

Transcription of  
The Diary of Charlotte Hopper Newcomb

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*Inside Cover*

Sally G. Tobias

Charlotte Hopper Newcomb,  
born July 20, 1795~ died Sept. 6, 1853.  
Wife of Dr. Abijah Gilbert Benedict  
who was b. Nov. 13, 1790. M. Nov. 13, 1816, d.Oct. 4 1862.  
Charlotte Hopper Newcomb wrote this book when at boarding school 15 years of age.

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Charlotte Newcombs Journal  
Yesterday I went to meeting in the forenoon I heard  
a sermond preached by Mr Vaul from those words  
Whose fan is in his hand and he will thoroughly purge  
his floor and gather his wheat into the ga[?] but  
he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire  
and in the afternoon I heard another searmon  
preached by the same minister and in evening  
I whent to conference and I heard searmond  
read by Mr Vaul but I cannot think of the  
words at preasant and on monday I went  
to school and their I attend to reading writing  
geography abd drawing and [?] and on tuesday

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I went to school again and their I attended to my  
usual employments and I have attend to the  
same all the week Last evening their was another  
conference and I attended and I herd a searmond  
read from the 4<sup>th</sup> ch of the acts Last sunday I  
went to meeting in the forenoon. and I heard searmond delivered by Mr  
Camp from Northfield from the second 2 ch  
of the Philippians [?].10.11 verses and this pray that  
your love may abound yet more and more in  
knowledge and in all judgment and in the after

noon I returned to meeting and I heard a sermond  
preached by one Mr. Hershkill from the second cha  
heb and the latter part of the cecond vearse and how  
shall we ascape if we neglect so great a salvation

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which at the first began to be spocan by the Lord and  
was confimed unto us by them that heard him  
and in their was another conferance to the  
meeting houcce but I did not go on account of the  
rain on monday I went to school again and their  
I attended to my ususal employment my principal  
study is geogoraphy on fryday the rest of the  
yong ladies and myself wear examinied in geograp  
phy and on fryday evening I attended to another  
conference and I heard a sermond read from the  
17<sup>th</sup> Ch of the acts

Last sabbath I did not go to meeting on count  
of the rain but I read som very good chapters in  
the Bible on monday I whent to school I recited  
a lesson in geography to Ms Pierse and I wrote in

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The forenoon and in the after I painted spelled  
in the dictionary and a tuesday I attended to the  
same in the forenoon but in the after noon I began  
to work on my piece and wednesday I atteneded  
to the same employment and on thursday the  
yung ladies and myself were began to be examined  
in geography and a friday morning some of us  
were examend through the United States and a  
fryday evening their was a conference and I  
attended and I heard a searmomond read by Mr  
Plum on the 31<sup>th</sup> chapter of Jeremiah 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> vers  
I have surly heard Ephram bemoan himself thus  
Thou hast chastised me and I was chastised as a a bul  
lock unaccustomed to the yoke turn thou me and I

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and they all with one consent began to marke to  
excuse the first said unto him I have bought a  
piece of ground and I must needs go and see it  
I pray thee have me excused \_\_\_\_\_

Last Sabbath I attend public worship in forren  
oon and I heard and exlant searmon delivered  
by Mr Cotton from the following words 7 chapt  
of John and 37 verse In the last day that great day  
of the feast Jesus stood and cried saying if any man thirst  
let him come unto me and drink in the aft  
er noon I returned to meeting with one of yong ladies  
and I heard a sermond deliver by the same  
minister the text he preached from was in Isaiah and after meeting I returned

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home and read some chapt in the Bible  
and read the chapt from which the min  
nister had taken his text and in evening  
ther was a conference to the school house  
and I attended and I heard a sear  
mond read by Mr Reaves and after mee  
ting I returned home and I read a chapt  
in the Bible and on monday I return  
ed to school and I attended to my usual  
employments and after school I took  
walk down to the store and and attended sch  
ool on tuesday and I spent the day  
as usual aand [? blurry] wednesday spent as us  
ual but in the after noon wrote the heads

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of the history but a t[?]da they the yong  
wrote a tuesday began to write tuesday after  
noon thursday spent as usual fryday  
wrot the heads of the history through  
the week the yong ladies wrorte till  
to the [?] epoch and about fore o'clock I when  
to school and in there was a confer  
ence to to the neeting house but I did not  
attend on count of the rain \_\_\_\_\_  
last saturday morning I rose erly and wrote my  
journal and after I had wrote it I went to school  
I spent part of the forenoon in working on  
my piece. The afternoon is our hollyday tho I spent it on  
working in the evening their was a conference to

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To the schoolhouse and I attended and I heard  
a searmond delivered by Mr Flint he took his [?]  
[?]n Games on sunday I attended meeting I heard  
a searmond delivered by the same minister  
the words he preached from was in the Romans  
the 5 chapt and the 5 verse ho[?]e marketh  
not a shame and in the afternoon I retu  
urn to meeting Mr Strong delivered  
searmond the words were these the harvest  
is past the summer is ended and we are  
not saved in the evening I attended conference  
and Mr Flint preached from thos words  
if ye are were embasidors of Christ pray you  
in in Christ sted be ye reconciled to God  
monday I returned to school I attended

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to my usual employments I spent the week as usual  
and fryday evening I attended conference  
saturday morning I wrote my journal  
after I had wrote it I returned to school  
I spent part of the forenoon in working on  
my piece sunday in the forenoon I atten  
ded meeting I heard a searmond delivered read by Judge  
Reaves and in the afternoon I returned to  
Meeting Curnal Tamage read a searmond  
in the evening there was a conference  
to the school house and I attended on mon  
day I went to the school I attended to my usual  
employments in the afternoon I wrote  
a letter to mama I spent the rest of the week

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as usual fryday evening I attended confer  
ence I heard a searmond read by Judge Reaves  
from those words enter ye in at the strate  
gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way  
that leadeth to destruction many there  
are that go in there at for strate is the gate  
and narrow is the way that leadeth to life  
and few there are that go there in  
Last saturday morning I attended town  
tiny my journal after I had wrote it I  
returned to school I spent part of the fore  
noon in working on my piece then all the  
yong ladies and myself struck aside all besfin  
esf to hear Mrs Pierse good advice which

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affected me very much but I hope for the future to follow them it affected Mrs Pierse very much to see us going on in that sinful way and leading the road to destruction she advised us he that seeketh the Lord early shall find him he that will not seek him shall not find him but will go down to everlasting torment and O what an awful thought on Sunday I attended meeting I heard an excellent sermon delivered by Mr Harshkil from those words 5 chap and the 20 verse for I say unto you that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees ye shall in

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no case enter unto the kingdom of heaven in the afternoon I returned to meeting I heard a sermon delivered by the same minister but I cannot think of the words at present in the evening there was a conference to the school house and I attended on Monday morning I received a letter from Mama which gave me great pleasure to hear that papa and the family were in health which is the greatest blessing that God can bestow upon us after reading it with great pleasure I went to school I attended to my usual employments I spent [?] [?] [?] past as usual Friday evening I attended confer

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ence saturday morning I attended to writing  
journal after I had wrote it I returned to school  
I attended working on my piece till it was time  
to lay aside all businesf to here to Mrs Pierces good advise  
she told us of our murmuring at great many things  
we do not want to do like the Isrealites did when they  
were in the wildernesf but why should I murmer  
when I know how it us for the best that I am [?]aced  
at a great distance from my dear Parents to  
learn on Sunday I attended meeting in the  
forenoon I heard a searmon delivered by  
Mr. Harshkill from the 6 chapt of the  
galations and pa[?]t of the [?] we have

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therefore opportunity lets us do good into [?] men  
in the afternoon I returned to meeting and Mr. Hars  
hkill delivered another searmond from the  
same chapt and the latter part of the same  
verse especially unto them who are of the household  
of faith in the evening I attended conference on  
monday I attended school I spent the day as us  
ual and the week past as usual fryday evening  
I did not attend meeting on account of the rain  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 1809 Last Saturday morning I rose  
early wrote my journal I returned to school before  
I had quite finished writing it after I had finished  
it the yong ladies and myself read some chapt  
in the bible and after we had finished reading

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Mrs Pierse explained it to us Sunday I attended meeting I heard a sermon delivered by Mr Fling from those words let not your hearts be troubled you that believe in God believe in me in the afternoon I returned to meeting Mr Harshkill preached a sermon in evening I attended conference Monday attended school I spent the day as usual in the afternoon I was invited to a party in which I spent my time very pleasant Tuesday past as usual Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> I had the pleasure of seeing my Uncle and Aunt which gave me a great deal of happiness I had Uncle brought me letter from mama which informed me that the

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family papa had been very unwell but God has been pleased restore his health and O how thankful should I be unto him for his many blessings but I am fearful that I go on contrary [?] his commands but the rest of the family were in health Thursday past as usual Friday evening I attended conference Judge Reaves read a farewell sermon that was preached to congregation at Newport in Road Island Last Saturday morning I rose early wrote my journal returned to school I read it to Mrs Perse after I had read it I worked on my piece till it was to lay aside all business to here to Mrs Pierce she asked us questions in the Catechism if we did not know she would explain it to us

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Sunday before I went to meeting I took a walk after I had returned I read a chapt in the Bible after I had read it I went to meeting Mr Harshkill delivered a searmond from he took his text frome the 1<sup>st</sup> book of Timothy and the 1<sup>st</sup> chapt and 8 verse But we know that the law is good of a man use it lawfully in the afternoon Mr Harshkill delivered another sermond he took his text in the book of of acts but I cannot think of the chapt at presant in the evening there was a conference to the school house I attended Judge Reaves read a searmond Monday I attended school all the forenoon I was examined in geography a except writing a copy in the afternoon I attended painting we did not spell in the afternoon tuesday

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spent as usual wednesday Mrs Pierce examined us in history thursday we were examined in geogrophy by esq Morrs when I returned home frome school I [?] fryday I did not attend school oncount of my being so unwell I have mentioned. I did not rise very early last saturday morning I wrote part of my Journal before I whent school I finished after went to school after I had done it writing it I read it to M Miss Pierce I spent part of the forenoon working on my piece other part in hering to Miss Pierce advise she first told us the character of Solomon which was the wises man in the world God granted unto him ever things he wished for he cose virtue rather than riches or honour Miss Pierce then read three exlant anecdotes 1 of a

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young Lady by the name of June R[?]udcliff a Lady of fortune who spent her youthful days in dressing and amusements which she afterwards became good and serving her Maker who made her and she afterwards become sick some one asked her one day if she was willing to die she replied yes that she could behold her makers face to face secondly about a poor woman that spent her days in serving God she afterwards was taken with a sudden sickness so that she soon died after she was taken so that she had no time to repent if she had been wicked I [?] that is the case with great many of us we people will often spend there youthful days in wickedness they think when they get old or when they lie

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on there death bed is time enough to repent but then it is too later they may be in such pain and be taken of soon so that is no time to repent and God has said in his rath that the wicked shall not enter in his rest but shall depart to his lefthand into everlasting punishment O what an awful though My we cannot say when we come to set on the judgement seat that we have not had warning and heard sermons and prayers Mifs Pierce mentione to us about a little girle that lived here she always was jumping between the h[?] [?] home in the afternoon I spent in serving Sunday before I went to meeting I read some chapt in the bible and wrot a few he[?]ds of history attended meeting in the forenoon I heard sermon delivered by Mr Harshkill

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from the 1 book 15 chapt and 24 verse of the corinthians  
else what shall they do which are baptized for the  
dead of the dead rise not at all why are they then  
baptized for the dead in the afternoon I heard a  
nother sermond preached by the same minister he  
took his text from 2 chapt and 8 verse of Timothy  
I will therefore that men pray everywhere lifting  
up holy hands without wrath and doubting when  
I returned I read several chapt in the bible in  
the evening I attended conference to schoolhous  
se Colonel Tallmedge read searmond from the 1 book  
and 1 chapt and the 15 verse This is a faithful sayind  
and worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus  
came unto the world to save sinners of whom I  
am chief monday I attended school I did not recite

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[?] [?] lesson in geography I wrot few of geography  
and history and Miss Pierce ask us a few gestion  
in history but I could not answer any after  
Mr Br[?]ce came in I wrote a copy in afternoon  
I spent in working on my piece and in hering  
to history tuesday I got a lesson in geography I  
attended to my usual imployments in the  
evening there was a conference to the meeting  
house and I attended I heard searmond deliver  
by Mr [?]nderson from the 22 chapt and 42 verse  
of Matthew saying what think ye of  
Christ whose son is he they say unto him the  
son of david wednesday thursday and fryday  
spent as usual fryday in the afternoon there  
was a lecter to the meeting house but I didn

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ot attend in the evening I attended conference Mr Tallmedges read sermond from 6 chapt and 6.7 verses of Micah where with shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the high God shall I come before him with burnt offering with calves of year old. Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams [?]o with ten thousands of [?] oil shall I give my first born for my transgrefsion the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Saturday morning I finished writing my journal I went to school read it to Miss Pierce she gave me 4 credit markers for it about 11 oclock we all laid aside our businefs to here to Miss Pierce advise she told us our faults of which I am afraid that I am liable to commit to many of them in the afternoon I spent in painting I took a walk down to the store with Miss De[?]

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on sunday I attended meeting Mr Harshkill preached a sermond from the 14<sup>th</sup> chapt and 27<sup>th</sup> verse of John Piece I leave with you and piece I give unto you not as the world giveth give I unto you let not your hearts be troubled neither let it be afraid I did not stay to see them after meeting the members of the church partook of the sacrement but I did not stay to see them in the afternoon Mr Harshkill delivered another sermond he took his text from 14<sup>th</sup> chapt and latter part of 32th verse but the righteous hath hope in death after meeting I returned home read some chapt in the bible in the evening I attended conference to the schoolhouse colonel Tallmadge read searmond from 2 chapt and 22 verse [?] though how faith wrought with his works and by his works was faith made perfect monday attended school did not create any lesson

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in geography bit attended working on my piece  
in the afternoon I spent in painting after  
school took a walk down to the book store tuse  
dad got a lesson on geography and wrot a cobby  
rest part of the day I spent as usual in the after  
noon when we were done examined in history  
Mifs Pierce let all the girls go out them that  
had got tere credit marks writing and history  
thursday and fryday spent as usual fryday in the after  
noon we were examined in geographia and  
history in the evening Mr H[?] carved us to  
ex[?]tion the south farmes Saturday mor  
ning I continued writing my Journal went  
to school read it to Mifs Pierce and after reading  
it I worked on my piece till it was time to lay  
aside all buisness to here Mifs advise

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she in order to tell us what situation we  
were in she compared it to man if a man  
had several children and suppose he sho  
uld fead them every day from his table and  
would have nothing to do but cook it and  
he required but two things of them on was  
that they should come and thank him the  
other was they should be kind and obli[?]y  
to one and other woulde shouldnet we think those  
children very ugly that would not do as  
much that and that is case with us in  
the afternoon I attended to serving sunday  
attended meeting in the forenoon I heard an  
and exlant sermond delivered by Mr Hars

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hkill from 22 chapt and 6 verse of proverbs Train  
up a child in the way he should go and when  
he is old he will not depart from it in the  
afternoon I returned to meeting Mr Harsh  
kill delievered another sermond from the same  
chapt after meeting I returned home read in  
the bible in the evening I attended confer  
ence Mr Harshkill preached another serm  
ond from the 8 chapt 2 verse the harvest is  
past the summer is ended and we are not sav  
ed monday I attended school spent the day as  
usual tuesday past as usual and wednesday and  
thursday spent as usual after school took a  
walk down to the store fryday in the forenoon

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I drewed on my map in the after  
noon I worked on my piece in the evening I atte  
nded conference Judge Reaves read a sermo  
nd from the 17 chapt and 9.10. verses The heart  
is decietfulabove all things and desperately  
wicked who can know it I the Lord search the  
heart I try my the reins even to give every man  
according to his ways and according to the fruit  
of his doing saturday morning continued wri  
ting my journal after I had finished writing it  
went to school read it to Mifs Pierce then worked  
on my piece till it was time to lay aside all busin  
efs to here to Mifs Pierce advise she told us some  
of our faults in the afternoon I attended to

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drawing on my map sunday attended church I heard an exclamation sermon delivered by Mr Marsh from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter and 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> verses of the Romans If it be possible as much as lieth in you live peaceable with all men. Dearly beloved avenge not yourselves but rather give place unto wrath for it is written Vengeance is mine I will repay saith the Lord I stay to the afternoon meeting Mr Marsh Delivered another sermon from 1 book and 2 chapter and 2 verse [?] [?] determined not to know any thing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified after meeting returned home read the history that Mifs Pierce told us last week over once in the evening I attended conference to the school

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house Judge Reaves read a sermon from Matthew 11<sup>th</sup> chapter and 28<sup>th</sup> verses Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest monday attended school spent the day as usual tuesday and wednesday past as usual thursday Mifs Pierce gave us a holy day in the forepart of the day I spent in working on my map in the afternoon I took a walk down the street to see them train fryday past as usual in the evening I attended conference I heard an exclamation sermon delivered by Mr Muldollar from New York from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter and 1 verse of the hebrews Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses let us lay aside every weight and the

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sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with  
patience the race that is set before us Saturday morning  
I continued writing my Journal after I had finished writing  
it returned to school and read it to Mifs Pierce then worked  
on my piece till it was time to lay aside all business  
to here to Mifs Pierce advise she told us our faults  
of which I am afraid I am liable to commit to  
to many of them the afternoon I spent in painting  
sunday morning after reading some in the bible  
went to meeting I heard a sermon delivered  
by Mr Muldollar from the 22 chapter and the latter  
part of the 16 verse of the revelation I am the root and the offspring  
of David and the bright and morning star in  
the afternoon there was another sermon preached  
by Mr Harshkill from the 16 chapter and the 26 verse

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of Matthew For what is a man profited if he shall  
gain the whole world and lose his own soul or what  
shall a man give in exchange for his soul  
after meeting returned home read some in the  
bible in the evening I attended conference to  
the meeting house I heard an exultant sermon  
delivered by Mr Muldollar in the forepart of  
his sermon he addressed the aged and then he  
addressed the youth from the 1 book of timothy of  
and the 3 chapter and 16 verse And without controver  
sy great is the mystery of Godliness God was manifi  
est in the flesh justified in the spirit seen of ang  
els preached unto the Gentiles believed on in the  
world received up unto glory monday attended

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School in the forenoon I attended to working on my piece and was examined in history and in the afternoon I attended to painting tuesday and wednesday past as usual after school took a walk down street thursday past as usual in the evening I attended conference to the meeting house I heard a sermon delivered by a Minister Mr Baly from The Destrict of Main he took his text from 1 book of samuel and 2 chapt and the latter part of the 3 verse For the Lord as a God of knowledge and by him actions are weighed fryday past as usual in the evening I attended conference I heard sermon preached by Mr Cly from the 1 book Of Corrinthians 12<sup>th</sup> chapt 31 verse But covet earns

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tly the best gifts and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way Saturday morning continued [?] my journal after I had finished writing it worked on my map till it was time to go to school after I went [?] school I read my Journal to Mifs Pierce then [?] worked on my piece till it was time to lay aside all business to here to Mifs Pierce advise she told us our faults the afternoon I spent in [?] [?]gand painting Sunday attended meeting in the forenoon I heard a sermon delivered by Mr Harshkill from the 8 chapt and the [?] verses of the Romans Because the carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God neither in [?] can be So then they that are on the flesh or

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not please God the afternoon I returned to meeting I heard a birger sermon delivered by the same minister he took his text from the same chapt and same verse. the afternoon he preached from the same words in the evening I attended conference to the school house I heard a sermon delivered by Mr Harshkill from the [?] chapt and 1 verse of Matthew And seeing the multitude he went up unto a mountain and when he was set his disciples came unto him monday attended school spent the forenoon in working [?] my piece the afternoon in drawing after school took a [?]alk down street tuesday and wednesday past after usual after school [?] took a walk down street thursday past as usu

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al fryday forenoon I spent in studing to be examined in the afternoon spent in working on my piece in the evening I did not attend conference on count of the rain saturday morning I did not write journal as I [?] had finished writing it the knight before I drawed on my map till it was time to go to school after I had went to school I read my journal to Mifs Pierce then worked on my piece till it was time to lay aside all businefs to here Mifs Pierce advise the afternoon I spent in serving and drawing sunday I attended church I heard a sermon delivered by Mr Marsh from the 5 chapt and the 12 verse of the Romans Wherefore

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as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned. I stayed to the afternoon meeting Mr Marsh delivered another sermon from the 1 chapt and the 27<sup>th</sup> verse of James pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is this to visit sit the fatherless and widows [?]in their affliction and to keep himself [?]nsp [?]ted from the world after meeting returned home read a chapter in the bible in the evening I attended conference to the schoolhouse Monday attended school I spent the day being examined in history Tuesday and Wednesday spent as usual Thursday Miss Pierce examined us in the forenoon in geography and in the af

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ternoon in history Friday I spent in being examined in geography in the evening I attended conference Judge Reaves sermon from the 1 chapt & 6 verses. 2 chapt & 8 verse of Ephesians for by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God Saturday morning I drew on my map till it was time to go to school after I had went to school I read my Journal to Miss Pierce then worked on my piece till it was time to lay aside all business to here to Miss Pierce advise she told us our faults the afternoon I spent in drawing on my map Sunday I attended meeting in the forenoon Mr Harshkill delivered a sermon from the 55<sup>th</sup> chapt & 1 verse of Isaiah Ho every one that thirsteth come ye to

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the waters and he that hath no money come  
ye buy and eat yea come buy wine and milk wi  
thout money and without price in the after  
noon there was another sermon delivered by  
Mr Harshkill from the 1 epistle of John 1  
chapt and 9<sup>th</sup> verse If we confesfs our sins he is fai  
thful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse  
us from all unrighteousnefs after meeting I  
returned home read a chater in the bible in  
the evening there was a conference to the school  
house and I attended Judge Reves read a  
sermon from the 7<sup>th</sup> chapt and 55 verse But he  
being full of the holy Ghost looked up stedfastly into  
heaven and saw the glory of God monday atended

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school spent the day being examined in ge  
ography tuesday wednesday thursday and  
friday spent as usual in the evening I atten  
ded conference Judge Reves read a sermon  
from 18<sup>th</sup> chapter & 24<sup>th</sup> verse of [?] Luke Strive to  
enter in at the strate gate for many I sat un  
to you will seek to enter in and shall not be  
able saturday morning rose early wrote my journ  
al after I had finished writing it I returned to sch  
ool then worked on my piece till was time to lay  
aside all businefs to here Mifs Pierce advise the  
afternoon I spent in writing and painting sunday  
I attended meeting in the forenoon Mr Harshkill  
delivered a sermon [?] chapt & 6 verse of Isaiah

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For unto us a child is born and his name shall be  
called wonderful he then read the whole verse  
unto us a son is given and the government shall be  
upon his shoulder and his name shall be called won  
derful counsellor the mighty God the everlasting  
Father the prince of peace in the afternoon Mr  
Harshkill delivered another sermon from the 3  
chapt & 10 verse For as many as are the works of the  
law are under the curse for it is written cursed is every  
one that cont[?]th not in all things which are wri  
tten in the book of the law to do them after meeting  
I returned home read some chapt in the bible in the  
evening I attended conference to the schoolhouse  
Judge Reves read a sermon. monday morning  
Rose early spent the morning in writing Journal

Litchfield Female Academy collection, Series 2: Student Papers , Records, and  
Documents Folder 16: Benedict, Charlotte Hopper Newcomb (Mrs. Abijah)  
Litchfield Historical Society  
Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library  
7 South Street  
P.O. Box 385  
Litchfield, Connecticut, 06759