. dried apples, box of farina, box of cocoa, keg of barley & a large bag of clothing. Phila. does not do things by halves.

Dr. Heard remains yet & things will go on better.—About 70 patients.

Had no time to go through the wards. Went to Soldiers Rest, where the rations are issued. Such a crowd! The thing[?] is not well managed for the want of thorough & efficient visiting Agents & the giving is done quite indiscriminately.

Saw & talked with Mrs. Tayman[?] who is to manage an Industrial institution in the Soldiers Rest, sewing, weaving, &c, &c. Great plans, no results as yet. She believes the "darkies" an inferior race & treats them as a servile people. Finds fault with them, they will not improve & so on. I should very soon quarrel with her. What queer people abound in Alex^a! Whew!

We called on Virginia & Mary Lawton, bought some soft gingerbread & came back at 5. So pleasant, not a ripple on the river.—

I called on Miss Evans & did not get home till after dark. Frances has gone to Miss Chamberlin's.

Sunday Mar. 4th.

Dust & wind make it very unpleasant. Went to Unitarian Ch. Heard Mr. Hepworth. A beautiful discourse.

This evening wrote, fixed up accounts, &c. Frances away.

Mar. 5th. very cold

Wind & dust dreadful.

Waited on people all day.

Wrote 49 tickets. Gave out 97 garments. Hard day's work.

Charlie Newton sick with Varioloid.

Miss Evans came this evening. We have been to Dr. Garrett's Ch. to hear Mrs. F. W. Harper on the "Lesson of the Hour." Douglass calls her the colored [?] Dickinson. She is very eloquent. It was a fine lecture. Douglass made some remarks after Mrs. H.—Miss E & I enjoyed it very much. Frances is away.

Mar. 6th.

Wind & dust terrible.

Have not been out. Refused to see the people & had a day to myself. darned stockings &c. Seems queer to work for myself. Read a little. My eyes trouble me.

March 7th.

Wind & dust terrific.—

Waited on people all day. Wrote 39 tickets. Given out 102 garments.

Hard day's work.—

Miss Collier here tonight.

Too bad to go to Douglass's lecture.—

Mar. 8.

Wind & dust dreadful.—

Waited on people till 2 P.M. Gave out 56 garments.—

Maj. Alvord called. I learn from him that Pres. Johnson requested the Bureau to find her a place, & if there was none to make one for her. She is "Super.^{mb}" of Industrial Schools & Distributing Agent" &c, &c.

Her salary is \$600 & emolument amount to \$400. She is a Catholic & employed 10 Catholic girls to make up \$1000 worth of material sent by the N.Y. Ass^{on} for the poor freed women to make up for their benefit. Paid these 10 girls in the clothing they made & then asked for rations for them.—She has not had a sewing School in operation

over 1 mo. since last fall.—

Maj. Lee turns over to her every thing sent to him for the Freedpeople. If I had known this, I should not have begged the box of shoes for Alex^a. Maj. Alvord thinks she does not make a good use of things put into her hands.

Friday Mar. 9. 1866

Determined to change my programme. I am getting wearied & worn. So I have been out for the first time this week. Called on Mrs. Breed. She is fading gradually. Poor woman, she cannot last long. She was very kind in her manner.

Called on Mrs. Lake. Then went to the Senate. Heard Fessenden attempt to demolish Sumner's speech of Wednesday. F. is Chairman of the Reconstruction Com. & the Bill it has reported Mr. S thinks very objectionable. It was painful to listen & hear Fessenden bring all his powers of wit, sarcasm, & ridicule,

against the “noblest Roman of them all.” & this to the great delight of the Democrats & Copperheads in the Senate.

A common man would have been annihilated & Sumner felt it deeply. I pitied him; but the moment F. closed, Sumner was on his feet like a roused lion & for 15 min. he poured forth a torrent of grand & burning eloquence wh. electrified the House. Such noble, truthful, eloquent words are seldom heard even in the Congress of the U.S. He was stirred to the very depths of his soul for, as to a Compromise with wrong, he will have none of it. I was proud of him. And Wilson too spoke against Sumner. So sad that these men should differ on such important questions. I heard the votes taken on the Amendments which were lost. After I left the Bill was lost by a vote of 22 to 25.—

Frances has been away all day. Had letter from Mrs. Wells. All well in Richmond.

Worked all the evening at my Reports. An Extra one is required for the Bureau. I am nervous. My eye, my eyes. It is 11^o clock! No more tonight.

March 10th.—

Rose early & wrote till half past Eleven. Took my Reports to the Bureau & to Capt. Spurgin’s Office. Met Mrs. Belding who went with me to the Capitol. Orth of Indiana was speaking when we got there. Then Thaddeus Stevens made a speech on Presidents Message. First chance he has had to do this. The irony & sarcasm that he used in speaking of the President’s late Speech were absolutely fearful. I did not hear it all. He does not speak loud. Then I came home; finished my letter to Nellie Perry wh. I began last Monday.—Frances away.

This evening with 2 Miss Ford’s

Went to hear F. Douglass Lecture before the Equal Suffrage Assoⁿ. Sufficient to say, I was proud of him. After him remarks were made by Geo. Downing, Yates, M.C., Sen. Wilson, & Gen. O.O. Howard. It was a great deal for 50 cts. The hall was packed full & the audience seemed to appreciate what was said.

This is hearing a great deal in one day. I would gladly divide my privileges with some of my friends at home.—

Sunday Mar. 11th—

Rain. Glad to have the dust laid. Heard Rev. Geo. Hepworth, [?]

The discourse was able, beautiful, & eloquent. At times he reminds me of Mr. Holland. Mrs. Belding called.—

Monday.

Received people from 8 until 4^oclock. Wrote 57 tickets & gave out 140 garments. So tired to night that I am good for nothing.

Tuesday. very warm.

Went out among the people.—

Mr. W.Y. Andrews & wife called. From Rochester on their bridal tour.—so tired.

Mar. 14th.

Waited on people till 1 P.M. Wrote 26 tickets & gave out 68 garments.

Went to Georgetown to Miss C's school. Then to see Nancy Parker from Fred—being whom her old mistress wished me to find.

Called to see Miss O. Kelley. She has been ill 4 mo. & has given up her school.

The weather is so fine that every body is out walking, riding or driving.

Mar. 15th. Warm.

Cleaned my Room & did various chores.

Rested some & feel better.

This evening heard Rev. G. W. Hepworth at Un. Ch. subject "The Times as seen from a New Eng. Pulpit." It was very fine. Entirely fearless in his utterances. A noble young man!

Friday Mar. 16th.

Waited on people till noon. Spent P.M. in making weekly Report to Bureau. I have given during the week 99 tickets & 257 garments. This evening been to Cor. 14th. & M. to meet Visiting Agents at Gen. C.H. Howard's request.—Laborers are wanted to Mississippi & Arkansas.

Northern gentlemen are going there to work plantations. They offer good wages, & hold out considerable inducements. I am told that laborers are not to be had there. Perhaps not in some particular localities, but there must be a great many people down there yet, according to other accounts. Pretty sure of the protection of the Bureau one year, but after that what will become of them if left to the tender mercies of the rebels? Freedmen do not see the way clear & they do not want to go so far South upon uncertainty. They are cautious how they go very near the old rebel masters again. They understand that the veto of the Freedmen's Bureau Bill means something to their disadvantage. I do not blame them.

Washington. 207 I st.

Mar. 17th. 1866.

Saturday. Cold. Windy.

So unpleasant I do not go out. Have written several letters. But can only write what is uppermost in the hearts of the people. The Veto was regarded by true & loyal men as a calamity to the country, the saddest thing that has happened since the Assassination. It means a restoration of the Rebels to power & a thrusting back of the Freedpeople into the hands of their old oppressors & it is also a betrayal of the plighted faith of the Gov^t. towards 4 millions of its people.

And that Speech of 22^d Feb.! To call our true & noblest men ‘traitors;’ & to use words wh. mean nothing less than this “Assassinate Sumner & Stevens & you will do me acceptable service”!

To say that he was drunk when he

made the speech is no excuse at all. A drunken President of the U.S.! No, he knew what he was saying & there was a crowd around him, cheering him on.

And to think of the company he keeps! Traitors & rebels can have access to him at any time, while leading men, true & loyal, can gain no admission to his presence.

The times are sad & dark. Four Regiments of the Regular Army have lately come here. There are thousands of Confederate soldiers & officers in this vicinity ready to use the arms wh. it will be very easy to give them if the President so orders it.

I suppose it is very evident now that the Fenian movement in this Country has little reference to Ireland, but it is in reality an organization of traitors & copperhead who are to act at the bidding of Andrew Johnson. The Catholic

element is on the side of Johnson & against the negro & it matters little to Irishmen here whether they fight Englishmen or negroes, only they had much rather fight Negroes. The Fenians have collected quantities of arms as well as money.

Rebels, Copperheads & Democrats are all on the President’s side. I think he will soon proclaim a general amnesty.

Seward says “there is no further need of making distinction between rebels & loyal men. There is not now a rebel in the Republic, & the word should not be used.” Was he, too, drunk when he said such words. I do not think Seward can be trusted any more than Johnson. The latter will demand the admission of the rebels, & when Congress refuses, the loyal members will be driven from the Capitol, & a Congress of Rebels & Copperheads will be placed there instead. Bayonets can do this & the President has them.

But we have a loyal North & there are thousands of Union soldiers who know how to use bayonets. And God is on our side too & with him we are never in a minority.

Company this evening. 2 Misses Chamberlin & Mr. Wetherbee & Mr. Smith.

Sunday. Mar. 18th.

Cold. Heard Mr. Hepworth from “Thy Father which is in secret.” One of the best sermons I ever heard. He magnetizes an audience completely.

Called on Mrs. Smith & Mrs. Belding & Mr. B. Took a lunch, then went to Garrett’s Church to S. School.

Brig. Gen. Brown Super^t. It was a pretty sight—those shining stars presiding over a school of negro Children.

In evening heard Mr. Hepworth again. Very excellent discourse. Frances & Miss Moore went with me.

Crowded house.

Mar. 19th. 1866

Cloudy. Waited on people from 9 till 3. Wrote 40 tickets. Gave out 67 garments.
Finished "Lucy Alwyn." Do not like it. This evening wrote letters.

Mar. 20th.

Rainy P.M. This A.M. Frances & I went to Georgetown & called on Mrs. Blackford.
This P.M. wrote letters.
Frances sick this evening. Thinks she has Varioloid. I hope not. Sent to Mrs. Brown for medicine.

Mar. 21.

Frances sick all night. She has varioloid. Doctress Brown has been here. F. has suffered a great deal to day. headache & backache.—considerable eruption appears.

I have been to 17th. st. twice. Bought tinc. of Cimicifuga as a preventive of S. Pox. Waited on people from 10 till nearly 3 P.M. gave out 84 garments.—
Am quite tired to night.

Mar. 22^d 207 I st.—

Fine day. Ironed this A.M. & did various chores. This P.M. went out twice & made 14 calls. Children are having measles.

Men are finding work.—

Frances slept some last night & feels much better to day. We had an unwelcome call this A.M. wh. disturbed me considerably. What persistent fools we sometimes meet in the guise of sensible persons.—

Mar. 23^d

Frances better. I have waited on people & done various things. Been out once.

This evening rained, but Miss Ford & Miss Lane went with me to hear Mr. Hepworth. Very good Lecture of the "True Church." He was followed by some remarks by Rev. J. Pierpoint, but they seemed droll & tame after Mr. H's brilliant discourse. Mr. H. will spoil us for other preaching.

Mar. 24th.

Fine.—uneasy this morning. Read Standard & Reconstructionist.—Mrs. Swiss has another article on the "Assassination Plot." Her paper will be suppressed if she goes on at this rate. She calls Johnson "Big J, Andy." Spent several hours in making Weekly report to Bureau.

Pleasant call from Mrs. Stebbins & Mrs. Merchant & also from Mrs. H. who wishes to establish an Industrial School somewhere. How many are willing to work for the Freedmen now. It is quite popular, especially if one can get no other business.—

This P.M. cleaned thoroughly. Frances has worked most all day. But I have insisted upon her staying in her room. Letter from Henrietta enclosing pictures of W^m. Penn & Florence. W^m. Penn looks like a middle aged man & I remember him as a little boy!

Sunday Mar. 25.

Cold. high wind.—Snow squall.

Heard Mr. Hepworth. Very good discourse. Took the rest of the day easy. Too busy to write. Smokes when wind blows & cannot have fire in my room.

Monday. 26th.

Bright, very cold. Water froze in my room last night. Since F. has been sick I have slept in the sitting room but last night it was so cold that I could not sleep—Frances is quite well.

How the poor people feel the cold!

Waited on several people. At noon went to the Capitol. General debate on Mr. Stockton's claim to a seat. (N.J.)

The cold wind & dust are dreadful.

Heard Sumner, Trumbull, Wade, Nye, Sherman, Hendricks, Clark, Stockton &c. Moved to reconsider. Opposition wish to postpone the vote till Wright of N.Y. comes.

Tuesday Mar 27th.

Very cold, windy, dusty.

Waited on a few people. Then I went out. Called at Mrs. Belding's. She was out. Called at Mrs. Kenyon's. She & Mrs. Smith were practising [*Transcriber's Note: Blank space*], a beautiful art.

Perhaps I shall learn it.

Went to Senate. Whole P.M. taken up with Stockton's case. A shame. Nothing new nor interesting said.

President's veto message of Civil Rights Bill sent in. After 5 they began to read it. I could hear so little of the reading that I left in disgust.—He is determined to thwart as far as he can all that Congress is disposed to do.

Wednesday Mar. 28.

Waited on people until Eleven. Then went to Capitol. Senate adjourned. Sen. Foote (Vt.) died this morning. This evening with Misses Ford, heard Mrs. F. E. W. Harper on "Home Influence." very good indeed.

Thursday Mar. 29.

Waited on people this A.M. Then went to Capitol to funeral of Senator Foote. Dr. Sunderland preached a long discourse. Mr. Gray made a long prayer.

There were present The Judges of the Supreme Court. The President & Heads of Depts. Members of Diplomatic Corps. Senators. Members of House & various others. The Pallbearers were Harris, Fessenden, Johnson, Guthrie, Sumner & Lane of Ind. They wore white sashes. The coffin was beautiful & covered with flowers. Judges & Senators wept. Mr. F. was respected by all, was an excellent man. Can ill afford to spare him now. Five years ago this scene would have impressed me deeply. But now this did not move me much. Some how my sensibilities are blunted; my senses are obtuse & such scenes have not the charm of novelty. Every day we see distinguished personages. They have ceased to be a wonder.

Washington. 207 I street.

March 30th Friday evening.

Waited on people until Eleven. Then took down & packed things for moving to morrow to 20th st.

Superintended the cleaning of my room. It is all ready to go into in the morning. There are so many to be suited that there seems to be a little friction. Just a little. I wish I had a house of my own. But I suppose that is never to be. If I could have my things all together & enjoy them, as so many others do, how nice it would be. This is, I suppose, our last night at 207 I street. I came here 14 mos. ago. And what changes I have seen in that time! We are going to a more comfortable & convenient house, but it is far from being what we should like. To pay Rent \$45 per mo.

Frances has been away all day.

Mar. 31st.—

Washington. 20th. st. bet. K & L

Cloudy. Rainy P.M.—Quite a job to move. We didn't know until we stirred them up that 207 contained so many traps. Mr. Brooks' horse & wagon went to & fro numberless times. Took one load of trunks for me. The rest of my things were moved by hand. I had engaged the services of (Sir) Edward Temple for the occasion.

Frances & Mr. Newton attended auction all the A.M. but bought nothing.

We were pretty well settled when night came, & all were very tired. A hard day's work for me.—

House a hundred times better than 207 I st. Two basement rooms light & pleasant. New paint & clean walls throughout. Colored families on each side of us. Glad of it—for various reasons. We rent the house of Mr. Wright (Colored) who lives in a house adjoining precisely like the one we occupy.

March 31st. 1866.

Anniversary of my dear Mother's death. It is 32 years since she was taken from us. That was a dark, sad day; & many a dark, sad day have we seen since. My father is now

[Transcriber's Note: blank space left] & has been quite feeble for a few years past, but during the present winter his health has been very good, & may Heaven spare his life many years yet. While he lives I have a home to go to. When he passes away I shall probably be thrown upon the wide wide world with no permanent home. But I will not borrow trouble; sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Sister Mary is now 32 years old. I cannot realize this, for it seems but a few years ago that I cared for her as a little child. A letter from her a few days since informs me that she is well, her husband doing well & Minnie is at school & learns well.

20th. st. Sunday Apr. 1st. 1866

Very fine day.—Slept well last night in our new room. Not so noisy as 207. This A.M. went with Mrs. Newton to Union League Rooms to hear G.B. Stebbins, subject "The Primal Gospel." I was very well pleased with the manner of Mr. Stebbins, as well as with the matter of his discourse. Called on Mrs. Kenyon & Mrs. Belding. Spent rest of the day in quiet at home.

Monday. April 2^d

Moved Boxes from 207 to 343 20th st. Arranged clothing in dining room & fixed my room. Quite convenient & comfortable now, as I have had shelves put up. I have run to & fro & run up & down stairs. & written ever so many ticket. I am very very tired to-night. Bureau has issued Circular No. 4. Rations & wood will not be issued

to people here after the 10th of April. The orphans are to be sent to a farm near Eastern Branch. The hospital will receive the sick. The old & aged disabled &c. will be sent to Alex^a & Freedmen's Village. The ablebodied are expected to leave W. & go wherever they can get work. They are urged to go to Mississippi & Arkansas with Northern men who promise to do well by them. Will take families. But the colored people can't see it. They cannot understand why it will be better for them in Miss. than it is in Va. These people were never in Arkansas. It is a thousand miles away. They think if they cannot be protected near W. they certainly will not be so far off. I cannot favor this plan. I wish they would go North or West & scatter about the country. They cannot all find work here & Northern farmers want laborers.—But prejudice hinders every project for their benefit.

Apr. 3^d.

Anniversary of Fall of Richmond. Letter from Mrs. Jennings. The Church in wh. she taught school was set on fire last Saturday by rebels & burned to the ground. The colored people wish to celebrate the 3^d of Apr. & the secesh are angry. They call upon Gen. Terry to forbid the niggers from insulting the whites in this way. Niggers presuming to rejoice when whites are suffering from humiliation? How bad! They threaten & bluster. I dare say there will be disturbance. The poor negro has a hard time of it.—He will yet have to fight to make freedom a reality to himself. The white teachers have succeeded in getting

Mrs. J. & her daughters out of school. I think the N.Y. Assoⁿ employs very objectionable teachers. Some of them have no idea of treating colored people as if they were men & women, their equals.

I have done various chores & wrote 4 letters & been out to find several families.
Dr. Rhoads called this morning.

The President has proclaimed Peace.

Now prepare for War.

Washington. 343 20th st.

April. 4th.

Lovely day. Waited on a few people.

Went out for an hour.

Then went to the Capitol. Heard Mr. Trumbull on President's Veto of "Civil Rights Bill." Spoke 2 hrs. Quoted largely from Andrew Johnson's speeches in Senate on Buchanan's Veto of Homestead Bill. He denounced this Veto in the strongest terms. This created a sensation throughout the Senate Chamber. No Vote was taken. I would have enjoyed this more if some of my friends could have been with me.

I made a disgusting discovery. Public Snuff boxes are placed in the Senate chambers for the use of Senators! And potent[?] grave & reverend seigniors walk up & help themselves. Whether the U.S. Gov^t pays for this snuff & the boxes wh. contain it, I am unable to say.

Mrs. Belding & I called at the Milliner's shops to learn fashions & prices. A bit of a bonnet costs from \$10 to \$12.—

Called at Mrs. B's & rested. Also on Mrs. Smith & took tea with her. Then she & Mabel walked home with me & took supper. Papers say the celebration in Richmond yesterday by the col^d people passed off finely. 7000 in the procession?

Thursday Apr. 5.

Fine. warm. Waited on people until 10½ A.M. Then fixed & went to Capitol. R. Johnson made a long speech against Civil Rights Bill. Mr. Cowan made a contemptible speech. Turnbull used up Johnson, Md. by quoting his own words 3 mo. ago. Exactly opposite to what he says now. Democrats wished to put off voting till to morrow when they hope to have Dixon & Wright to vote with them.

Mr. Wade wished to vote at once, because we have the advantage now. If God has afflicted those Senators with sickness, & we can pass this

Bill by this means. He thanked God for it & he believed they had a right to use the advantage. The speech made a sensation. MacDougal made some remarks in his usual manner. The Vote was put off until tomorrow. Too bad. The bill will be lost. I sat there

from 12 until after 5 P.M. Tired enough. Came back, dined hastily & went a long walk to see a sick woman.

Friday Apr. 6. Fine. warm.

Waited on a few people. Fixed bonnet. Letters from Elizabeth & Angeline. A. says she has given up coming to W. I am very sorry. When she might was well come as not. I must write again & urge her still further.

Miss Collier called.

About noon went to Capitol hoping vote wd. be taken early & then I cd. come away. When I went in Wade was speaking in his usual earnest way upon the President's policy. He was followed by Lane of Kansas in defense of the President

He is sorry the Pres. made that speech but excuses him for so doing.—A thunder shower occurred while he was speaking but his voice could be hear about the roar of the elements. He was interrupted by a dozen senators perhaps. Then spoke Doolittle for a long time. Mr. Trumbull used him up once so that D. cd. say nothing. We thought this wd. be the last speech before the vote was taken. But, oh! dear. Garrett Davis rose & spoke two whole hours! People were in despair. Many left. They were coming & going all time, much confusion, but on he went, nobody listened for his only object was to hinder the voting. But he did finish at last. Then Saulsbury 'blowed' away for awhile. McDougal giving the last kick. Then the question was "should the Bill pass notwithstanding the President's

objections"! All unnecessary noise was hushed at once, & there were anxious faces among the Senators while the vote was taken. When Morgan of N.Y. said 'aye' there was applause in the galleries. But it was promptly checked. I counted the ayes anxiously & knew that it was going right & when the vote was announced, 33 ayes to 15 nays, there was an outburst of applause, a joyful shout in the galleries wh. of course could not be suppressed.

This scene amply paid us for 5 hrs. waiting this P.M. & I do not regret staying it through, Garrett Davis & all.

Saw Gov. Pierpoint there & many others that I know. Miss Evans & I staid to see the dome lighted at 7. It is very, very beautiful. The Vote was taken at half past 6 P.M. & now every city & village where there is a telegraph office knows the result.

Saturday Apr. 7th. Rainy

One week has passed already in our new residence. It is really pleasant here.

Have given but few tickets this week.

To day Frances has been away. I have enjoyed the time alone fixing bonnets.—

Reception at Gen. Grant's last evening. President & daughters there.

Pres. shook hands with Thad. Stevens & they talked together pleasantly & Thad. didn't assassinate him.—Alex^a Stephens present. Jeff Davis will be present next time. Republicans in good spirits. I think the President will hold back a little now.

Sunday. Apr. 8. Rainy day.

Had good cleaning up. Made Report for Bureau. Rested & enjoyed the day. Frances away.

Mr. & Mrs. Goddard from Worcester called. Letter from Mrs. Earle.

Monday Apr. 9. One year ago

Lee surrendered. Illumination, &c.

²I have helped Martha wash & iron. Hard day's work, but it is a comfort to have a quantity of clean clothes.—

The House of Reps. has passed the "Civil Rights Bill" over the Veto. Great rejoicing & excitement when the vote was announced & the Bill declared to be a law. Colfax cd. not restore order & the House adjourned. I wd. like to have been present but I was otherwise engaged. This is indeed a victory!

The colored ladies of W. today presented each senator who voted for the C.R. Bill a bouquet of choice flowers & Sumner & Trumbull a basket of flowers. A card was attached & written upon it were these words, "We exercise the Civil Right to express our gratitude." These were laid on the aisles during the session.

Tuesday Apr. 10

Bright. Cold. Regulated boxes of clothing. Then walked to 7th St. & back. Finished my bonnet. After dinner Frances & I made

calls. First to Clara Barton, but she is absent in New Jersey.—Then to Mr. Bowen's, very pleasant call.—Then to Mrs. Kenyon's & Mrs. Belding's.—Busy day. Letter from Mrs. Jennings. The celebration on the 3^d in Richmond was a complete success.

Apr. 11th. Cool.

Made 40 calls on 18th & 19th, & E and D sts. Came back & arranged trunks. Sewed. Barrel came from Worcester, valued at \$99.—Unpacked it. Valued too high.

April 12, Warmer

Attended to people all the A.M. Gave out 86 garments. This P.M. sewed. Calls from Mrs. Belding, Miss Collier & Miss Kelty. Frances away all day.

Apr. 13th. Fine

This morning sewed. At 11 F & I went out. Called on Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Garrett, & Mrs. Breed, (but did not see her). She is

² Entries through the end of this document correspond to Haverford scans HC13-26009_075 to HC13-26009_159 in their Folder entitled Jan 1, 1866 to Jan. 12, 1867.

quite feeble. —Then to Mrs. Swisshelm's. What an oddity! She is also amusing. She is an institution! Has given up publishing the Reconstructionist. Her house has been set on fire twice. She could not publish a paper here with safety.—Then we called at Capt. Spurgin's office cor. 7 & O sts. Sending families to Miss.—Long walk but we rode back. Frances is tired out. has been in bed ever since. After dinner I called on 23 families. Tired enough to night. Mr. & Mrs. Stebbins have spent the evening here, but F. cd. nt see them. Letter from S.A. Ferris. She intends to come to W. next week. Letter from Maj. Morse. Encouraging state of things in Fredericksburg.

April 14th

Anniversary of a sad day

Departments have been closed, & flags are at half mast. No other observance. A year ago today I was in Alex. & could not get away. It was a sad time.

This morning was fine. I went out a little while, waited on a few people. This P.M. Rainy. Wrote to Mrs. Jacobs. Did various chores.—
This evening Mr. Baker called.

Sunday Apr. 15th

Went to Unitarian church. Heard Rev. E.E. Hale. Several children were christened & several persons united with the church. Looked over papers, read, etc.

Monday Apr. 16th

Rained all A.M. Such a disappointment! Too wet & muddy to go out. Celebration put off until Thursday. I called on Mrs. Belding at Davis's Hotel. Colored soldiers came from the forts & marched through the streets.

In P.M. Frances, Miss C. & I went to Capitol. Disgraceful scene in the Senate. M^cDougall was drunk & insulted Conness while he was speaking. Mr. C. was so indignant he cd. hardly speak, so mortified too. Said it was the first time he had alluded to M^cD's disgraceful habits, but he cd. be quiet no longer. Senators hung their heads with shame. M^cD kept talking, but at last was induced to go out.

Then we went to the House. Discussing Army Bill. Rogers of N.J., Ingesall of Ill. & Eldridge of Wis. said sharp words. I called E. a contemptible Copperhead, & E. called I. a traitor; points of order were raised by various persons. There was laughing & excitement & confusion. The chair could not decide whether it was out of order or not to call the Dem. side of the house, "followers of Jeff Davis", & this caused applause in the gallery. It was a rich scene if it was disorderly. And these men are the assembled wisdom of the Nation!!

Tuesday Apr. 17. Cloudy day.

Wrote letters. Went out & bought wheelbarrow load of wood. So cold. Must have fire. Did various chores.

In evening Frances went with Mrs. Kenyon to the Theater.—Mrs. Belding called. I went with her to Davis Hotel. Select party of colored people were to have a hop. (Waited to be sure that Sally Ann wd. not come on 6 o'clock train.)

Met several agreeable people. Company came about 9. Dancing began about 10. Very genteel & well-bred young people. I am apparently white. Others quite dark. Nearly all shades of color.

Mrs. B, who said a few days ago that "it seemed so strange to have colored persons sit in the parlor with her, & not in the capacity of servants;" even Mrs. B. became interested in the company, & danced with Dr. Tucker & Mr. Hodges. Mr. & Mrs. Barnes (white)

also joined the dancing & enjoyed it. If I ever danced I should have danced tonight; such a good chance to put social equality principles into practice. I think Mr. Baker was sorry that he could not dance. I enjoyed the whole. I am always happy to meet intelligent & refined colored people. They are active, living arguments against caste & prejudice. — These young people belong to the best class of col^d people in W.—This is the first time I have met them under such circumstances. Supper was not over until 2 A.M. Then a Virginia breakdown & a few quadrilles & the co. left. I am to remain with Mrs. Belding.

Wed Apr. 18th. Cloudy

Am so afraid it will not 'clar' today. That to-morrow may be a fine day for the celebration. But it is now 2 P.M.

The sky grows lighter. The clouds look thinner. Really hopeful.

Well, I do not feel very bright today. It was 3 before I retired, and I slept but a few hours.— Frances wondered what kept me out all night.—

This A.M. I visited 18 families & saw the extremes of ignorance and poverty among the colored people. Some of these have improved none since they have been here and never will. But others live really nice & are smart & thrifty. —

My friend S.A. Ferris came about 7 P.M. Am very glad to have her here. She is so tired we do not go to hear Mrs. Swisshelm this evening.

Thursday Apr. 19th

A glorious day in more senses than one. Bright, warm & beautiful. A celebration of Emancipation in the Dist. has been held & only two occasions

have ever surpassed this for numbers & display. These were the Grand Review, & the funeral of Ab^m Lincoln one year ago today. Some sad associations connected with this day & the colored people realize them.

The Procession was formed at Franklin Square. About 11 o'clock Sally Ann & I went out. At the corner of I and 17 we asked ~~we asked~~ permission to stand on the steps of Mr. Knapp's residence. The father-in-law, an old gentleman, said "bless you. I will get chairs for you. We declined to trouble him. We became considerable acquaintances. He said, "I do not know what others think, but I think it a grand affair." He was a loyal man from Ohio a few years ago. Said "his son's life was saved by the colored people. He had been

in Libby prison & suffered much.” This old gentleman enjoyed the display as much as we did. We stood there & saw it all pass. I notice this incident because I didn’t

expected they were all secesh in this elegant mansion. He asked us to go in & take a glass of wine, but we declined & went over to the White House to be there when the procession stopped. There was already a crowd of men, women & children, but they were not allowed to go onto the portico. We waited awhile in the East Room. Then we stood on the Portico until the President came out and made another ‘Speech.’ We could not hear much of it. It was “Big J Andy” all over. “My policy” was made very prominent, boasted of his friendship for the race, & gave us to understand that he, & not the radicals, was the best friend of the negro. —Sec. Stanton thought best to use some powder on the occasion & the booming of the cannon while the crowd was at the White House added to the excitement of the occasion. There were delegations from Geo T. & Alex^a & Baltimore. Several companies of Col^d. Troops, several Brass Bands, Masonic

societies, benevolent Asso^{ns} with banners & appropriate mottoes. Two battle flags, tattered & torn, as well as many others bright & new that made the procession a grand one. I hope sometime to learn the numbers of people. All colored. When it approached Gen. Grant’s Headqrs. he ran away, for fear, I suppose that he wd. be called on for a speech.

The President stood on the usual stone wall, & after the speech he stood & waved his hat & bowed as the procession passed. I hope he saw it all, especially the banners & their mottoes, some of them didn’t quite endorse “My Policy”. After this a crowd pressed round & he shook hands with a great number. How condescending! The procession went to the Capitol, & then back to Franklin Sq. when the speeches were to be made. The Chronicle says, “The movements of the procession were really

magnificent. There was no baulk when they came back to the square. There was a dense mass of people assembled and we stopped in front of the stand long enough to hear Bishop Paine pray & H.H. Garnett make a short speech & read resolutions. Then it was so hot we left, & went to Dr. Breed’s & sat on the balcony an hour & overlooked the crowd. The speakers were Trumbull, Wilson, Howard & Day etc. While Wilson was speaking the platform fell, but no one was hurt. In a few moments they, the speakers were occupying another stand & all went on well.—People seemed to appreciate the occasion & all looked happy. There was not a single instance of disorder. Nothing out of the way done by any one that I saw & I have heard of nothing. It has all been very creditable to the col^d. people & they have had a day of enjoyment. I am glad Sally Ann has had an opportunity to see this.—We are very tired tonight.

Friday. Apr. 20th. 1866.

We were very glad this morning to see Alfred & Angeline who have come to stay a few days. Have just come from Avon. Father is not very well.

We rested this A.M. About one P.M. we went to the White House but there was no Reception. They are over for the season. Went to Capitol. Sat in Senate & heard Doolittle & Cowan. Went to the House. Nothing interesting going on. Mr. Van Horn showed us various rooms. Returned at 5. —Mr. Baker called. — I fixed F.'s bonnet.

Saturday 21st

Started at 8 for Navy Yard. Spent an hr. there. Saw the monitor & cigar [?] iron clad. Went aboard the Tonawanda. Shops, Museum etc.

Then went to Alex. on 11 A.M. boat. Called on Miss Collins. Maj. Lee away, so that I could get no ambulance. We walked until we were nearly tired out. Went to

Christ Ch. Hospital, Slave Pen, & Soldier's Rest. To Magnolia for refreshments & then reached the 3 P.M. boat just in time to escape a shower. When we reached W. it had stopped raining. We were all tired. This evening Alfred & Frances have gone to Theater & so has closed another day.

Sunday Apr. 22^d. Fine. Warm.

Alfred went to meeting to the Capitol. Rest of us too tired to go. I wrote some. At 2 Alfred & Angeline & Sally Ann & Mr. Newton & myself started for a ride. Went over Aqueduct Bridge to Arlington. Went into the first gate, where there are several hundred soldiers' graves & the graves of thousands of contrabands.

Then we drove to the west side of the house where there are acres of graves. About 8000 are buried there. It is a deeply interesting spot. —We went to the house, saw the old furniture & paintings etc.

Then to Fort Whipple wh. we entered by scaling the ramparts, quite to the

surprise of the guards. In this fort are the prisoners that were sent from the Old Capitol. It is a strong fort & well worth a visit. The view from this is magnificent, as is also the view from Arlington House. Then we drove on through Freedmen's Vil. Much enlarged & improved since my last visit there. Then we came back through G. in Boundary St. to 21st. Interesting drive all the way, & reached home at 6 P.M.—Mrs. Kenyon and C. here.

Monday Apr. 23^d

Rain this morning. Could not go to Bull Run. Went to Capitol. Went up into The Dome, to the Tholus. A most stupendous work of art. We were lost in wonder & admiration. Alfred felt timid & cd. not go as far up as we did. The prospect from this is magnificent. This is my first visit to the Dome. The frescoed ceiling is a great work.

Went in to the Senate awhile & rested. Then went to the Government green house. Very beautiful there —

Then to the Patent Office & took a hasty survey of the curiosities & Washington Relics. At the Capitol met Mr. & Mrs. Forrester from Richmond.—

Tuesday Apr. 24th. 1866.

Cloudy, cold, high wind, But we left 6 this morning for Bull Run Battle Field. (Alfred, Angeline, Sally Ann & I). Reached Manassas at 9 A.M. Passed Springfield, Burke's, & Fairfax Stations. Desolate region. A few fields being cultivated, but few people at work. A few Earthworks near Manassas. Stopped at Manassas House. The other hotel is the Eureka. Three other houses & a Livery Stable I think are all the buildings at this station now. A Rockaway drawn by one horse was all the conveyance we cd. procure. Three other persons & a driver went in a stout 2 horse wagon.

We were told that the roads were very good, but we found them very bad & we were in danger of breaking down for our carriage was very light. It is 7 miles to the battlefield. We went to the monument of the first battle, July 21st, 1861. This is on an eminence. Near the site of Mrs. Henry's house. She was old, 90 years of age, the battle rage all around her, & she was struck by a shell as she lay in her bed & killed & here is her grave surrounded by a picket fence. From this point we could look over much of the field, but can see no vestiges of the battle. We went to the Stone House in a hollow near Young's branch, wh. is now owned by Mr. Starbuck. From this place we walked about half a mile through fields where we picked up various things, & in the woods where the grounds were strewn with haversacks. At some particular spots a mile or

two distant we were told many relics might be found, but our time was limited as we were to be back to Manassas to take the 3 o'clock train, and seven miles of bad road lay between us. We regretted exceedingly that we had not made arrangements to stay longer & go over more of the ground. It is an interesting place. We did not go to Stone Bridge or Sudley's Ford.—or to the Monument of the 2^d Battle of Bull Run.—Most of the dead were taken up last summer & removed to Arlington I believe. —A Mass. gentleman and his wife were visiting the ground to see the place where their son was killed, but they could not find it. Things are so changed. We left the Field reluctantly & reached the station at 3. Alfred was to go on to Richmond, & we came back to W. Reached 343, 20th st. at 6 P.M. feeling well paid for our trip although we wd. like to have seen more.—

Wednesday Apr. 25th. 1866.

Frances went with Angeline & Sally Ann to see schools at cor. 14 & M sts.

I waited on people, cleaned my room. We all called on Clara Barton & Mrs. Lake & Mrs. Stebbins, & Mrs. Kenyan. Very tired.

Apr. 26.

Left at 9 for Mt Vernon. (Angeline, Sally Ann, & I) Cool & windy. Cabin of Thos. Collier comfortable. Over 100 passengers. Boat could not go up to the wharf. Landed in small boat. Took 2 hrs. Angeline a little sick but ventured to go on shore. At 2 P.M. went up to the house. Saw the garden & grounds & Tomb. I did not enjoy it as much as formerly, I was seeing for others this time, not for myself. Embarked at 3½ P.M. & reached home at 6.— Too early in the season to be very pleasant, so cool on the water. I called on Mrs. Belding.

Apr. 27th. Fine

We all went up to the Congressional Cemetery. Then to the Experimental Garden, then to the Smithsonian. Came back nearly tired out. Alfred came back at 3½ P.M. Has been to Richmond & Fredericksburg, etc. Does not like the country well enough to purchase a home.

Mr. & Mrs. Forrester from Richmond called this morning. Have never been out of R. before. Slaves do not travel much & Mr. F was a slave until 2 yrs. ago. He has a brother here, & they have visited all the interesting places in & about the city, & they have appreciated the privilege, especially the visit to the Capitol & to Congress. They are very worthy people & I have a great regard for them.

Saturday, Apr. 28th.

Fine. Warm.— First in the programme was a visit to Campbell Hospital. The

chief motive for this was to see Sojourner Truth. —She was in a talking mood & we were highly entertained. Sojourner hates rebels & Copperheads. Told us about her visit to President Lincoln &c. Says her name was Belle Van Wagoner from Esopus, Ulster Co. N.Y.

We came back & rested a little while. Then we went to the Observatory. Prof. Doolittle was very obliging. Explained the use of the different Telescopes etc. Came back. Took ~~dinner~~ lunch. Then went through grounds south of White House. Improvements are being made. Then went through the Treasury. There are acres covered with the stone for the new extension.

Went to the Army Medical Museum. Many interesting in this Museum. Called on Mrs. Smith. She is ill. Went into Ford's Theater. Not finished yet. It is intended for archives

relating to the War of the Rebellion. The sad associations connected with it will make it an object of interest for generations to come.

Then we looked at the beautiful things in the Shop windows on Pa. Av. Went into Perry's Dry Goods Store. Sally Ann made Frances & I each a present of a pair of Alexander's best \$2 kids.

Came back very, very tired, but after dinner we visited the old dilapidated House. cor. 27th & K where Gen. Washington stopped to visit his niece Mrs. Peters. The last time he visited the city. After that several Foreign Ministers have occupied it.—A family of poor White trash occupy one room in the extreme back part & say they take care of the premises for Widow Smoot [?] who owns the house. — Boys have broken all the glass of some of the windows & all the bannisters

of three flights of stairs. But we went up to the attic. It is truly a dismal place. The white woman was lying on a bed on the floor, room filthy & in disorder, but she was not so drunk that she could not get up & follow us about & talk a stream. "The niggers raked the house. Lincoln set them free & put them in it. He should have been shot long before he was. If there had been two or 3 Booths the Country wouldn't be as it is now. There'll be a bloody war here before long. There'll be no niggers left here, I know, I hear the men talk. There hadn't ought to be a nigger left above ground. They won't work, have everything given them, while white folks that belong here have to starve & freeze, but it won't be so much longer, but I'm not afraid. I shall not be hurt. You may give the niggers things, but you'll see. There'll be a war soon."

This was all thickly interspersed with 'd__d's & other equally polite expletives. She was a fair specimen of a rebel woman. The genuine spirit was here. She meant & felt all she said; but of course if she had been sober she wd. not have dared to say those things.

Came back & went to visit a sick woman. I have not been so near tired out before & Angeline & Sally Ann are nearly tired out too. We have done Washington pretty thoroughly. They intend to start for home Monday Morning & Alfred is to meet them in Phila. He left for Harper's Ferry yesterday morning.—

Sunday, Apr. 29th.

Fine. Cool. Have rested today; only F. & Angeline have been to Lorenzo Dow's grave. Mrs. Kenyon & Charlie, & Miss Chamberlin called. This evening Sally Ann & I have been to Dr. Garnett's church. Mr. Watkyns preached.

Monday. Apr. 30th. 1866.

Fine. Rose early. Angeline & Sally Ann took leave about 6½ A.M. Frances went to Depot with them. I felt tired out this morning, but cleaned my room & regulated things generally, & waited on some people. Frances came back at 1 P.M. We miss our company. I have given most of my time to them & I think they have enjoyed being here. The visit has been satisfactory all round I think —& I am so glad they could come & not be hurried, & see all that is worth seeing. Now I must devote my time to the poor & sick & work again.

May 1st, Rainy, & I am
trying to rest.—Exerted myself too much last week, do not feel well today.
I have written letters, fixed up accounts, & Marked Fancy Goods for Fair.
Tornado this evening.

May 2^d.

Called on Mrs. Garnett & several families. Mrs. Stebbins & Mr. & Mrs. Curtis from Rochester called. I went with them to see several families. Called on Mrs. Lenthall[?] 391, 19th St.—Then to White House. Saw the class of persons that occupy the waiting rooms every day. Mostly rebels & secesh, I think.

Went to Hammack's for Lunch.

Then I left the Party.

May 3^d.

Visited 12 families. Went to 7th st. —Went to Seaton Hall to see specimens of Left Hand Penmanship. One specimen was written with the Mouth by a soldier who had lost the use of both hands.

This evening F. & I called on Mrs. Belding at D's Hotel. Dancing party there. We looked at them awhile. Not so nice a company as the other one. We came back about 12. Spent the evening neither pleasantly nor profitably.

May 4th, Friday

Waited on a few people & regulated all my boxes. This P.M. went to Teachers' Meeting. Then with Misses Ford & Miss Moore to see Sojourner Truth. She said some sharp things. This evening called at Mr. Wright's.

May 5th. Have not been out.

Waited on a few people. Served all day. Dull & lonesome.

May 6th, Sunday

Went to Unitarian Ch. Heard Mr. Israel. In P.M. read & in evening went with Miss Moore & Mr. Newton to Grover's Theater to hear Murdoch read. The pieces were, "Joseph & his brethren; Destruction of Sennacherib, Death of Absalom; When all My Mercies; Oh! My God; The Widow's Son; Passage from Sir Walter Scott; Wounded & Mustered Out." Some of these were well done, others were over acted, especially "Paul's Defense Before Agrippa," & the Lord's Prayer," wh. last was applauded! Read for the benefit of the Soldiers' Aid Society. Large attendance.

May 7th. 1866.

Attended to washing—Cleaned room. In P.M. went out to purchase bonnet and hoops. Long, weary walk. Such fantastic fashions! I will none of them!

May 8th

Visited 15 families. Ironed 2 hours. This evening F. & I have been to Post Office to meeting of Visiting Agents. Congress has appropriated \$25,000 for the relief of the poor both white & colored, & agents are appointed to disburse it.

May 9th. Rain P.M.

Walked to 7th st. & back. Finished my bonnet. Suits me very well. Cost \$4.50, not \$10 nor \$20. Waited on several people.—This evening had a call from Mrs. Wright & Miss Lane & Mrs. Paine, wife of Bishop Paine of Ohio, a very lady like woman. The Bishop has gone on to Savannah, Ga. He is a native of Charleston, S.C. driven away from there 31 yrs. ago for teaching

colored persons to read. Went back last summer & enjoyed the visit much. He now resides at Wilburforce Ohio.

May 10

Went to see Miss Evans. Then to school on the Island. Then to the Capitol. Heard Sen. Nye finish his Speech (began it yesterday) Doolittle replied, tiresome I left & went into the House. All confusion. Left in disgust. They took a vote on the “Reconstruction Bill.” Passed !!

This evening been to Senate Chamber to hear Mrs. Walling lecture. It amounted to just nothing. She spoke so low nobody could hear. As soon as she began to speak the audience began to go out. The most moving speaker I ever heard. A small portion remained to the close. It was about the war, the negro, slavery, etc. etc. I heard a few sentences.

May 11th.

Visited 7 families. Very few sick. Called on Mrs. Townsend. We were serenaded last night by the Colored Band. Fine music!

May 12th.

Visited 11 families, only 2 sick persons. This evening went to Geo. town to the Fair, but it was not open. Frances away all day & evening.

Letter from Sally Ann F. at home safe. She & Angeline met Alfred in Phila —S. says she enjoyed every minute of the time here. The places & things that interested her most were Bull Run, Arlington & Dr. Garnett’s congregation.

Sunday May 13.

Went to Unitarian Ch. Heard Rev. E.F. Holland of N.Y. Dry preaching for me. Agnes Jones came. Wrote letter for her, & returned the last of the money she put in my care. (\$5). Mr. Belding called.

May 14th. 1866.

Cold. Visited families.— Called at Bureau & at Mr. Garnett’s, & Dr. Breed’s, & Miss Hyde’s, & did some errands. Came back very tired.

May 15th.

Served awhile. Went to the F's Bureau Then to the Phil^a school on 19th st. Called on a few families.

Went to see Mrs. Belding.—

This evening have been to Reception at White House with Mrs. Belding, Misses Ford's, Mr. Newton & Charlie. I neither spoke to nor shook hands with Andrew Johnson or the ladies. The former I despise too much to take his hand & it amounts to nothing with the latter. —We remained in the Reception Room til nearly 10. So did most all of the elite. We stood where we could see the people come in, & after looking at the foreigners, the Cabinet, Judges

Lieut. Gen^l Grant & especially Mrs. Grant (cross eyed and cross looking) & whole Constellations of Generals & Maj. Generals, Senators & their wives, M.C's etc. etc. Not until I shook hands with Gen. Grant (what an ordinary looking man! He appears diffident & scared & I think I frightened him by asking to shake his hand.—But after shaking hands with about a hundred he seemed more self possessed.) Not until I had feasted my eyes on magnificent dresses, pearls & diamonds, & studied the faces of the foreign ladies & was awe-struck with the wonderful heads that were there assembled (such fantastic tricks as are played with the hair!) Not until I was satisfied with all this did I go into the East Room. This room was not crowded & it was very pleasant. The whole scene was very brilliant. There was

but a small proportion of ordinary looking people, very few wore bonnets It was almost a full dress Reception. Mrs. Patterson & Mrs. Stover were dressed beautifully & appeared exceedingly well. I hardly thought of Andy. Several children were presented to him & he stooped & caressed them very graciously.—

If Angeline & Sally Ann & Frances had been with me I should have enjoyed it much more. —

May 16th.

An unhappy day for me. Oh! dear. I wonder if it is true that I am always in fault & others are always right.

I have been out but little today. Have served some. Have not felt like doing any thing else. F. away to night.

May 17th. Rain last night.

Visited 7 families. Served some. Called for Mrs. Belding to go with me

to Mr. Hepworth's Lecture. She decli- going, so I ventured alone. (Frances away a large share of the time.) I tried to carry myself as if it were all in the usual way of doing things. I sat with Mr. S. so I did not feel so much alone & he accompanied me to the Car after the Lecture & I returned all safe. But I do hate to go out alone, especially in the evening. I

make no dependence upon F. to accompany me anywhere. She seems wholly absorbed with others & shows no sort of interest in any thing that pertains to me. I do not think I am exacting or suspicious, but such indifference from one from whom I have a right to expect sympathy does hurt my feelings in spite of myself. I must try not to think of it & act as if I were alone. I suppose I am disagreeable to people generally & yet I prize sympathy & friendship as much perhaps as any person in the world—

Mr. H's Lecture was at Metzert Hall before the Equal Suffrage Assnⁿ. It was very good, as well as very brilliant. In speaking of Andrew Johnson he said "He says he is a self-made man. Well, I am glad of it; it takes a great responsibility from the Lord." This brought down the house.

May 18th. Cool. fire in stove.

Visited 7 families & also "Aunt Milly Edmundson," mother of "Edmundson girls."

Miss Schneider one of our teachers died this morning.

Dr. J.H. Rapier is dead, a severe loss to the colored people & a loss to the world. He was educated, intelligent, talented & exemplary as a man & skilled as a physician & an honor to his race. He was an Alabamian; his father was a Frenchman. He was educated at Ann Arbor. The faculty not knowing he was a negro until he had graduated. Then they were much shocked. They thought he was a Cuban.—

Washington D.C.

Saturday, May 19th.

A perfect day.—

Frances, Miss Moore, Mr. Newton & Charlie & myself had a delightful drive. First out 14th St. past Columbia College, & where Carver & Mt. Pleasant Hospitals were. What a change. Those extensive buildings have nearly all been removed & not a tent or a Soldier to be seen. —Fences have been rebuilt & some fields are cultivated now.— We went on the Piney Branch Road to Fort Stevens which the Rebels attempted to take July 12, 1864. The fort is a strong one, in a commanding position but is not dismantled. A few of the 170th Ky. Col. troops are stationed here. We found a few relics, & examined it to our satisfaction. Then we went a little further on to the Burying Ground where are interred the remains of 140 Soldiers who were killed in & near this Fort—

A man is employed to tend the ground. Then went a little further on to the battle field, which was a peach orchard, but the trees have been cut down & the ground has been ploughed. Here is a long rifle pit. I found 2 mini balls & a knife. There is a house here which was riddled some by shot, but it has been repaired. A few feet from the front door is a large tree behind which a rebel sharpshooter stationed himself & fired at every head which appeared above the rampart of Fort Stevens about a half a mile distant, but at

length a Union Soldier made his way around & fired at this Sharpshooter & killed him. he fell near the tree.

Two rebel officers are buried near the gate. Nothing marks their graves.

We obtained a few mementoes & left reluctantly.—It is not 2 yrs. yet since contending armies met on this spot, &

precious lives went out amid the roar of battle, but soon all vestiges of the fight will be obliterated.—

A few rods from 7th st. road on the other side are the ruins of what was once an elegant house. Iron columns, marble mantels, grates, spring beds, broken china are scattered all about. Rebel sharp shooters took refuge in this house & the guns of Ft. Stevens dislodged them by destroying the house. From these ruins we brought away marble for paper weights, a brick, etc.—

Then we came back to Ft. Stevens & Brightwood. —We passed clearings where there were log houses, looking as new as any thing in Michigan. If the country about here was improved & cultivated it would be very beautiful. Shown[?] are fine elevations for country residences, villas, etc. —Fort Slocum is a little off of the road. Then drove on[?] Forts Totten

& Slemmer. (Fort Du Russy is west of Ft. Stevens.) We drove to the National Cemetery. This is one of the most beautiful & interesting spots I ever saw. Here are over 5000 soldiers graves. The ground is beautifully laid out. There are 5 arbors, & from one of them we can overlook the whole ground. What a sight! Here we pondered awhile & I involuntarily asked, “Who slew all these?” (There are a few rebel graves.)

There are shrubs & plants in bloom, & there is an appropriate building for an office near the entrance. In these rooms there are scraps of patriotic poetry in ornamental letters on the walls & they are put up all about the grounds.

I copied this, “On Fame’s Eternal Camping ground,
Their silent tents are spread;
And glory guards with Solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.”

We left this place reluctantly. There is a melancholy satisfaction in knowing how tenderly Government cares for the noble & patriotic dead.

(I regret exceedingly that Alfred & Angeline & Sally Ann did not drive out here.)

The Soldiers’ Home or Military Asylum is near the cemetery. But we drove around to the principal entrance to the grounds which are very extensive. This is on the height of ground & the view from the Asylum is magnificent. This was built & is sustained by money from soldiers of the regular army. Each man paid 25 cts. a mo. until the fund became so large that now they only pay 12 ½ cts. a mo.—There are 130 inmates, poor or

invalid or disabled in some way, a very comfortable place for them. —Some of them served in the War of 1812. The beauty & extent of the grounds & the situation surpass any thing I have ever seen before. Besides the main building there are three elegant houses.

In one of which the President usually passes the summer months. It is a cool, quiet, & in every way a desirable treat. I would not object to a residence here. It is altogether preferable to the White House. We returned about 4 well satisfied with our trip & I know I had a dollar's worth of enjoyment. (We paid \$5 for the carriage.) The country is so fresh & clean & green & fragrant now after the rain & no dust yet. This day has been perfect every way.

After putting away our specimens & resting awhile, I went to the White House. In the grounds south, the Marine Band plays on Saturday evenings & people go there to enjoy themselves. I think I never saw so large a crowd of well & elegantly dressed people in my life. I had no idea so many people availed themselves of this privilege. I am very tired to night. Frances is away.—

Sunday. May 20th. 1866.

Fine. Warm. Went to hear Dr. Sunderland. Dry discourse. —

Called on Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins.

Went to 368 11th st. to attend Dr. J.H. Rapier's funeral. — Large number of very respectable looking people there. But few white folks. —Only a few of the teachers present—

Monday, May 21st.

Rose early. Made 7 visits.

Miss Collier called. Went to Capitol with her. Nothing interesting in Senate or House.

May 22^d

Cold enough for fire in room. Visited 7 families. Went to New Eng. Rooms twice. Mr. & Mrs. Earle just back from Richmond. Had a nice visit with them. Think I shall visit Worcester this summer.—Papers say there has been a Tornado in Rochester.

May 23^d

Went to meeting of N.Y. ladies in relation to fair for orphans of soldiers and sailors. (white of course) Did not amount to much. — Letter from Angeline,

Thursday. May 24th.

Visited 4 families and have not done much else.

May 25th.

Visited 18 families. Called on Miss Hyde & Mrs. Kenyon, dust very bad. Went to meeting of Visiting Agents at P.O.

May 26th. Rain last night

Cleaned my room. Miss Chamberlin here. She & Frances called on Gen. Grant. He was very pleasant. Obtained his autograph.

May 27th.

Went to U. Ch. Heard Mr. Ellis. Miss Belding called this evening. Fr. gone to meeting.

May 28th.

Attended to washing & ironing & wrote some. Miss Moore left this morning.

May 29. Cool.

Spent most of the day in writing Report.

May 30.

Visited 18 families.

Hear from Father. he is very well.

Preparing to go to Harper's Ferry tomorrow.

May 31st. 1866. Thursday.

Fine morning. Miss Chamberlin staid with us last night. Rose at 4½ o'clock. Ample time to get ready. Walked to Georgetown to take Packet Minnesota which left at 7. Miss Hardy joined us & our prospects were delightful although the boat was not as spacious & luxurious as a N. River steam boat. So many boats in the Canal that our progress was quite slow at first, but I am not saying it was rapid afterwards. We passed Chain Bridge which is not guarded with Cannon as it was in the Fall of '62 when I crossed it to go to Fort Ethan Allen. There are several forts on the W. side of the River & on the East side is Fort Sumner. (Accident 1st. "Hat overboard!" & it was a new one too, but Mr. P. had another so he did not suffer.) 6 mi. from G. is an Aqueduct Arch – 7 mi. The first gold mine, "Union mine" it is called. So many docks. The ladies left the boat & walked a half mile.

I remained on boat to read Life of John Brown by Redpath. Wish to refresh my memory in relation to the Incidents of "The Holy Invasion". 15 mi. from G. in the work of the "Gold Mining Co. Md." — Until this point we had the company of Mr. Clear the soldier who discovered these mines. He was in the Union Army 2 yrs. (An Ohioan, but went from Ky. where all his relations & friends live. He did not like the idea of trampling on our Flag & was indignant when the Kentuckians in the first of the war tore it down. Mr. C. declared in the heat of the moment that he wd. go to enlist in the Northern Army. He says his heart was not in it, but he tried to do his duty. It was dreadful to be opposed to his friends & he left as soon as his time was out.

When his Regt. was stationed up here he lay down one night with his head upon a stone. In the morning he saw it gold in quartz. He had been in California & knew about mining. He kept this secret until the war was over. Then he bought the farm on

which he found the ore. A co. has been formed & they have begun operations. He invited us to come & visit the mines & he would entertain us to the best of his ability.

15 mi. from G. is another aqueduct. Here are extensive Ice Houses. The canal widens into a basin & the high rocks on one side & the river make it a beautiful place.

A few mi. further on is Great Falls which we cannot see from the Canal. Here the water is taken to supply Washington. Here is a large old house, hall for dancing etc. Has been a resort for pleasure parties. Soldiers have used it also & it is much dilapidated. The bed of the River is broad & piled with rocks & there are islands with trees wh. hide the Falls.

There are 27 locks between G. & Harper's Ferry. At every lock is one house for lock tender & family & sometimes there are 2 or 3 houses. We met many boats loaded with

coal mostly. The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal is the only direct means of communication between Washington & Harper's Ferry. There is one Steamboat wh. carries passengers to Point of Rocks, 48 mi. from G. & here is a R. Road. We were on the Minnesota, a packet drawn by horses running in opposition to the Steamboat.—The coal boats are drawn by mules mostly. Some wear bells wh. are very musical in these quiet regions. Nearly all the drivers go barefoot, & they generally walk. Miserable looking people look out from the houses. All poor of course.

12 o'clock. Canal Boat.

Had refreshments with us. took our lunch. Then as we had the cabin all to ourselves some of us took a nap & rested awhile.

At Edward's Ferry is a Lock & a few houses. 4 mi. further on is Ball's Bluff on the Va. side of the River. Here is an Island which divides the river & it is some distance across it. On the East side is an earth works & a house wh. was Gen. Stone's headquarters, & from this

spot he sent hundreds of soldiers over to certain death. The canal was dry then. But there is the road through the trees down which men & artillery went to the River. Strong earthworks on the other side, & our men were slaughtered dreadfully. Scarcely a boat was provided. Many of the wounded were shot in the river & their bodies were found nearly to Geo. T. having floated over the Falls & the rocks. There Gen. Baker was killed, as he felt he should be when he crossed over. It was one of the most dreadful defeats of the war. Gen. S. was much blamed, but he was soon promoted & so it went on. This battle was in Sept. 1861, on Ball's farm.

Then comes White's Ferry. Army lay all about there. Some earthworks at a distance. Some good houses & good farms along here.—6 o'clock. 8 mi. from Point of Rocks. So quiet & pleasant.

An Aqueduct over Monocacy creek built in 1855 is a noble work, 400 ft. long.

Rebels tried to blow it up, but it was too strong for them, has an iron railing. Here we see Sugarloaf Mt. in Md.

Then comes Nolan's Ferry. Here are ruins of Bridge burned during the war. Looks like Genesee Val. Canal & Gen. Flats. Large Elms & other beautiful trees. Here I saw the first fire flies of the season. Our Capt. was Chas H. Merrill, formerly of Avon and knows many persons that we know. He was a Q.M. in the Army, with Gen. Wadsworth. Was at Battle of Bull Run &c. The Mate was Mr. Howard of Shepardstown, Va. but a Union man & employed in secret service. Could tell many interesting things. Our boatman was a rebel deserter. Two boys & a colored girl made up the crew. As the boat dragged its slow length along, there was time to talk of many things & think of many more. Only one passenger besides ourselves - J.H. Palmer of Geo. T. went through with us to Harper's Ferry. He lived in

or near Winchester, took his family to G.T. went back after his things, was taken & made to serve in the Army, was under Stonewall Jackson 7 mo. before he could get away. He was employed in an office where he wrote passes & wrote one for himself & so got away. Was going to Ill. to find a home.

Reached Point of Rocks at 8 P.M. soon ascertained that no passenger train would stop there til next day at noon. Oh! dear, & to wait in such a place! No road to Harper's Ferry, could only go part way on the tow-path & then there would be danger of meeting mule teams. Only one team in the place & the man that drove that had the chills. — Too disappointed to want supper, for all this would shorten our time at H. Ferry.

Very comfortable house, good room & we determined to rest if a coal train did pass every 15 min. right under our windows & not one rod from the house.

And we did sleep very well, considering. The only way to leave the place was to get on a coal boat. These boats cross constantly. So we rose about 4½ a.m.

Friday June 1st. 1866.

Point of Rocks. Md.

The landlord & others tried to dissuade us from the undertaking, but we were not to be thwarted in this in order to increase the profits of Mr. Berry, the hotel keeper. So the 1st boat we saw was invited to haul up, it took us on board, all we wished was a seat on its deck & this we had. It was as clean as the deck of the Minnesota. It is 13 mi. to the 'Ferry' & we were told, & expected to believe, that we wd. not get there till noon, but we did get there at 10½ o'clock, 2 hrs. ahead of the train. It was better to move slowly than to stay at Pt. of R's, a forlorn looking place. About 1 doz. houses, some earthworks near, & one hill. We went, & were glad we did not wait for the train. (Ruins of Bridge)

It was early morning, cool, quiet. River, canal & R. road run along together. We saw a large rock wh. had been thrown down to destroy a train & block up R. road & canal. Here were men at work making a tunnel through the rocky hill for a new R. road track. There are 6 or 8 locks bet. Pt. of R's & H. Ferry. —At Berlin is a burnt bridge, about 30 houses, a Lock & Accident. 2^d dog left! boat hauled up & after some delay doggy was received on board & somebody was overjoyed no doubt. (In the distance is Md. Heights. on the highest spot is a Fort of Masonry looking like a castle on same mountain we have read of.)

Then we came to Knoxville about 40 houses, a large share of them logs. Here is old stone church wh. was used for a hospital, & a soldiers burying ground. Then comes Weavertown, an unfinished factory & several stone houses for operatives.

All along the Md. side the hills are very high. Across the River is Loudon Heights in Va. —Then comes Sandy Hook, a few homes close to the rocks. At last we reached Harper's Ferry! Got off at a lock. Crossed the immense Iron Bridge & Mr. Palmer went with us to the Shenandoah House. The only good Hotel, kept by King Conn. man. This is near the bridge, & the Railroad track, & the Arsenal, & the "Engine House" is only a few rods from it.

As there are no passenger boats & no passenger trains coming in at that hour, our presence there was a matter of astonishment.—For aught that I know the Clerk at the Hotel thought we might be John Brown men in disguise, or some new fangled Invaders of the very sacred soil of Va. The impression that we made upon him was such that he didn't seem to recover from it while we were there. His faculties seemed suspended or benumbed & small was the information obtained from him.

Mr. Palmer said he was bound to see us through to the Ferry. He was very kind. At 1 P.M. he took the train for Winchester. —We had a very nice dinner & not having breakfasted we did ample justice to it. Rested awhile. Train came in from East at 1.15. Passengers stop here to dine. We engaged a conveyance to ride out, but it was so long before it was ready we were very uneasy. We wished to lose no time & not till 1 1/2 P.M. did we start for Charlestown, Bolivar Heights &c.—A fine turnpike, & spirited horses, & we were whirled over the ground at a rapid rate. The Country is beautiful.—Halltown, 5 mi, is a station on the Winchester road. Earthworks here. About 5 houses. Near this place lives Mr. Allstadt who was taken prisoner by John Brown, & a little beyond lives Col. Lewis Washington, who was also taken prisoner & held as a hostage in the Engine House. The clouds had looked threatening & now a shower was upon us. We were

in a close hack & did not get much wet. It hailed considerably & Driver was exposed to it all. The first house as we enter Charles T. is Andrew Hunter's, counsel for state on trial of John Brown. His house suffered during the war & he is now repairing it, making

fences etc. Reached Charlestown at 3. Drove to "Widow Bell's" & stopped till rain ceased partly. We registered our names in a book lying in the parlor table for that purpose. Nearly opposite her house is the Jail which is in ruins & next to her house were two buildings which were destroyed entirely & then are the ruins of the Court House. The walls & the pillars in front are standing but the roof & windows are gone & the inside cleaned out, a large room on the north side was the Court Room where John Brown was condemned to die.—

I asked Mrs. Bell who destroyed these buildings. With a look of hatred & contempt, she replied hesitatingly, "The Yankees destroyed them."

When I asked her where the field was where John Brown was hung & remarked that we were interested in everything relating to him Oh, such a look of contempt, as she gave me, as if it would pollute her lips to tell me. She said "its right out there not more than a quarter of a mile distant."

So we went there, our driver showing us the spot as near as he knew it. I was not satisfied, so I called to a colored man on horseback who was driving hogs. I think, "if he could tell me?" He said "he cd. very nearly." He said he helped saw the lumber there to make the gallows & he helped take it away again. I was better satisfied now about the spot. (I afterwards learned from Mr. Sadler that the col^d. man was about right.) This field belongs to Mrs. Hunter, sister in law of Andrew Hunter, prosecuting Atty. It was a well selected spot & could be seen from some distance around. It is said that J. Brown remarked on his way to the scaffold "This is a beautiful country" and indeed it is exceedingly fair to look upon. The Blue

Ridge is a beautiful feature in the landscape. The 40 acres field (a part of it) has been ploughed over since. There are 2 trees in it. No fence around it. It was one of the most interesting spots I ever set my foot upon. I wd. like to have lingered longer there, but the rain was coming on again, & my company wished to go.

We then drove to ~~the~~ Carter's Hotel where the Northern people stopped who visited C. on John Brown's account. Since then it has been headquarters for the Military, both Union & rebel. Gen. Egan & Moseby would have it by turns. Then were a great many skirmishes here & considerable fighting. It has been a beautiful village. The houses are mostly on one street, & there have been shade trees, some are yet left. Carter's Hotel is being repaired & fitted up, but not used for the public at present.

A gentleman here invited us in, was very civil & obliging & we concluded to stop till the 2^d. shower was over. This gentleman was Mr. Sadler, the undertaker who rode with John Brown to the scaffold, visited him almost daily in the prison, & was very kind to him. He had great regard for John Brown. He says "John Brown & Stevens were two of the

gamest men I ever saw. They were as game as Ashby. John Brown & Stevens were true prophets. It has all come to pass as they said it would.”

I remarked that John Brown’s best friends thought he made a great mistake & tried, those that knew it, to dissuade him taking Harper’s Ferry, but he thought he was doing right.” “Oh, yes” Mr. Sadler said, “he thought he was right.” Said he, “That was the beginning of the great conflict that has been going on since.” He said if we would like to see Mr. Avis

he would send for him, so he asked a colored man in a grey suit (who said he was only Confederate on the outside.) if he wd. ask Mr. Avis to come there, as he had just seen him on the steps of a store near Mrs. Bell’s. He returned saying “Mr. A. had just gone home to set out his cabbage plants.” But we saw his little boy, John Brown’s pet[?], who used to stay in the prison with him for hours. Mr. S. said Capt. A. had great regard for Brown. His family lived at the jail then. The jail was burned by Federal prisoners who set fire to it & then escaped. Mr. Sadler’s buildings were near it on the same side of the street. They were all burned, & he says “he has lost all he was worth. He had 6 slaves & he gave each \$100 to leave him. They went & he hears from them & they say they are very sorry they left him. One is head waiter at the Metropolitan Hotel in W. & he wishes he was back again with Mr. S. He is sick enough of it.” (Sick of freedom no doubt)

I asked if he did not think it would be much better after this, better to have no slaves?” He said hesitatingly, “They won’t work. We shall have to get white labor. They won’t hire to the farmers.” Then I told him how well they had done in Alex^a, since they were free, and in W. too. He said “There were but two men in that vicinity who did not treat their slaves well, & they were looked upon as disrespectable persons. Why, my slaves fared just as well as I did,” & Mr. S. was born & raised in Charlestown, was very frank, courteous & gentlemanly, & we tried to be very civil towards him. I asked him “how people felt about there, if they would conform to the new order of things & make the best of it?” He said they would willingly do so. He says he never did any thing to help the war. He did not believe in seceding. He believed in the Union & opposed the Southern leaders until his State went out, then he went with her. His county, Jefferson, has been made a

part of W.Va. & they don’t like it; they don’t want to be ruled by the radicals. I asked him if he regarded Willey & Van Winkle as radicals. He said ‘yes.’ He says “it is hard that his rights should be withheld from him & there were others too like him.” I said “they attempted to set up another Gov^t to break up our Gov^t & destroy the Union & now th. should not complain if they were not admitted at once to share in the Gov^t.” “Oh, that was the leaders but we are true men & we ought to have our rights.” &c.&c. “They want no such men as Gov. Pierpoint to govern them. They want some of their own men, those who have had position before.” Here it is all in a nutshell. They want the same men to represent them in Congress that have done so heretofore. We said a great deal during the

short interview. I was glad to meet a man of this stamp. We can learn from such how the people feel & what they wish & hope to do.

The jail was very near & he told me wh. was Brown's cell & where his cot stood & if Mr. Avis was there he would go with me to the jail etc.

The doors & steps were filled with people watching every movement we made all the while we were there. Then we stopped again at Mrs. Bells, but she refused to receive any compensation from us. "Anybody was welcome to stop there to get out of the rain." Then we rode through the village & came away. This is a part of the Shenandoah Valley. We then rode up on to Bolivar Heights above the town. Here our army was encamped & here Geary & Ashby fought.—Such a magnificent view! such lovely scenery! The town has straggled about half way ~~above~~ up the heights & there are two clusters of houses up here, one is called Lower Bolivar. After riding around here & seeing the number of houses that were destroyed I can believe it was once a town of 5,000 inhabitants. While we were gone to C. a large brick house was struck by lightning, & was burning when we came back. Made quite an excitement.

On the promontory overlooking the lower town is a burying ground. There is hardly a stone standing upright; wall surrounding it is partly torn down. Such a jumbling up of graves, & monuments I never saw before. It was a singular sight. Soldiers have made havoc with it & no care has been taken of it for 6 yrs. past.

There are some fortifications up here on the first shelf. The Magazine was partly destroyed —It rained most all the time, but we did not hesitate to leave the carriage & walk about & look about all we could & wished for more time.

We returned at 7. quite wet & tired. Had very nice supper. Then took care of the flowers we had gathered as mementoes of the visit. I picked up 2 or 3 stones & got some clover & grass in the field where the scaffold was. I got a piece of the Court House also.—The driver W^m Wilson from Pa. was 3 yrs. in our Army, as wagonmaster etc. He was very obliging & drove to every place that he thought would interest us.—

Saturday. June 2^d. 1866.

"Clarred off," quite cool. Slept soundly after the interesting side we took yesterday. First thing after breakfast went to the Engine House, one room locked. A guard of half-doz. soldiers is stationed here & at the gate. We were told that Mrs. Kennedy, mother-in-law of John Cook lived on High St. So we went there at once. She is living in a Gov^t House & the Capt. somebody tells her she must pay rent or he will turn her out. She thinks it hard, as her house & property was destroyed. She is a Va. but has lived in Md. 15 yrs. Lived at Lower Bolivar when the raid took place. Cook told her a few days before he was going to Kansas to hunt. She was surprised, of course. We asked her to go with us & show the places of interest. She led us to Hall's Rifle Works on an Isl. in the Shenandoah. These

are in ruins now. This was a beautiful place. . Kagi & 8 men were stationed here at one of the gates. She was almost wild with alarm when she was told in the morning what was going on.

She came down the heights immediately “there by that path, went to Kagi whom she knew & asked him what he was doing there.” “he said not much.” She begged him to leave, he said he could not, he was ordered to stay there by “Capt. Smith.” Near the Rifle Works 2 men were killed & lay there some time. Several women went to see them. One man begged them to kill him. The doctor’s wife was there. She drinks right smart & was right warm & she wd. have killed him but the others would not let her do it. You see over there in the mountains? Very ornery people live there. They came & took the shoes off these men. When Kagi & several others had to give up they tried to cross the river & stopped on an Isl. & fired. This drew the fire of the Virginians upon them & they were riddled with bullets. Their corpses floated downstream.—The bodies were buried afterward on the other side of the River nearly opposite the Rifle Works & there are a few young Sycamore trees near which mark the spot.

(Bridge over the Shenandoah is destroyed) Mrs. Cook used to go over there often when she lived with her mother but she has gone away now.

That morning Mrs. Kennedy went to the arsenal gates & asked to see Capt. Smith & asked him where Cook was & was told he was not there, he had other work to do & was in a safe place. —Mrs. K was looked upon with suspicion by many. Even now she is prosecuted & her sons find it hard to get employment.

She told us many things about that eventful morning & pointed out places. This made us realize the circumstances more than anything else wd. have done. She asked us to see Sec. Stanton for her & tell him how she is treated by the officers there. She is poor now. She is a widow & has a hard time getting along. But we had to cut short the interview for the carriage, that is, the ambulance & mules were ready to take us to Maryland Heights.

8½ o’clock A.M.—

Harper’s Ferry. June 2^d. 1866.

(Continued)

After crossing the bridge the narrow road between the Mountain & canal extends a mile or more. Then we go up till we come to a Table land where there are farms & fortifications & remains of a camp. Then further up are 2 farms & 2 houses. Here we left the team, & it is not considered safe to drive further up although 2 wagons went up the day before. It a walk of a mile or more to the top. We stopped often to look upon the beautiful scene spread out before us. But tired & hot we at length reached the summit and

standing on a magazine we were almost bewildered with astonishment at the magnificent sight. Here are some log huts & what a grand lookout it must have been! Then we went up still further on the road to the forts which are on the highest part of this mountain. One is called Stone Fort.

Before the war no person had dreamed that a wagon road could be made to the top of this mountain. But it was made & 100 pounders were transported to the top & mounted on these Forts. It took a week to get a gun to the top & yet this strong post was surrendered by Col. Miles & he was blamed very much. Since the war this road has not been kept in repair, & it is very bad. Standing where a battery had been we stopped awhile & surveyed the scene. In one direction was Loudon Heights, & Loudon County, the first[?] part of Va. away beyond stretches the Blue Ridge. Then as far as the eye can reach extends the Shenandoah Valley famous for its beauty & fertility. Then Bolivar Heights which seemed far below us & the 'Ferry' was not seen at all it being so near the base of the Mtⁿ. Then another beautiful valley through which extends the B. & O. railroad & canal. The Southern river embraces what is very

appropriately named Pleasant Valley. The Potomac, the canal, & the railroad extending as far as we could see. Cultivated farms interspersed with woods & quiet, cozy looking farm houses. Altogether it was the grandest & loveliest scene I ever beheld. We did not go to the two large Forts, our time was limited & we must descend. Nearly to the top is a fine spring which supplied the Army when it was here.

We went straight down a narrow gully full of loose, rough stones & roots, to Mrs. Unseld's where we left our shawls, etc. When I reached the house there was no more strength in my feet & ankles & a chair & cup of water were very acceptable. Mrs. U. is a deaf woman, but quite intelligent. She apologized for her untidy appearance as they were just finishing their Saturday P.M.'s work. She asked "if we were authoresses" & said many distinguished people came there. Her house was the stopping place of the

officers who commanded on these Heights. She talked of the 2^d Mass. wh. was composed to a great extent of the best citizens of Boston. When she found some of us were from N.Y. she spoke of Col. Porter & the old lady wept as she talked of him. They have lived in this spot 15 yrs. through all the excitement of the J. Brown Invasion, saw the fight between Geary & Ashby & witnessed many interesting scenes that have occurred in this region. They have never been molested.—A young woman, Miss Maginnis, teaches school in a commissary building, had 30 scholars in the winter. I wonder where they came from for there are only 2 houses in sight on the Heights.—The train was to leave at 2 so we could not go to John Brown's school house, nor to John Brown's cave. Had a nice ride back & after dinner went to the Engine House, obtained a brick; & 3 soldiers there with the aid of a hatchet, a spade, & a crowbar, & a combined attack on the

historic door succeeded in getting off a piece of it, & several bolts. The inside of the door is wood & the outside is plated with iron. I wished to examine the ruins of the Arsenal & Armory but could tarry no longer. Not of much of interest is to be seen on the Balt. & Ohio road to Relay which reached at 6 P.M. We noticed Monocacy Junction. Branch road to Frederick. Bridge been destroyed. Mt Airy, Woodbine, Hood's Mill, Pikesville, a Tunnel, Marriott's Mills, Ely's ville, all brick houses, Ellicott's Mills wh. is quite a village.— & had we gone to H.s Ferry on Railroad we should have known but little about the Country. Antietam is but 11 mi. from H. Ferry, & cd. we have staid one day longer & gone there we would have been quite satisfied. But we saw a great deal that was interesting & are glad that we went & it will be worth remembering the rest of our lives.

Relay is 9 mi. from B. & 31 from W. We waited 2 hrs. for the train. Took supper at Relay house, & walked out to see the Thomas Viaduct over [*Transcriber's Note: blank space left*]. It is a magnificent, a stupendous structure! but we hardly see it, or notice it as we pass over in the cars. —We reached W. at 9 ½, & got home at 10 in the rain. Found things about as we left them Thursday morning.

Sunday, June 3^d.

Put away specimens, flowers, etc. Cleaned up thoroughly & felt rested. This P.M. have spent in writing.

June 4th,

Waited on people nearly all the A.M. Went to Bureau twice & visited 7 families.

Election Day. Wallach is to be Mayor.

June 5th.

Visited 12 families. Went to Bureau twice. Mrs. Belding & Miss C. called. Frances does not get rested. She is almost sick, I believe.

June 6th. hot.

Walked to 6th st. & back. Called on Mrs. B. & Mrs. K. & did various things. Called on Gen. Howard & got autographs & had a very pleasant interview. In evening went to the opening of the Fair for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans.—The Ladies have done well considering the season & the limited time for work. —The speakers were Sen's Wilson & Lane of Ind.; M^eKee of Kentucky, Gen^{ls} Banks & Howard & last & least Andrew Johnson, & such a speech! We are heartily ashamed of our Chief Magistrate. My policy[?] kept oozing out. Yes, we should care for the 'orfins' of rebels as well as for those of loyal men; we should ignore the past, & our only work should be conciliation & forgiveness. We should have a national church too; but he did not elaborate this idea to any great extent. When 3 cheers were proposed for him, it was an utter failure, but cheers for Grant were given with a will.

June 7th.

Very warm. Have been writing Report but have been subject to constant interruptions & have not accomplished much. Jeff Davis's trial is put off till October. I have no idea he will be tried at all.

Friday. June 8.

Worked at my Report. Mr. Simms from Savannah called with a letter from Mrs. Jacobs. He is brother of Thomas Simms of Fugitive Slave Law memory. A nice gentleman he is too. Spent an interesting hour with him. Mrs. J. & Louisa invite me to visit them at Idlewild the first of July.

June 9th

This A.M. did various things. This P.M. went home with Benj. Tabor, across Eastern Branch. Interesting ride. Lives on place just cleared, unfinished house, woods all around, full of flowers. Mr. Lawton teacher of colored school boards with Mr. T. Some people live in one way, & some live in another way.

Sunday, Jun 10th. 1866

Cooler. Came back this P.M. Interesting ride around by Uniontown & across bridge, & by Navy yard. Our carriage was not a luxurious one & we came back quite tired. —It was one of those visits wh. are made under a sense of duty. I could hardly afford to spend the time or strength required for it. Brought home a quantity of flowers.

June 11th. Hot.

Visited 4 families. Waited on a few people. I spent rest of day in writing Report. This evening went to Fair. Stephens C.O.I.R. made remarks. Clara Barton has her relics from Andersonville on exhibition.

June 12, hot.

Went to Cor. 7th & O but did not see Capt. Spurgin. Went to Capitol Hill Barracks. Visited the schools. Miss Harris's Industrial School, & Miss Heacock's soup rooms. Called on Mrs. Wright. Went to Fair a little while. Wrote 2 letters. Called on Mrs. Belding. Good day's work.

June 13. Shower this morning.

Relieved from dust wh. had become almost intolerable.—Called to ask Gen. C. Howard for an ambulance. To have it on Saturday. Wrote nearly all day. Too hot to do anything. Called on Miss Foshay[?] & Miss Flagler.

June 14th. hotter yet.

In morning visited about a doz. families. Some of them very uncomfortable. Too hot to work. Heavy shower this P.M.

June 15. not so hot.

Visited about a doz. families. Went to Bureau. Then to Capitol. Nothing interesting in House. Then to Mrs. Kenyon's. Called at Metropolitan to see Jeremiah Baldwin, one of

the 'Servants' that Mr. Sadler told us of. His whole appearance is that of a perfect gentleman. His wife & children were owned by Mr. Sadler. Says it is true that he gave each of his 6 servants \$100 when they left him. Says Mr. S. is a very kind man; treated his slaves better than any body else in Charlestown

but it is not quite a fact that they would like to go back & be slaves again. The idea of person claiming to own such a man as Jeremiah Baldwin! I can understand why Slaveholders are proud.

Called on Mrs. Rumsey[?], Matron at Columbia Hosp^l for Women. Was formerly Martha Potter, a scholar of mine in Chili.

Called on Mrs. Belding & Miss Grove. With Frances & Mrs. B. went to the Fair. Very crowded. Theo. Tilton spoke & to the purpose. He is the first speaker that has mentioned the claims of the orphans of Colored soldiers & I dare say this displeased some of the ladies.—

Saturday June 16th 1866

Delightful day, not so warm, no dust.

Ambulance was at door at 9 A.M. & Frances, Mrs. Belding, Misses Chamberlin & Ford & myself essayed to ride. Drive said his orders were to take only 3 persons. But I told him Gen. Howard said all might go that cd. pile in.

Ladies wd. not make a heavy load." So we put in 3 chairs & away we went by way of Geo. T. over Aqueduct Bridge to Arlington. The road through the woods is so pleasant. Looked about the House & garden & then drove to the cemetery. Oh! what an interesting sight. Acres of graves! Have begun to build a monument.—

It is not true that Lee went to Arlington when he came to W. to testify before the Committee.

We then drove to Freedmen's Vaillage but did not get out of the Ambulance. There are 950 persons there, 40 in hosp^l.

Then went a few miles further to Camp Distribution. Very extensive buildings here. Families who work the land live in some of them. Two companies of colored soldiers here. Officers & their families. Two teachers, Misses Benedict & Ruvier. They have a nice place to live. Shade & good air. Good school rooms. Horse & buggy for their own use. They like their situation.

Then a few miles further on to Alex^a. Went to see Maj. Lee & Miss Collier. Then to L'Ouverture. Saw Mrs. Woodsworth & Dr. Heard. Went through the wards. Things look very comfortable.

Went to Soldier's Rest. Saw Mr. Layman[?]. Saw colored soldiers here.—

So quiet in Alex^a. Grass grows in the principal streets. Little business done. Pleasant ride back to W. Got home at 5 well satisfied with what we accomplished.

Sunday June 17th

Rained all day. Arranged my flowers.

Monday June 18

Called at Miss Grove's school. This P.M. worked at Report. Letter from Home. All well.

June 19

Spent most of day in writing Report. Have not been out. Tired to night.

June 20

Wrote nearly all day. Towards evening called on Mrs. Stebbins & Mrs. Lake & went to hear Mr. Julian, M.C.

Thursday June 21st 1866

Went with Mrs. Stebbins on 9 o'clock boat to Alex^a. Delightful dat. Went to see "Jonathan Carey" house, Market, &c. Called on Miss Collier & Maj. Lee. Allowed us to use ambulance till 2 P.M. He went with us to see a few persons. Then Mrs. S. & I saw Aunt Betsey Chase, 110 yrs old, born at White House. Below Mt. Vernon. Has seen Washington & his soldiers. Gave them water. Mrs. Washington used to bring her children to the practizing (dancing) school in Alex^a.

Interesting old woman.

Called to see Harriet Mills that has the large wen & Aunt Kitty Berry. Could not find Aunt Lucy Lawson—Went to L'Ouverture, took dinner there. Went through the wards. Saw Dr. Heard. Mad that such a filthy city should be allowed to exist.

Went to Soldiers Rest. Then to the Military Cemetery, beautiful place. 3600 buried there, white & colored. Arbors, Fountain, shrubs & flowers.

Then to the Slave Pen. It has not been used for a prison for 2 months past. It has been given up to the claimant Mr. Stover but Price, Kemphart & Cook claim it also. Fanny Lee & her family live there yet & she has the keys. She is told to let no one in there but she says Union folks come there very often & she lets them see it.—We explored it thoroughly, cells, dungeons & all.—Fanny Lee had a brother in that jail once. The prison has double doors & I remarked when coming out that I would like to have a bold from one of them. Said Fanny, "you can have one." She procured an axe & went to work & after sundry heavy blows one staple began to yield. She would have shivered that door to atoms if it had been necessary to obtain that bolt for me. It! It was glorious to see her work. Here was poetic justice. A woman whose family had suffered there when it was a trader's jail was tearing off the bolts of the

prison doors because two Yankee women desired to have them. By the help of a young crippled soldier, the bolt of the inner door was taken off for Mrs. Stebbins. They worked with a will & we felt like shouting glory, hallelujah over the literal downfall of one of the famous Slave Pens of Alex^a.

When I first came to Alex^a. in '62 & this slave pen was the terror of all the colored, as well as some of the whites. It did not occur to me then that I should ever see the bolts

removed by a woman once a slave, & that I should bring them away. At one time I was not allowed to go in there because I exposed some of the deviltry practiced there. Mrs. Lee gave me the Prison Book for 1865. Containing the cause for imprisonment & sentence, for instance 4 col^d men for tossing cents here put in for [*Transcriber's note: blank space left*] days each & [*Transcriber's note: blank space left*] showers. Oh! Such injustice as has been practiced there towards prisoners by Union officers!

Mrs. Lee took our trophies to the boat for us. We called to see Va. & March Lawton & left Alex. at 6. Very pleasant on boat. Towards evening took long walk to see a poor family.—Called on Miss Foshay.

June 23, hottest day yet.

Spent most of day in my room writing. At 5 went to grounds S. of White House to see the people & hear the music. Every other man had a cigar in his mouth & this made the pace unpleasant. I left in disgust.

Sunday June 24, hot.

Went to U. Church. Heard Mr. Angier preach nearly an hour. Tired enough. At evening F. & I went to Cap. Hill Barracks to see Miss Lavere.

June 25

Hotter than ever. Cannot work. Aunt Lucy &c here from Alex^a.

June 26

Very hot. Towards evening took long walk & went to the Fair.

June 27th. So hot.

Called at Davis' Hotel & at Mr. Garnett's. Mrs. Stebbins called.—Shower in P.M. So refreshing to have the dust laid.

June 28th Cooler

Took up carpet & cleaned my room. This P.M. went out to do a few chores. Called at Mrs. Kenyon's.—Sewed on Garbabaldi. This evening went to Fair with Jenny Dowling, Fanny Wawzer & Mary Walker. Was not sure they would admit us. But we were only told to "hurry along & get out of the way" & passed in. The girls enjoyed it. Saw two other colored persons there. Capt. Van Riper was the Speaker.

Saw Miss Wood who teaches in Warrenton. School have been attacked twice by secesh. Dares not have a Union flag there. Whenever it rains every thing has to be removed from the tables. Goodly number present this evening.—Met & conversed with Mr. Salde in car. Met Col. Lee.

June 29. Cooler. Shower.

Sewed nearly all day. Called at Bureau 3 times. Called on Mrs. Belding this evening. She intends to leave W. on Monday.

Abbie & Emma Ford left this evening.

Miss Evans called.

June 30. Lovely day.

Out nearly all the A.M. Mrs. Grove called. Va. & Mary Lawton here to dinner. Miss Kennedy came from Richmond. Mr. Baker called. Very tired tonight.

Sunday July 1st. Lovely day.

But have not been out. Cleaned up & wrote some. Mrs. Belding called. Mr. Wetherbee & Mr. Smith called.

July 2d

Tried to write. Mrs. Stebbins called & Miss Collier. Went to Capitol with Mrs. Belding. Nothing interesting.

July 3d.

Finished copying Report. Packed trunks. Frances away. I am very tired tonight.

Transcriber's Note: The current effort has transcribed Julia Wilbur diary pages through early July 1866, corresponding to HC13-26009_159 in the folder Jan. 1st 1866 to Jan. 12th 1867. Haverford College, as of 2014, has scanned diary pages through May 30, 1873, the last date of this set of diaries. It is quite possible that she kept these diaries beyond 1873, but they are not part of the collection. However, Wilbur's smaller pocket diaries go through 1895.