

#9544

Old
Diary

1836 / 1837

CAT. NO. 9544

EBK

(9756)
G^{NS}

Miscellaneous sketches.

1836

Jan 11th Oliver Gates jrth taken
to the word by his father —

Feb 23. Lovina Brooks taken off
according to her choice —

March 10th William Chadwick
& Sanford Babcock went off.

do 17 Palmer Babcock

22 Joseph Wightman & Jasper
Babcock went off.

What a list this! But
more follows, that have turned
off, tho' yet staying in the former
habitation, and as they have
been a good while declining
or have hardly been believers
and

it is difficult to tell when to
 date the time of their turning off
 Henry Lewis, his wife, son
 William & Sarah Mariah.

James Stitcheson & wife & little
 son John -

George Finley has lived at
 the west house, he still retains
 his faith, but on account of
 his wife & the situation there
 he is going to move away, &
 of course his two young girls,
 his older daughter ^{at the north h.} & son Joseph
 with us, seem well contented
 yet - his son William has
 gone back to New York - a
 pity too, for he was a pretty youngster.

So there are 13 that have
 professed faith, being old enough
 to have some choice for themselves
 that have proved addle this year
 season, & 4 children

But all these, (I would except
^{the children,}
 William Finley) were unworthy
 to stay; were not good, trouble-
 makers & better away than here,
 if they will not take up their
 crosses — But what a picture.
 Lord! how many worthless crea-
 tures are there among us? Is
 not a great portion of our so-
 ciety such trash as this?
 One view of the subject would
 seem to comfort a body, that by

getting rid of so much rubbish
the remainder may thrive better.

But it seems almost like a
contagion: when will it
cease, are we all drops?
are we all chaff, all swindling tools?

I feel my soul vexed with hav-
ing such a horde of imprudent
& contemptible apostates so near
us in the hollow, near 20 within
in near a mile, scenting carrion
like crows for Carrion!

Lurking about among ^{us}, trying
to get a chance with this & that
one, & many among us are
yet fools enough to be willing
to show them freedom!

They walk thro' our streets
 boddy & even stop to listen to sing!
 One will ask, "Is it a time of tran-
 quility up in your village?"

"What do you let so many go
 away for?" — Impertin-
 enee! very glad to have all
 go that will.

P. Cor! Had the impudence to
 come & bring Sandford B. back
 to the D. family, to get his one
 cent reward! which he took
 they advertized him again, but
 did not promise any reward

That little scamp of a Jos. B.
 after he went off, ran out
 like a little cur puppy, to meet
 hail

A. M. S. V. hollow, "but the
 Don's Shakers — or to that amount
 Their females I think must
 have curious times at house-
 keeping. I saw a girl out in
 the dooryard chopping wood!
 I long to see their doom —
 Never shall I feel satisfied till
 the trouble made by such cor-
 ruptible & heaven daring pre-
 tenders, who finally turn their
 brazen faces against God, shall
 come down upon their own pates
 March 29 Jo. S. was here wishing
 to see G. L. being refused, he said
 he supposed he could come well en-
 ough, if he could do as he pleased! —

Wm. M. said that Christ
 got his sense raised when he
 went into Jerusalem, so that
 he acted out of character in
scourging them in the temple!

John Threbe told E. Pelee. L.
 & Dnil H. a few years ago that
 the believers were coming to
 hard times, breaking to pieces
 &c but the work would not
run out —

George Wallis at S.M. prophesied
 there would be great breaking,
 but within 15 years there would
 hardly be room to receive those
 that would come in. —

E. Mat. H. called them hard
times, but considered it pre-
paring the way for an increase
April 3rd - Two persons passed
just below our west garden,
one of them stop'd & danced.
supposed to be reprobates.

4th ~~of 2~~ at Hancock found that
1/2 of 1/2 had ~~written~~ letter to
9/11 of 1/2, 1/2 7c 1/2 & 1/2,
1/2 of 1/2 by 2/2 1/2 1/2
2 1/2 1/2 1/2 \ 1/2 1/2 1/2
1/2 1/2 1/2. 1/2 1/2 1/2 \ 1/2
1/2 1/2 1/2 . 1/2 1/2 1/2

April - Desire Sanford told me
she sensed her right hand plain
ie. 1/2 1/2,

than ever of late; she felt an itching
 in the hollow of it, but could not
 seem to get at it to scratch it,
 excepting by a sensation of doub-
 ling up her fingers & rubbing, as
 it seems, the hollow of her hand
 thereby - she also asserted that
 after her arm was cut off she
 felt sudden pain in her hand
 which was cut off, externally,
 & screamed out to her mother &
 told her that something had hurt
 her hand; a doctor & another person
 went and examined the hair that
 was buried & found that a creature
 had been on the board that covered
 it & jammed it down; they righted

it - & put it in some soft easy condition & she felt released by it. her hand then seemed to be extended to the whole length, & she often felt this invisible hand, but in after years the hand seemed to contract up, & now seemed to be at the extremity of the visible stump.

There are different ideas about this matter, whether a person can ever feel any thing of a limb after it is cut off - the learned pretend to deny it. But to me this testimony from this well known honest woman is proof against all objections, & I am satisfied there is an invisible

feeling part, not cut off with the external part, this invisible feeling part is the same that will exist when the rest of the body is dead.

I know one thing, nothing can feel, or seem to feel, unless there is something that can feel.

Allen Edgnew, at White Water, Ohio is another evidence that there is an invisible feeling part left; he had his arm sawd off, & he asserts that he has often felt that hand since the wound got well.

April - Sarah B. says that Sister Rebecca told her of a discourse she had with John Thurber, not long before he died - she asked him of

same things of some gifts he former
 ly had, visions &c he w^{as}pt: I said
 these were sacred things, he had no
 part in them & did not like to say
 much about them, he however
 said he knew the order of the
 new Jerusalem, & the progress of
 it in the different stages of building
 he said he could see it now as plain
 as ever - He was sorry for the
 scene that believers had yet to pass
 thro', "Why John! say E. Rebecca,
 are we going to break to pieces?
 Yes! says John, you are going
 to have great tribulation, hard
 times - but the way of God will not
 run out, there will be an increase,
 & the new Jerusalem will flourish -

He seemed to feel a prophetic foresight that many would fall away, but this would not destroy the work of God - it would be kept by a body of the faithful - John undoubtedly was a prophet in his creation & it is likely what he now said was true.

I have heard that he told David Rowley, years before he believed, that he would yet be a shaker & live in the Chh. so says David. & this is true -

I have heard that George Wall, near South Union, spoke in their meeting house, prophesied there would be a great falling away among believers, and that even some of themselves would to have others go off. &c. &c.

Issachar B. told me that he
 had often met with instances
 of supernatural agency - one
 in particular, that he heard his
 name called, while in bed, & he
 paid no attention to it - called
 a 2^d. time, & I thin a 3rd., & he
 felt that he was called by some
 means & must get up, he did
 so & after walking round a while
 wondering what it could mean,
 he was accosted by a man who
 had come in the night, in great
 trouble of mind & wants to con-
 fess his sins. he heard him,
 & had it not been that he was
 called in this way the man
 would have missd of the opportunity.

I hundreds of instances he knew of
happening, which he knew no mor-
tal could account for, but by super-
natural means —

May 1836

20th I understand that to have
left & gone to the world among the
families — viz. Abm Ward — Julia
Dolittle — William Wilson &
Huber Doyeng — Vexatious
that, to reflect that so many
keep dropping off, one after another —
when will it end — how many
are there yet hanging on who will
shortly be gone? Are there yet
a crew of rotten hearted pretences,
just ready to resign themselves

to the Devil - It seems as if creatures had not half human sense & feeling. when they have so many examples before their eyes, one falling off after another; and we all know the cause, that is by being unfaithful to their own light & the faith of the gospel, & away they go, tho' warned again & again; & yet many who remain think they will yet abide, but are still bent on their own way, going on in the same path of destruction that have led others before them to satan, & so, regardless of faith & the entreaties & warnings of.

their former friends & companions
 they rush headlong down the cata-
 racts of damnation; how will
 such souls meet their final doom.

May 21 — I understand Mr.
 Ward has repented, sought, & obtained
 a further privilege — that he went
 away thro' buffetings rather than
 openly rejecting his faith —

He is gone to Sodus — & says
 he is willing to take up with any
 privilege —

May 28. William Wilson has been de-
 tained by his father James, when
 he came with another fellow, to
 get his clothes, at Canaan, his
 exercise his just right, & kept

him with the clothes he had on,
 & a watch in his pocket that Aaron
 G. fixed him off with. W^m has
 owned that the turn off crew stole
 roots & damaged the gardens in
 Canaan! —

About this time some turn offs
 come to public meeting: Josephus
 is said sung with the believers
 as he sat with the work!

Some 2 or 3 walks in our garden
 too on the same day & one motion
 ed with her hands, it appeared in de-
pression of our emotion in marching!

Aaron G. has been to Bern's &
 was very boisterous about their keep-
 ing willⁿ with his clothes & watch

May 1836

19

24th Last night a gang went by
here in a riotous manner we
have good evidence they were the turn
off gang. —

June 1836 —

E. Jeremiah saw Oliver G. Jr. on
the canal — said he seemed much
agitated, twined different colours in
his face, did not say much whether
he felt satisfied with his situation
or not; but seemed evidently to
feel sensible of his unwise choice

Abner Beedle, while carrying on the
N.Y. canal, saw Reuben R. —

R. told him he was a turnoff, that he
did not wish to get back again, but that
he did not enjoy himself at all & had
not since he went away. —

June 1836

17 Pass Charles W. made his wretched choice & cleared out, we know not yet where he went, but are well satisfied he went to the repro-
bates in the hollow, who directly assis-
ted him to get to his relatives at
Philadelphia: he went on the
road to watch A.M. came home
at noon - at dinner got up from
the table before the rest & went west-
ward across lots!

William Wilson has lately gone again
of choice & I understand his father has
banned him out

June 8th Ye

The Canterbury Ministry
relates remarkable occurrences

concerning the death of a little boy ²¹ at
Empire N. H. - his name was
Harris Carter, about 5 year old -
killed April 19th 1836.

Sally Seely the week before felt a
singular feeling while in meeting, I
was near of a mind to speak of it
that she felt some one of them were
called for out of this world - But said
nothing of it - I on the same night
dreamed that some sisters went to
the mill to get some boards to make
a coffin of - found some, but one board
had a split in it - On going home they
met ~~two~~ young brethren who had a
coffin ready made -

One sister dreamed she saw a child
buried by the road's side. -

Elias Smith dreamed he saw a company together that seemed to be in confusion as if something strange was among them, & he came near & standing on some eminence he peered over & saw a little face, all bloody!! —

Samuel dreamed of seeing E. John Beck coming from the South & stopping suddenly as if met by a messenger, said "O dear!"

E. Benjamin W. dreamed just before rising time, that he saw a company going to funeral, and he asked them who was dead, & some made answer they were going to bury that child — On the

same day about 2 o'cl the event
 happened, & the child was killed by
 the rolling of a log upon him —
 On the night of the 23^d Ap^l — his
 Mother in a dream heard him re-
 peat to her a hymn of 8 verses
 & she repeated it to another sister
 who wrote it —

Elias Smith, while watching with
 the corpse saw a vision of a bright
 female; clothed entirely in white
 with golden ornaments hanging
 on her shoulders & a fan in her
 left hand, with golden balls hang-
 ing to it &c. — He heard a melodious
 singing as she pass'd by the corpse
 & he that there might be some

one in the room singing & as his eyes were shut he opened them to see if there were any to be seen & the vision of the female disappeared but the singing continued, accompanied with words, a verse, which they have since used for marching

June ^{sub} 29 John Bacon went off
July 4th Charles Stewart

went off!! — the 2^d time I having been battling a long time.

He said he should not join the club in the hollow, but that he should go to Michigan. —

8th — Charles has finally got into the company of the hollow anti-shakers Philip C. saw him at Manroes' Tavern & talked a while with him,

I after that he came back into the hollow. — now since that he says if we will give him 100 [¢] will go off out of our way. — who will take his word?

Charles Knight has been seen in New York & Phila^a by Lewis Wheeler — his Mother was with him at York & has been out here — Doubtless it was all a contrived plan & news was communicated in some way to Charles. —

July 16th: Philip came & got a bowstring of Francis — who did not know him.

Harison Lockwood cleared out!!

Charles St says the words are better than he tho't they were!?

He has changed a suit of shaker clothes for a world's suit & gave 20¢ to boot!!

August 1836

10th: More bad rubbish gone - Polly Bonnet, on the hill, had the honor to have John Barber come after her with a waggan! There had been two women there a few days before to see Polly, from the hollow - supposed to be employed to find the state of Polly's mind! —

Aug 22: Naoma Cornell went off with Philip C. to Savoy!
 one Pilican gone, says L. Cl.
 Jacob Adams, most dead - supposed to have gone off! but he came back, a day or two afterwards. — had been to see Dr Wright at his son's suggestion but as he went out of union he begs on his knees to be received

again! — He is a poor, old crea-
ture I like a little? —

Shuber Dr L. got caught in
stealing & breaking open a letter
After denying it & lying a great deal
it was charge strongly to him, &
he finally owned it — he was
confined a while — till it could
be concluded what to do —

N.B. The letter was found in his
chest, before he owned it

He now seems very penitent
& begs not to be sent away.

What a rascal! —

He is soon after this sent away.

October -

10th: Matters have come to light more or less, about stealing. Henry Mack is found to be the one who stole in the swamp meadow, Daniel Grinold being with him - there is much evidence that Josephus S. stole Jobs traps. Henry owns they have been several times here in the night stealing fruit. He came in the time of evening meeting I stole a whip out of the brick shop - He was taken with a twist on the 10 I examined abt Jobs traps, but denied any hand in the affair, Toté lies about matters I being let off for the present Mack brags that "he" had pulled the wool over their eyes"; "I cheated the Shakers!"

Aaron was one who drove thro our street in the night.

Josephus has depolued with Aaron & gone to Gilberts - Charles J. went same weeks ago to the west -

I they seem to be running down pretty fast, & losing credit

Several of the world say J.S. is the worst of all - P.C. is a noted liar among them.

William Fairbanks went off & Sully Chase with him: the flesh had something in this business. Nov^r 15 W^m & J.C. came back to try to get in, but could not - he feels dreadful trouble, willing to do any thing to find mercy.

Nov^r 1836

19 W^m came again, in real distress of mind, wants to confess his sins - it is said he is a pitiful sight. He begs so hard that he is allowed to confess to Benj^y Allis -

We learn that after coming here the first time he went among the reprobates in the hollow to harden his feelings, they told him he ought to have come to them in the first place - He told them he meant to come & confess his sins, & was willing all the world should be by & he should want the reprobates there

He went to Albany when he first went, but could take no comfort. He had gone but a few rods before

he would have turned back again
but Sally would not let him.

One thing is worth remarking -
when he came back the 2^d. time, on
the 10th - no one of the family
knew any thing of it - but Benj^r.
I dreamed he came that night -
& he felt my ^{ch} trouble for William

I understand Henry Wightman
was there where the reprobates were
talking & they asked him what he thought
of the Shakers; he told them they
Shakers were the only true people of
God on earth, & they should all have
to come to this way that the Shakers
were in, & he did a very bold testimony
& even swore to what he said!

Dec^r - 1836

3^d I heard that William went to Hazyard, after confessing his sins & tried to get in there, but Hazyard would not receive him, so he was obliged to go and seek quarters with Aaron G! — how he is doing now I do not know. —

March 1837 — William J. remains with the hallow crew, not much is heard of him since last December —

Feb'y" 1838 —

H. 15. I understand William Guildersleeve has just gone off.

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