

Transcript of Theodore Thacher's Diary
1857-1862
(Transcribed verbatim from original handwriting)

Teusday 10th [November, 1857]

To day the first thing I done was to go to see what the water had done It has cut a new channel through father's field and has cut with in a foot of the Rail Road and it has carried off Mrs. Winters horse and one of Mr. Stawleys besides numerous other things

Wednesday 11th

I have been doing this that and the other

Thursday 12th

I have been helping in the beets

Friday 13th

We have been to work in the turnips to day

Saturday the 14th

we secured the cabbages to day Rollin sold 20 heads to Mr. Connors

Sunday the 15th

To day is my birth day I attended Church all day

Saturday 21st

I have been to work on the farm this week

Sunday

I have attended Church to day and this evening went to prayer meeting

Monday 23rd

To day the corn stalks were drawn in by Mr. robins

Wednesday

yesterday and to day we done chores

Thursday

to day was thanks giving I went to church

Friday

To day I boiled pumpkins all day

Saturday

To day I chored it all day The weather is warm

Sunday

I attended church this fore noon and went to hear a man from China at the baptist Church Weather is pleasant

Monday

The first thing that occured was that Pompey was killed by the cars and the mare was hurt They both fell in the rail road river bridge and She got out

Teusday Dec the 1st

I have been cracking butter nuts and so forth This evening I had a party

Wednesday

~~To day~~ This fore noon I went down with Rollin to take Sarahs trunk and Rolly came back for Sarah I staid there. We all felt very bad to part with the baby Dec 2nd

Thursday the 3rd

This fore noon I have been running this fore noon This after noon I helped roly

Thursday

I have been visit with Ella The weather is pleasant

Friday

This fore noon Rolly and I fixed the barn yard gate This afternoon roly and I shelled two bushels of corn The snow fell to day

Saturday

I visited with Ella to day

Sunday the 7th [Dec 6]

This fore noon I attended church to mr. Foote the childrens great teacher This after noon he tell to the children It was very interesting This evening Eugene Ella and I had a little meeting by our selves We had a good time

Monday

This fore noon I commenced going to school to Mr. Rogers he is a good teacher but he is not severe enough Dec the 8th

Teusday

To day I went to school Dec the 9th

Wednesday

Yesterday Ella went home To day I went to school

Thursday

To day I went to school Dec the 10th

Friday

To day I went school The boys Snow ball Mr. Reisner and is to take them up I hope he will

Saturday

To day Mr. Reisner took the boy up fined the from 2 to 3 dollars Sunday the 12th

Sunday the 12th [Dec 13th]

To day Mr. Graves from Corning preached he very interesting This evening he delivered an extemporaneous speech he is to have another teusday evening

Monday the 13th [Dec 14th]

To day I went to School

Teusday the 14th [15th]

To day I went to school This evening I went forward and the minister prayed for me

Wednesday the 15th [16th]

To day I went to school nothing occurred of particular interest

Wednesday the 15th

To day I went to school Mr. Rogers is a very good teacher

Thursday the 16th [17th]

To day I went to school

Friday the 17th [18th]

To day I went to school as before

Saturday

To day usual to custom Mr. Rogers kept school he had not many

Sunday the 18th [20th]

To day I went to Church Mr. Graves preached a very good sermon

Monday the 19th [21st]

This morning I went to school and after noon

Teusday the 20th [22nd]
it is to school again

Friday 23rd [Wednesday]
I have been to school to day school let out for the holidays

Saturday the 24th [Friday, Dec. 25th]
To day is a holiday I have done little chores but nothing of particular

Sunday the 25th [Saturday 26th]
To day I attended meeting Mr. Graves is very interesting

Monday
To day we killed hogs the old sow was fed about too

Teusday
This fore noon Rollin and I fixed the ox stables This afternoon we ground sausage this evening I attended church

Wednesday 27th
To day is a holiday Irving Gordon came up here and we went up on the hill

Thursday the 28th
To day Rollin and I shelled corn

Friday, Jan the 1st
To day is new year I have played all day Jan the 1st 1858

Saturday the 2
To day is the last day of the week so I have been at play about noon I went up on the hill after Watson Sawyer This after noon I staid at home but was very reluctant. This eve I went to the Methodists. It was very interesting.

Sunday 3d
I have attended church all day. This after noon he preached to young men the subject was young men their relation on their duties and their destiny. There was a crowd.

Monday 4th
Today school. There was a glad many This evening I went off to see Uncle Morse's house

Teusday 5th 1858
To day I went to School. I do not like the teacher The weather is very mild. I think I never saw it so mild be fore Father has hired two men to fix the saw mill for 15 dollars

Wednesday 6th

To day I went to school nothing of interest occurred I have hurt my knee quite bad it is very painful

Thursday 7th

Nothing of interest occurred the weather is very warm considering the time of the year.

Friday 8th

To day I went to school This after noon society no. 1 spoke next Friday no. 2 speak

Saturday

This morning I went a skating This after noon I helped Rollin clean out the alley

Sunday

I attended church all day This after noon mr. graves preached to young men it was very interesting

Monday the 11th

To day Mr. Rogers began to shut down on the boys

Teusday 12th

To day I went to school nothing of interest occurred

Wednesday

To day I went to school

Friday

To day I went to school mr Rogers has set his foot down and the boys are getting a good deal better I am glad

Saturday 16th

To day I helped Rollin at a little of every thing

Sunday 17

To day is Gods holy day I attended church all day

Monday

I attended school as usual all is right

Friday

I have attended school all this week it goes of very well

Saturday 23

To day I have doing a little of everything

Sunday 24th

To day is Gods holy day I went to meeting this morning this after noon and evening I had to stay home to take care of the horses

Monday

To day I commenced studying at home the weather is very mild for winter

Friday 29th

I have had a very bad week for Trial The weather is mild

Saturday 30th

To day ive shelled 6 bushels of corn the boys came up here

Sunday 31st

To day I have had to stay at home all day to take care of the house

Monday

Again I enter in the duties of an other week mr Rogers has I hope has taken a stand with the boys To day I have been a very bad boy for which I feel very bad and father gave me a very bad scolding but I am resolved with the help of God to do better

Teusday 2

To day I have done pretty well We have had bad news from Kansas Dwights dear Kate is dead how he must feel just married and she is dead

Wednesday 3^d

To day I had my lessons pretty well We have got pretty good Sleighing but I am afraid it Thur will go off

Thursday 4th

I think I am getting more interested in my studies

Friday 5th

To day goes as most of the other days

Saturday 6

To day among the other things I wrote to Hellen She has been pretty sick but she is well

Sunday 7th

To day I went to church all day

Teusday

Yesterday I got my lessons good To day I am sick with the sore throat

Wednesday 9th

I have got more interested in my studies To day it is so cold Safford had to stop work it is very windy

Thursday

Its colder than it was yesterday but not so windy

Friday the 11th

School goes off as usual it is as cold as usual

Saturday 12th

To day I took Mathew down to mrs Chaney Smiths

Sunday 13th

I went to church this fore noon this after noon mr graves preached to young men
Subject the young man of pleasure

Monday the 14th

To day I took Lewis up to Alfred

Teusday 16th

To day I did not recite at all Eugene and I got a bowl and pitcher that we broke

Friday 19

I have been to school all this week monday we go in the new rooms and then to Rollin
Eugene and I study at school

Saturday 20th

To day I have been at play most of the time

Saturday 21st

To day is Gods holy day I went to meeting half of the day

Teusday 23^d

To day and yesterday we have got in the new rooms

Wednesday 23^d

To day like all the rest have gone and nothing of interest has occurred with me

Thursday 25th

To day is a day of Solemn importance the news reached our ears that's Hezzie Hall is
dead O how solemn and what a warning it is to me

Friday 26th

To day I went to school as usual

Saturday

To day Rollin and I done chores all day

Sunday

To day Jas. Robinson Rollin and I went to Hezzies funeral mr Wakeman could hardly preach the sermon it was very very solemn the whole house was in tears mr Wakeman talked very good to the students he said that Hezzie had his senses before his death only about two hours he was a very good friend to me and I think he was a good Christian boy

Monday 1st of March

To day has gone off as usual

Wednesday 3^d

The last two has gone of as before

Thursday 4th

To day I got excused at recess to do errands for mother and I did not go this afternoon this evening I had a party it passed of very well indeed although the guests did not all come that I invited and mother prepared a very good table of refreshments for us the platter of gipsy cake setting in the middle looked good

Friday 5th

To day it is so exceeding cold that the men cant work at drawing logs Father has a suit with Tom Bennett mr Bennett sued father for fifty dollars and I am afraid he will be beat

Saturday 6

To day I have done a little of every thing

Sunday 7th

I attended church and for the first time in my life wore a pair of 4 calf boots it is good weather

Friday 12th

This week has gone off as usual the weather is good

Saturday 13th

To day Rollin and I have done a little of every thing this after noon we sheared 4 dead sheep

Sunday 13th

To day I did not go to church all day

Friday 18th

This week has gone off as usual Spring has come with all its birds and the boys have good times playing ball

Saturday 19

To day I done all I could in the forenoon and this after noon I had company and we had first rate times

Sunday 20

To day I did not go to Church only in the after noon

Wednesday 24

The week has gone off good so far

Friday

The past two days have gone off as usual the weather is remarkably fine

Saturday

This forenoon I went up on the hill with father to sow 5 acres of wheat Weather good

Sunday 26

To day I went to church all day

Thursday

This week has gone off as usual. To day is the last day mr. Rogers does not teach only this term too bad

Friday

To day I cleaned the yard so that when the rain comes it will grow A foolish act of mine also I must record a nice fat hen had took a notion to set so I thought I would brake her I put her in a pail of water just from the well and it killed her

Saturday

To day I went with Father on the hill to sow 5 acres of wheat

Sunday

To day I went to Church all day This after noon they partook of the Lords Supper there were 27 join the church among whom were Louis Rollin Safford Lydia and Mary Thacher and it made me feel rather bad to think I was not safe The weather is good

Teusday

Yesterday and to day I have drove the barn to draw manure Weather is first rate

Friday

I have done a little of every things the weather is getting colder good for wheat I have not written in my diary that I have forgotten what I have done

Teusday 20th

About one week ago Scott wanted me to help him in the mill I know how to do most that is done now

last night the 20th

Safford started for Kansas

Satturday 24th

This week I have not done much of any thing accept chores To day I and Rollin opened a hole of potatoes

Sunday 25th

To day I did not do any thing Set still and my hands were so chaped

Teusday 27th

Yester day Rollin and I spread manure and I so tired that I could not hardly walk To day Mother and I were talking about Jennies coming in and Scott said she would not come in this week

Wednesday 28

This fore noon Rollin Eugene and I took the calves up on the pinical and this after noon we spread dung

Sunday

To day after I got dressed for meeting I found a hole in my pants so I did not go to meeting

Monday

To day I chored it all day weather pleasant

Teusday May 3d

To day I done chores all day. Weather pleasant

Thursday 20th of May

I have not written in my diary so long that I can not remember by the day so I have to put it down by whole sale about two weeks ago I started going to school to Mr Baker and like him very much To day I went out to study and staid out to long so he said I could go out no more

Sunday the 21 of May

Too day I went to church all day at evening He gave ten good reasons why he never goes to Theatre or Circus

Teusday

Yester day and to day I have gone to school as usial

Wednesday 23

To day is the great Circus day and I did not go to school in the fore noon the weather is very rainy

Wednesday of June

I have attended school to - Mr Baker is a man that only has to speak to be obeyed not like Rork in the least as the boys say I had rather have a good whipping than to have him speak to me

Friday

I have attended school as usial

Monday

This forenoon we washed sheep we have 66 sheep and 25 lambs

Sunday, Jan 15th, 1860

SSSSSSStuben [penmanship practice]

Mary E. Clark

Commerce

Oakland Ci, Mich

Sunday 15th, 1860

[penmanship practice]

SStudies Theodore

Thacher Woody

Wood Wood W

Wood Wood

Rawsom Rawsom

Rawsom

Green Green

Wood Wood M Green

T T T Theodore

Theodore Thacher

T Theodore thacher

Father agrees to give me one shilling a life to read Plutarch through and note the principal points in each life, to begin with the life of Marcellus – He was a man of heroic strength capable of enduring the greatest of fatigue and in courage and magnanimity hardly had an equal. He

was Chosen Counsel To Rome and fought a great many Battles from which by his superior Generalship he generally came off best. He was the 3rd Roman General that killed a king and when he had done it he lifted his spoils to Heaven and cried, O Jupiter

The next one I shall write about is Titus Quintius Flamininus. I think he is the poorest life I have read. It's true he undertook a very just and honorable war against Nabis the wicked and Abandoned King of Lacedaemon but even in this case he disappointed the hopes of Greece for though he might have took him prisoner he left Sparta summarily in bondage whether it was that Titus was jealous of every one - So much so that he would draw wars to an unhappy close for fear if he did not someone would be appointed counsel in his stead.

Virtue is to be prized more than gold. Unfailing affection is of rare occurrence in the human heart. The duties of school life are arduous but little do we know how sweet they will be to us in after life.

December 17th, 1861

Well today I commence my diary more to improve my style of writing than any thing else. It is now the middle of Dec & the weather is as pleasant as spring time. I have not been as good in my classes as should like ~~me~~ to be or as I shall after I get a going thoroughly. My object (although I may not attain it) is not to be the poorest man the second grade scholar but to be the first & foremost in my classes. A person had ought to always sit his mark high & then be sure and reach it & if there is a place in this life to do it it is at a public boarding school where all influences that are good & noble are thrown around about him but if he resists these & proves impregnable to all that tends towards that which great & elevating then surely his course is marked out & there is no hope for him.

December 19th.

The self imposed duty of writing in my diary every evening before retiring slipped my mind last night so I do it this morning the weather still continues fine & is as pleasant as it generally is in April or May except that it is not green with verdure growing & the air filled with the songs of bird.

Thursday Eve

The day is past & gone & one more blank page of my life is filled! What a thought to contemplate, to think that every lesson recited, every blunder made, every triumph achieved, & even every thought & every word that is uttered or passes through the head has got to be accounted for at the throne of God, be for all both small & great low & high, all have got to hear your confession. Well I have done very much better in my classes than I expected to and find that every day I study it comes more & more interesting. Algebra, which no longer ago than yesterday I had the utmost contempt for, has become quite a study with me. The weather shows no signs of snow yet.

T Thacher good

Friday 20th

The pleasantest part of a mans life perhaps are his school days, improved or not as that may be the circumstances thrown around him are such that they will be looked back on in after life with the fondest of recollections yet there is always bitter with the sweet as a man reviews his college days & sees this point or that which might have been improved that he did not, this is the bitter. Or remembers some triumph over some tough example & the hard days study on some composition all these will be remembered & thought over & over & over again with the pleasantest of recollections this is sweet – therefore if we would constantly have sweet in our mouths we must make the very best use of our time & dig! Dig! Keep digging from the exhaustless muse of learning for the more we learn the happier & better men we will be. To day the weather has changed from nice spring weather, as it were, to cold & frosty & we begun to hope to have good sleighing between the Holidays & then O! what a jolly time I will have

Sat 21st

It is Satturday & it is a day of somewhat leisure amongst students the consequence is I have not improved as much of my time as I would have done if I had my regular studies to attend to this forenoon. I spent the most of my time in Mr. Woods room so as to give Rollins a good opportunity to write an oration & this afternoon we helped the Ladies trim the Brick Hall, for which I got my share by cutting my arm with an ax. The Ladies intend I believe to have a merry time of it on Christmas Eve & last evening about invited out to-- to—I hardly know what to call it but the jist of the matter was this Mr. Ruffum had gone over to the Brick & got a basket of provision & then he asked in a number of boys. I being one of the company & then we had a right good time. I got to bed about half past twelve o'clock & slept till 7 this morn. Pride & Poverty often dwell to gather in one house.

Dec 26th

Well Christmas has come & gone, and with it all the anticapated pleasures & jollifications whither of a good influence or bad as that may be ~~or whither of a good~~ they serve to increase the moral man or develop the Christian or intellectual character that remains to disclosed by time for myself I can say I could have improved the day very much in many respects “but it does no good to cry for spilt milk” so I will learn by experiance & the next Christmas come I will study hard, I tell you & make it a day long to remembered ~~as one~~ that on Christmas of such year I took a long stride toward the top of the Hill of Science & wisdom. Last Teusday evening (or Christmas Eve) was a time that I probably never shall forget as long as I live. The Ladies of Brick Hall gave an entertainment to the other students of the institution & a good time it was. It all went of very nicely they served up coffee, crackers, cheese, pickles, & three different kinds of cake. I never spent an evening in more lively yet gentlemanly & Ladylike company in my life! I shall allways remember it

Jan 2nd 1862

Christmas ~~has~~ & New Years have come & gone, with them all the expectations & imaginations of childhood. Now that a new year has begun may I also begin a new manner of living. O that I do as I want to - what a pattern young man I would be.

Jan 4th

Writing in a diem if follow-up can be made as interesting as a romance or novel, but to do that a person must have persevereance and untiring energy for although it may seem but a little duty yet it comes regularly once a day so that after a while a person of my disposition will soon want a change. The want of persevereance is my stumbling block and as long as I nurse that in my bosom by not conquering it I will fail entirely in all my efforts and aspirations. Well tonight I made my first effort at an impromptu speech and failed. I have joined the Orophelian Lyceum and here I suppose begin a series new of duties and obligations but if I put my shoulder to the wheel with a finer resolve to master all difficulties there will be a way marked for me to go in.

[penmanship practice]:

great men are as a general theme poor writers
that is so good
pop
I must write to Hallen one of these days that is so

Thacher Thacher
Thacher great men are poor
Thacher Theodore Thacher is a good boy

James Hagadore is a good boy