

THE POUGHKEEPSIE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL, 1848-49

DIARY OF A HUDSON STUDENT ON COLLEGE HILL

College Hill School stood on a wooded height overlooking the village of Poughkeepsie. From its western colonnade stretched an expansive view of the surrounding countryside, delightful vistas of steamboats and sloops up and down the Hudson River with the Catskill Mountains in the hazy distance. A mile below spread the growing town of some ten thousand inhabitants. In the immediate foreground, beyond the hillside orchard and grove of trees, stood the Reservoir at the head of Cannon Street and Washington Garden reaching through from Clinton to North Hamilton. The Fallkill meandered from left to right, the current arrested in places to form four millponds before emptying into the Hudson not far from Warren Skinner's Exchange House and the dye-wood mill.

Set in the midst of twenty-five acres, the handsome building of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School was constructed in 1836 by the Improvement Party as a copy of the Athenian Parthenon. Charles Bartlett, recently of the successful Utica Gymnasium school, had approved the spot and was allowed to plan the interior of the school as a condition to his assuming the principalship. The building was a large quadrangle whose two stories, 115 feet long and 55 feet wide, were surrounded by an eleven foot colonnade. A basement floor opened level with the ground and gave the building additional height.

At this ground level were a sizeable "play hall" and "promenade" surrounded by numerous small wash rooms for two or three students each. Here, too, were the dining room, kitchen and other facilities. Led to by the only outside flight of stairs and encircled by thirty-two columns was the floor where the students spent most of their working day. A good sized study hall was flanked by four smaller, partially walled class rooms. From a platform at one end all the boys could be easily seen by the teacher in charge. On the floor above was the dormitory, divided into small curtain-enclosed alcoves. Apartments were also located in the building for the principal and his family, for the matron, and for several of the teachers. A well-equipped gymnasium

covering 1,900 feet, an important part of school life, was nearby.

According to present standards, the daily schedule would be thought somewhat rigid. Rising at five-forty, the boys studied until seven and were then served breakfast. School began at eight and with two fifteen minute breaks continued until noon. Classes reconvened at two and from four to six o'clock was the play period. During the dark winter months this free time lasted from lunch until four with classes from then to six. The study hall began at seven and bedtime was nine. On Saturday mornings all teachers gave out their weekly reports before the assembled school, often adding comments concerning each student. After a short recess, Mr. Bartlett and the teacher concerned would examine the classes in turn. Those students who came through the week satisfactorily were allowed the afternoon off. Others were confined according to their demerits. Local boys were permitted only this one free afternoon to visit home. The school year lasted throughout the summer with month-long vacations during the early spring and late fall. At the close of each term there was a public examination.¹

Union College graduate Charles Bartlett, principal and at this time owner of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School, possessed a "talent of the highest order for his calling, indomitable energy and perseverance, with unceasing vigilance in watching over the intellectual developments and the morals and manners of those under his care."² He also chose excellent assistants, several of them from the ranks of his own family. We know how highly the village of Poughkeepsie regarded the school and, through the reminiscences of Charles B. Warring, what an ex-teacher and "old boy" thought of it. Now we have the chance to see College Hill school through the candid and occasionally prejudiced eyes of a lively youth from the up-river city of Hudson who one hundred and three years ago was a student at Charles Bartlett's boarding school, "the best school of its kind in America."³

¹ *The Family Magazine*, VII (1839), 240-45; *Poughkeepsie Casket*, II (1838), 81-2; *Rural Repository*, XVI (1840), 137-8; Warring, C. B., "College Hill," *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, December 6, 1905; *Poughkeepsie Journal and Eagle*, April 7, 1849; Poucher, J. W., "College Hill," *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, XXII (1937), 100-106.

² *Poughkeepsie Journal and Eagle*, April 7, 1849

³ *New York Daily Press*, May 15, 1852

This young student's diary is now a part of the manuscript collection of the New York State Historical Association Library at Cooperstown. It was acquired in 1947 from the estate of Alice Seymour, Hudson. The author of the two-volume journal, fifteen year old George Edward Seymour, was the son of George E. and Julia Ann (Roraback) Seymour. The elder Seymour, a former Hudson River steamboat captain, in 1848-49 owned a prosperous Hudson hardware store. He was also a director of the local Farmers' Bank and in 1850 joined with Dr. Oliver Bronson and Josiah W. Fairfield, among others, to form the Hudson City Savings Institute. Son George, the eldest of eight children, was born on December 8, 1833. After leaving the Poughkeepsie school, he returned to Hudson and assisted his father in the hardware business until the latter's death in 1854. Shortly thereafter he moved to Brooklyn and then to Bayonne, New Jersey, where he became associated as cashier with several New York City firms including James A. Webb and Son, dealers in pure alcohol. In 1871 he married Josephine C. Burdett of Bayonne by whom he had two sons. Throughout his long life Seymour was especially active in Fire Department activities. He died in Bayonne on January 26, 1915.

Because of space limitations it has been necessary to omit the less interesting and repetitive portions of this diary. All such omissions are so indicated. For the sake of clarity, punctuation marks have been added and only the frequently misspelled proper names corrected. Unfortunately it has not been possible to identify all persons mentioned. The editor would appreciate information concerning those whose names are not given in full.

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COOPERSTOWN, N. Y.

JAMES TAYLOR DUNN

DIARY OF A HUDSON STUDENT ON COLLEGE HILL

1848-1849

Nov. 1st) Wednesday morning. Took the Steamboat Hendrick Hudson for College Hill School at Pokeepsie. I arrived there about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I was much pleased with the school. Mr. Bartlett gave me a bed and room.

2nd) The ringing of a bell awoke me at 6½ o'clock. I dressed myself and went down into my room to wash myself. Was introduced to Geo. [Alexander] Gordon of [Alexandria] Virginia. Went to bed and had a very good night's rest.

3rd) The weather was rather cold. Nothing of any consequence occurred excepting a boy and a Spaniard got a fighting . . .

6th) The weather was very pleasant. I obtained Trowbridge Hewitt [Dewitt?] for my chum.

7) . . . 10 new scholars arrived today . . .

12th) Sunday) It snowed all day. Went to Mr. Ludlow's church in the morning . . .¹

15) The snow is almost gone. Went down into the village in the afternoon with my chum and bought a carpet, table cloth and curtains for our room . . .

23) Thursday, Thanksgiving day. Went to church in the morning. Took dinner along with Wm. Hall at Mr. Ludlow's house. Had a fine dinner. In the afternoon I went to see the Rese[r]voir and Mr. Bushnell's iron works . . .²

Decr 1st. Friday) Myself and a few others went down into the grove and amused ourselves by pitching quoits and jumping.

2nd) Very rainy. When the teachers reported their classes this morning I found that I was 3rd in French, 2nd in Philosophy, 3rd in Latin and 6th in Algebra . . .

8) Today it cleared off. Today is my birth day—15. I was 7 in French Fables . . . I am 1st in Latin, 1st in Philosophy and 5 in Algebra . . .

11th) Today Mr. Bartlett gave out a subject from which the boys were to write a composition. The subject was Duties of Children to their parents . . .

12). Tuesday) The boys were playing Prisoner's Goal this afternoon. I sprain my thumb whilst playing so I have not went to the Gymnasium this week . . .

25) Christmas) Today it rained quite contrary to our expectations. We were not called up in the morning until 7½ o'clock. Had a very nice dinner. Some boys went down town in the morning and bought masks and in the afternoon Wm. [?] acted as a Girl and Lewis Angel as a Irishman and there were several other characters. In the afternoon Geo. Fairfield, two other boys and myself proposed to have a small party amongst ourselves in the evening so we went down into the village and bought some oysters and some other things. In the evening a number of boys dressed up as colored gentry and sung some songs and marched around the Play Hall, the Captain had on a dog mask. Upton Lindrum danced several times. About 9 o'clock we set down to our evening supper, at 11 we went to bed.

26) Last night it froze very hard so Mr. Bartlett let us go to slide down hill because it was too unpleasant yesterday to do so. We did not get up this morning until 7½ o'clock. In the afternoon we went skating. The ice was very smooth and we had a fine time of it. We liked to have had a quarrel with some village boys . . .

28) Today [Mr. Bartlett] told us he would take a number of boys with

him a sleigh riding every day this week. So he took a number with him in the afternoon and took a ride to Fishkill. The rest of the boys amused themselves with rideing down hill . . .

31. Sunday. This is the last Sunday of the old year. Mr. [Bartlett] said he hoped that this would be a day of meditation for us all . . .

[1st] Of January) 1849) The morning of this year has at last come. This morning Mr. Bartlett came out of his room and wished a happy New Year to all the boys, then we all wished [the same] and there was a considerable hum in the dormitory for about a quarter of an hour. After breakfast Mr. Bartlett gave out the money to the boys. I went down into the village with some other boys in the sleigh. Mr. Bartlett took us to see Mr. Bushnell's Iron furnace. It was well worth going to see . . .

2ond Today the boys returned to their usual studies. Mr. Bartlett took some boys a sleigh riding. I have made myself a book to put down my standing in the classes in so I shall not write them here . . .

6th) Saturday. In the afternoon we broke a new place for sliding down hill in the road. We went through the gate. We slid on it until 5½ o'clock. I saw some boys in the river skating today. Mr. Tooker's scholars were up here today to hear the classes examined.³ The Geometry and Latin Class failed and had to recite in the afternoon . . .

9th) Today Mr. Bartlett took some boys a sleig[h]riding. I was with them. We went about 7 or 8 miles. On our route we saw the men working on the Hudson River Railroad.⁴ We passed through several large and flourishing villages. I also saw Professor Morse's residence.⁵ On our return we stopped at a tavern and warmed ourselves and got some hot lemonade & crackers to eat. There were about 15 boys in the sleigh. We have a fine time of it.

10) Last night was the coldest that we have had this winter. Today from the school room window I saw two teams crossing the River. I did not slide down hill today because it was so cold. This morning Elexander [sic] took down town the invitations for the party and in the afternoon some boys went and got a sleigh load of green to trim the play hall & school room with. Tonight a number went down into the village to attend a county temperance gathering. I did not go.

11th) I did not slide down hill today. I staid and helped the boys trim the play hall. They have been busy at it all day. The party will come off tomorrow night. Some boys went and got another load of greens tonight so as to be sure to have enough. The boys got some ropes and drew them tight around the post in the play hall and bound greens on them. After this was done Mr. Bartlett hung it up in festoons along the side of the wall. There were not over 10 boys in the Gymnasium today. I have been down foot in Philosophy this week, the first time that I have been so this term.

12) The boys had to work pretty hard so as to finish trimming the hall. They had it done by 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Bartlett had two pianos put on the stage in the school room upon which Mr. Grube and some of the scholars were to play in the evening. Mr. Bartlett sent to the village in the afternoon for white gloves enough to supply us all. We all went up into the parlour about 7½ o'clock to pay our respects to Mrs. Bartlett. The company began to come about 8 o'clock. I should think that there were about 150 persons present. After a short time the company all assembled in the parlour to hear the music. First Mr. Grube & his brother played a tune on the two pianos. Then Mr. Grube with his violin and his brother on the piano & Mr. Simpson on a brass instrument played an beautiful tune.⁶ After this several boys went on the stage and sung. A good many then went into the

promenade hall to walk. The refreshments were then handed around by two waiters, after this a table was set up on which was Ice cream, Jelly Mottos etc. The company then began to leave. We went to bed at 12 o'clock . . .

19th) . . . [Eugene Beauharnais] Gibbs hurt himself this morning in riding down hill and F[reeman] Barnum and [John] Watts Kearny in the afternoon. We have to be very careful. Some boys get up at 4 o'clock and go and ride down hill . . .

21st) The weather is not quite so pleasant today. Went to church in the morning. Mr. Ludlow preached a sermon upon going to California. He was opposed to it.⁷ Mr. Bartlett after prayers in the evening remarked that this was the last Sunday of this quarter and he hoped that we would do our best so that we could carry home a clean list at the end of the quarter.

22) . . . Geo. Gordon smashed his finger this afternoon sliding down hill. Mr. Bartlett took him to the doctor. He said that if another boy was hurt he would keep us all off from the hill. Geo. Fairfield also hurt his face considerably. We can go with our sleds past the Washington garden. We had lemonade on the supper table tonight. After tea the boys played leap frog, twist tobacco and drop the handkerchief. We had fine sport. Mr. Bartlett came down into the play hall and tried to play leap frog too but he found out that he was rather too large.

23) . . . Mr. Bartlett said in the afternoon that after supper we must either go to our rooms and sit there or else come into the school room as a punishment for some of the boys schreeching whilst they were playing last night . . . I hurt myself slightly today in the Gymnasium. Some gentlemen were up to the school and they went and exercised there.

24) It is very warm. All the sliding, sleighing and skating is all spoilt. I went with a number of other boys a skating in the afternoon. But the ice was [so] soft that we could not skate and we returned almost immediately. What a great difference two warm days will make in winter. Where Saturday we could go past the Washington garden, now we cannot go through the gate. And we had fine skating on Saturday . . . Mr. Bartlett has had the picture of College Hill printed on the sheets of writing paper upon which the boys write their letters home. After tea the boys played drop the han[d]kerchief, Bull in the ring and leap frog. I had my coat off yet I was as sweaty as in the hottest summer day . . .

25) . . . In the morning Mr. Bartlett read off the reports for conduct and scholarship in the classes. I had 100 for conduct and 100 for scholarship. I had 100 for conduct in Latin and 92 for scholarship. I had 100 in French for conduct and 90 in scholarship. I had 94 in Algebra for scholarship and 100 for conduct. In the evening I went in Mrs. Hall['s] room to see Geo. Fairfield.⁸ He is sick abed . . .

26th) . . . After this the Rev. Mr. Waldron [L. F. Waldo?] is going [to] come here in the evening and attend to the compositions. He took a class with him into the recitation room tonight.

27) Saturday . . . In the afternoon I went with a number of boys to the creek in expectation of finding good skating there but it was all overflowed. We went on a little further and we came to a little pond about big enough to turn around on. We skated there for about 1½ hour. We made a fire on the ice but the farmer came and told us to put it out. We then went to a pond about 1 mile off but it was all slushy. There was a fence going through the middle of the pond. We all walked across on it. When we got to the end of it we jumped off on to good ice. Geo. Foote jumped and slip[p]ed back and fell—only wet him a little. We then thought it best to return home. We had not gone far before we came to a creek. The current was

very swift. There were two logs across it. We all crossed over on them. It made me dizzy to look at it when crossing over. We found some black birch & sassafras on our way and arrived at school in time . . . After supper I went with some other boys down to Yankee's to get some pancakes . . .

29th) . . . I read today the lives of eminent sculptors by Allan Cunningham . . . I went with a number of other boys in the afternoon to the creek to skate but it was not good skating there so Nathan B[angs], a few other boys and myself went to Skinner's mill pond. We had a good skate there and we returned to school in time so as not to have a tardy mark . . .

February 1st) . . . This term I have got as far as powers in Algebra. Written 43 exercises in French, read 49 Fables. Read 3 pages in Caesar. That is very little for 10 weeks. The Philosophy class has gone through 150 pages and reviewed it all. I forgot to state in yesterday's account that two boys were found to have two tumblers full of butter, two knives and a lot of bread in their trunks. Mr. Bartlett made them toast it and eat it all. I had a letter today from mother. She said that the firm of [John] van D[e]usan [Jr.] & [John I.] Gaul had failed for the sum of \$93,000. Mr. Mitchell is one of the consignees . . . I have borrowed Geo. Fairfield's french life of Washington. I am going to try and read it.

February 2nd) . . . Mr. Bartlett done up all the reports in envelopes tonight. I suppose he will send them tomorrow. After supper I did not participate in the amusements of the play hall this evening but put the things in my room in order. The ice in the river is still sound but I think it will be broken up by next week if this weather continues. I had to stay in the afternoon for being deficient in my Latin. I had to write it all out on the black board. Part of the class were also kept in with myself.

5th) . . . Aaron Innis⁹ brought the largest Cast Iron sled up to school today that I ever saw . . . All the boys went down in the village in the evening to hear Mr. Gough lecture . . .¹⁰

6th A new scholar arrived today . . . Two boys were severely lectured this evening for picking a quarrel with F. Ludlow.¹¹ If it had not been for Mrs. Bartlett we would have been sent away from school . . .

7) . . . Mr. Bartlett was taken sick today. He wrote a letter to the boys saying that if they were orderly he would give us a holiday on some pleasant afternoon . . .

8) Mr. Bartlett did not come into school being too unwell to do so . . . My class in book keeping began to le[d]gerize today . . . I have studied hard this week and I think that I shall have a better standing in my class than I have had for two or three weeks. Walworth Jenkins and myself popped a lot of corn this afternoon. Most all the boys were engaged in this business. My chum is still unwell . . .

9 . . . Most all the boys went down into the village in the evening to hear Mr. Gough lecture. I walked down and back with Geo. Fairfield. Mr. Bartlett gave us some crackers before we went to bed . . . We had news tonight that Hyler had whipped Yankee Sullivan in a prize fight and had injured him so that he was not expected to live.¹²

10th The weather is warm today. Mr. Bartlett said that he would let us have this morning for the holiday which he promised. I amused myself by riding down hill. This morning a boy put up a valentine at lottery. There were 8 tickets at 1/ per ticket. A boy got it. He sold it to another. Mr. Bartlett found it out and made the party concerned refund the money . . . In the afternoon I exercised in the gymnasium a short time and then Wm. Hall and myself popped a mess of corn and rode down hill the rest of the afternoon . . . Mr. Bartlett went down town and brought Mr. Gough up to stay with him.

11th . . . In the afternoon Mr. Bartlett read to us a short and impressive sermon on the deluge. We had crackers on the supper table and Mr. Bartlett went around the table and asked all the boys whether they had any in their pockets or not. One boy said no and Mr. Bartlett felt of his pockets and brought out a plate full. In the evening Mr. Gough & his wife came in and attended prayers. After prayers Mr. Gough gave us a short and interesting lecture. He warned us of the wine cup and admonished us never to point the finger of scorn at a person who was doing what he thought right.

12th. When I went out doors this morning to get my water I found it was cold and snowing quite hard. It has snowed all day today . . . I had to write the word disobedience 100 times today as a task. I was studying my lesson with another boy without Mr. Bartlett's permission. The hands of the school clock were put back too far and it was found out . . . In the evening a number of the boys went to hear Mr. Gough lecture. Those that remained home amused themselves by playing Jury.

13th . . . Mr. Warring gave us experiments in the philosophy class upon electricity . . .¹³ We all took hold of each others hands and tried the effects of the Leyden Jar. Some boys took it up to ten turns. The first time we tried it my hand jerked so that it knocked the jar on the floor. Fortunately the fall did not injure it any. Mr. Bartlett told us tonight that every boy must be prepared for to speak tomorrow night.

14th Mr. Bronson & his wife have been up here today to hear the classes recite. I got down in Latin and I did not [get] a chance to get up again . . . I was quite mortified upon getting down while Mr. Bronson and his wife were present. My mistakes were in pronunciation . . .

15 . . . Just about 7 weeks from today and the term will be ended. I will be very glad when the time comes for going home. I have learned to do more things in the gymnasium this week than all the rest of the term . . . There were a good many valentines received here today—none for me. I noticed that Fairfield looked rather sad when he found he had not got any . . .

16th There was very good sliding down hill today. We could slide from the gate and clear all the hills . . . After supper the philosophy class went down into Mr. Warring's room where he gave us some experiments on electricity. Mr. Bartlett kept the boys speaking tonight until 9½ o'clock.

17th Saturday . . . My standing in the class for the past week was 2nd in French, 2nd in Algebra, 3rd in Latin and 3rd in philosophy. This is the best standing I have had this quarter. I bought a sleigh today from Isaac Bronson . . .

19th . . . After supper I went to ride down hill with a few other boys and got a tardy mark, the 1st and I hope the last one this quarter. A good many boys went this evening to a concert given by Mr. Grube. I had to declaim this evening. Those that are deficient are obliged to speak on Saturday afternoon and are marked deficient besides.

20th . . . From the colonnade we saw today a horse race on the river. There were a great number of persons on the ice. . .

21st . . . When the boys were riding down hill today Mr. Bartlett's hired man was driving a load of coal up the hill. The boys hitched on their sleds. He told them to get off. They did not do it and he backed his team down the hill and made the fellows scamper. Mr. Waldron was up here in the evening to hear the classes in composition. He gave us the privilege to choose any subject we pleased for a composition next time.

22. Today is the birth day of Washington. The boys knew it and as Mr. Bartlett had gone off they felt very lively . . . The whole school have to go without crackers for two weeks. We had to go without crackers because the boys crowded around D. Bartlett¹⁴ when giving out crackers and he:

would not give out any more. Then some of the boys went into the kitchen and got some . . .

24th. There was a fire last night in the village. Innises factory burned down . . .¹⁵ A number of boys went down into the village this afternoon to see the fire . . .

25. Sunday . . . Mr. Ludlow sent a note to church saying that he requested the prayers of the church for his wife who was not expected to live and that he would not be able to preach at present on account of his lungs being diseased . . . In the evening a number of boys went to attend a meeting at the New Dutch Church. This is the first Sunday that it has been opened . . .¹⁶ I like to work in the gymnasium now very well as I can exercise better than I could at the commencement of the term. I began to write down the translation of the French Life of Washington today . . .

27th . . . Word was sent to Mr. Bartlett this afternoon that Mrs. Ludlow had died this morning at 10 o'clock. He made a few remarks to us upon the uncertainty of life. In the afternoon I wrote a composition upon Truth . . .

[March] 2nd. The weather was rather chilly. We all went in procession to the funeral of Mrs. Ludlow in the presbyterian church. The ceremonies were very impressive. The church was full. In the afternoon Wm. Hall, Isaac Bronson & myself went down into the woods, built a fire & melted some lead and run it into a mould . . . Some boys when they went from the church did not go to the grave . . . Mr. Bartlett said that they had disgraced the school.

3rd . . . In the afternoon Wm. Hall, Isaac Bronson and myself got some potatoes, apples and gingerbread and went down into the woods & made a fire . . . We roasted our potatoes and we had a large fire which kept us warm . . .

4th. Sunday. I went to church this morning. Mr. Ludlow preached a very affecting sermon. The roads were very muddy and the walking was very unpleasant. In the evening after prayers Mr. Bartlett told us that five weeks from tonight . . . we would be around our own firesides. He also said that he held the reins of the school rather tighter at the close of the term than at the commencement because he said he was not going to pat a boy on the head and call him a good fellow so as to induce him to come back.

5th. Today is the inauguration day of General Taylor as president and also the birth day of Brother Willie [William St. John Seymour] who is now ten years old . . .

7th . . . This morning when I came down to my room I found my pitcher broken. There were several other pitchers broken belonging to other boys. Mr. Bartlett said that if the boys that done it would not report themselves he would lay a[n] injunction on the school Saturday afternoon. I received a valentine today dated Feb. 16. It had been advertised in the newspaper . . . In the evening after supper some of the boys blew the lights out. Mr. Bartlett made us all go to our rooms and sit in total darkness until we were called in school . . .

8th. Last night the lamp in the play hall was disposed of by someone. Mr. D. Bartlett opened the gymnasium in the afternoon. In the evening a number of the boys spoke. I suppose I shall have to speak tomorrow night. Tonight was the eclipse of the moon.

9th. Nothing was missing last night except a looking glass in [George Vincent] Pomeroy's [Jr.] room . . .

10th. Saturday . . . Until the end of the term the classes will recite as usual on Saturday morning. I played marbles in the afternoon with Isaac Bronson . . .

Thursday [May] 11th, 1849. I commenced my second term of boarding

school education today, after a vacation of 5 weeks, again to resume my studies and to share with my schoolmates the joys and sorrows of College Hill life. I came from Hudson on the Steamboat Alida. I met T[heodore] Garbrecht and Asa Holt on the dock. I staid and took dinner with them à Skinner's [Hotel]. About 3½ oclock R[obert] Pollo[c]k came after us to carry us up to College Hill. After I had been up there a little while I went to take my trunks into Mrs. Hall's room when I found that one of them was gone. I suppose that it is left at Skinner's. If it is not brought up by 1 oclock tomorrow I shall ask Mr. Bartlett to go after it. There are quite a number of new scholars here this term . . .

[May] 11th 1849.

I got up about 5 oclock this morning. It was too pleasant a morning to lay in bed. I went out doors and had a first rate game of ball before breakfast. I went into the Geography class this morning . . . There are 22 boys in the class. Some of the biggest boys in school are in it . . . My trunk did not come by 1 oclock so chum and myself went down town to see about it. We walked down to Skinner's and found that it was there. I then went to R. Pollo[c]k and told him about it. He said he would send it at 5 oclock . . . There is a young man here who is going to assist Mr. Bartlett this term in teaching Elocution. He has been under the instruction of Comstock. Mr. Bartlett said that he intended to have an exhibition in the church at the end of the term, but he said that some persons in the church thought that the church was too holy a place to be used for such purposes. Quel! too holy a place for exhibiting literary attainments which God has endowed us with. Mr. B. said that the consequences of refusing might be rather unpleasant to them because the church was built as a chapel to this school.¹⁷

[May] 12th, 1849.

Saturday. Mr. Nairne gave us a lecture this morning upon our language.¹⁸ He traced the source of the english language and told us that a person could not profess to be thoroughly acquainted with his own language without some knowledge of another language. Mr. B. called on the boys who made a disturbance in the dormitory last night to report themselves else he would lay an injunction on the school this afternoon. In the morning J. [J.] Dwight, P[hilander B.] White, J[ames Abercrombie] Burden, J[ames] Marshall and myself agreed to go boating if Mr. B. would give us permission. He gave us permission on the ground that Mr. Pulis¹⁹ should go with us and we should be under his orders. We went down to the village about 3 oclock. We hired a boat . . . On our way we saw a sloop ahead of us. We all rowed hard to get up to it. We asked the men on board if they had any objection to giving us a tow. They said no. We fastened our boat on to theirs and were chuckling among ourselves at the prospect of being towed to Milton and spared the trouble of rowing. P. White then went on board the sloop. When he told us to our chagrin that the sloop was laying at anchor we immediately pushed off and pursued our way to Milton. We came to a small cove and we thought we would stop and rest ourselves. We went on shore and rambled about. I cut my name on a tree. We then embarked again and soon reached Milton . . . We stopped long enough at Milton to get some oysters. We had the tide with us coming back and did not go slow. On our way back we saw 7 blasts on the route of the Railroad. The way the stones rattled in the water was a caution. We had the waves of the steamboats Robert Annet and Highlander coming back. We got back about 7 o'clock . . . We proposed to form a club among ourselves for the purpose of boating and always go together so as to get accustomed to each other's rowing and race with the other boats. We got so used to each other's rowing going to Milton and back that we hardly missed a stroke . . .

May 13th 1849

Sunday . . . We went to the Dutch Church this morning. It is a beautiful church. Inside the walls are all frescoed. Behind the pulpit it is made to represent an open court supported by pillars [and] looking out upon a beautiful landscape . . . We had a fine sermon but I thought that it was too lengthy. I saw the Herald today which contained a full account of the proceedings of the mob in New York against Macre[a]dy the great English actor. There were 10 or 15 thousand persons in the mob. In the first place they were contented with driving him off the stage by means of rotten eggs and &c. But a few nights afterwards when he performed again the mob demolished almost every thing in the Astor House and the military were called out who fired and killed and wounded about 30. All this destruction and deprivation of human life arose from a private quarrel between the two great actors, For[r]est and Macre[a]dy. I think that it is an disgrace to the City of New York. Why should not the rights of a foreign actor be respected especially when this nation has Liberty for its motto.

May 14th 1849

The sun shone out brightly this morning and all nature around us looked pleasant. Mr. Bartlett called us up this morning at 5½ o'clock. I think that the school will be more regular this week . . . Our Caesar Class commenced Virgil today. Mr. Aweng²⁰ put me in the third Class in French. I will have to write 20 exercises before I can get up to the rest of the class . . . I exercised in the gymnasium today for the first time this term . . .

May 17th, 1849

. . . The boys are beginning to fly kites. They put up one this evening with a lanthorn on. I like Mr. Nairne very much as a teacher because he is such a good conversation[al]ist and explains our lessons.

May 18th 1849

. . . News were received in Poughkeepsie today that the steamboat Empire of Troy was stove in in the stern and sunk near Newburgh. There were about 600 persons on board but fortunately the Steamboat Rip Van Winkle was not far behind and took off a number of the passengers. 6 or 7 bodies have been found. The details of this melancholy accident have not yet been published. Those that had charge of the sloop must have been very careless. P. White who has an uncle on board that boat received a telegraphic despatch this evening saying that he was saved . . . Mr. Bartlett mentioned the awful providence of the wreck of the Steamboat Empire tonight after prayers.²¹

May 19th, 1849

Saturday . . . In the afternoon four boat loads of boys went a rowing. We went to the quarry. Mr. Nairne went with us. I read quite a chapter of disastrous events in the newspaper today. 1st that Half of Watertown was in ruins from a great conflagration, 2nd that the city of New Orleans was inundated and that boys boats were going in the streets, 3rd that there had been a great fire in St. Louis. Property destroyed must have been between 6 or 7 millions. The extent of the burnt district is about one mile long and three blocks wide. Coming back we stopped at Mr. Frost's for ice cream.²²

May 20th, 1849

. . . It seems to me that the Sundays are more lon[e]lier than they were last winter. Not that the summers are lonely but because it lies in me. I used to talk a good deal with Geo. Fairfield in our rooms on Sundays. I should think that a boy's first Sabbath from home must be very lonely.

May 21st 1849

. . . James Burden's father was here visiting the school today.²³ P. White had a letter today saying that his mother was on board the Empire when she was wrecked. Gibbs and Pomeroy made a Kite about 7½ feet high and set

it up in the evening with a copper wire so as to collect some electricity from the atmosphere. The electrometer showed some signs of electricity . . .

May 22nd 1849

The weather has been very pleasant today. Mr. Bartlett mentioned this evening the circumstances of Taldes being expelled. He had been drinking down town in the Empire Saloon . . . Mr. Bartlett gave out Milton's Paradise lost to the Rhetoric class. They are sold at the high price of 2/-. To what perfection must printing be carried so as to be able to sell books at such a low price . . .

May 23rd, 1849

. . . In the afternoon I put down my carpet and made the room look a little more decent. It took me all moonspell . . .

May 24th 1849

. . . The Hendrick Hudson raced with the Confidence going up today . . . Mr. Bisbee²⁴ does not know (I think) how to teach Algebra. In one sense of the word he can perform the sums but he does not explain them clearly . . . I hope when I go home on the 4th of July that the Steamboat New World will be running.²⁵ P. White and myself were sent to bed before supper for throwing water at each other.

May 25th 1849

. . . The Confidence went by here today at 20 minutes to 11. Senator Little whose son [William S. Little] is here visited the school today . . . Mr. Bartlett said tonight that if he found any boy reading any novel or book [at] prayer time he would expell him.

May 26th 1849

Saturday . . . In the afternoon I went and took a walk into the country along with five other boys. In the evening most of the boys went to hear the negro minstrels the Campbells at the City Hall. I went down with Wm. Hall. The performances were very good. I have never seen such good dancing. We went to bed about 10½ o'clock. A number of compositions selected from 4 divisions were read this morning, mine among them. The geography class were called on the floor. They could hardly answer a question. Mr. Bartlett said that it was just what he expected. He also said that in two or three weeks he would have the young ladies schools up here especially to hear the geography class recite. Whew!

May 27th 1849

Sunday. The weather was very pleasant today. I went to church in the morning with Isaac Bronson. I think Poughkeepsie is a very pretty place in summer. The trees I think are its principal ornaments . . . In the evening after prayers Mr. Bartlett continued reading Foster's essay on Decision of Characters. After that Mr. Nairne got up and spoke to us. Before he got through more than half the school had their heads laying upon their desks and about a dozen were wrapped in the arms of Morpheus. Mr. Bartlett woke them up and made them hear, keeping them up much longer than they would have had to . . .

May 28th 1849

. . . P. White seems to want not to have anything to do with me, by his actions. I sent him a note today about it. I have not spoken to him for two days. [George Brayton] Boardman's father and mother are visiting here today. We had an exercise in Elocution this evening. Mr. [George Smith] Boardman is a minister. He took the place of Mr. Bartlett this evening at prayers.

May 29th 1849

. . . My Virgil class made a complete failure today and Mr. Warring would have kept us after school if Dr. Coles had not come here for the purpose

of addressing us on the subject how to preserve our health. In the main he said what was true but he committed some extravagancies in speaking of tobacco, which will injure his credit. He said for instance, Where is the man so low, mean, dirty and beastly as to use tobacco. Why some of the most learned, refined, gentlemanly and religious men use the weed. He could say that it was a pernicious habit but he ought not to run upon such a snag as that . . .

May 30th 1849

. . . This morning went out after a pitcher of water as usual. Jim Burden was there and he politely threw the contents of his pitcher upon me. The chief damage was wetting my shirt. I chased him through the wet grass until I had the satisfaction of sousing his pantaloons. He had to change his pants, I my shirt . . .

May 31st 1849

. . . In the afternoon the Luca coloured family performed in the school room. There were four boys accompanied by their father. They were all good singers and the littlest, who was 11 y. old, performed admirably on the piano. The boys gave them about 6 or 7 dollars. They are to perform in the village tonight . . .^{25a}

June 1st 1849

. . . The Hendrick Hudson and Confidence passed here at 10½ o'clock. Mrs. Hall told me today that it was reported that there was Cholera in the village. I hope that it is not true. Isaac Bronson and myself are going to make a net . . . There were a good many beds scotched in the dormitory last night. Jim Burden who sleeps next to me has had his bed scotched every night this week and last night when he went to bed he hauled off all his bed clothes and make it right. When he got snugly ensconced in bed his head board tumbled down then he jumped up (and did not say anything). When he got in again he had the misfortune to tumble through, somebody having removed a peg. I do not know anything about [it] though he lays it all to me. Poor Jim, how manifold are thy sorrows. I gave him the benefit of the light that had been placed over my alcove until Mr. B. took it away.

June 2nd 1849

Saturday . . . I went yesterday down to the creek to see some boys who had made a seine draw for fish. They had fishermans luck for after beating in the water for about 2 hours they only caught 6 or 7 small fish. Isaac Bronson is sick abed today with the mumps and divers other diseases. A new Spaniard came today. His name is Joseph Olivar. There are six Spaniards in school, one being sent away . . .

June 3rd 1849

. . . This has been a very dull day for me though the weather is pleasant. The boys improved the pleasantness of the weather in walking around the el[l]ipse and lying under the trees on Sundays. I wish that I was at home but in winter it was not so lonely because then the boys could not go out and we used to congregate in each other's room, and also Geo. Fairfield was here.

June 4th 1849

. . . The boys all expected the New World to pass today but it did not come and were wo[e]fully disappointed. I heard there were a great many persons on the dock expecting her . . . We played both shinney and foot ball today. It occasioned a good many disputes.

June 5th 1848

. . . A new spaniard 11 years old came today. He cannot speak a word of English . . . In the evening we all went in swimming. I went in with my life preserver and went where it was over my depth. Coming back we found two birds nests . . . Jim Burden's bed was not scotched last night for the

first time in a week . . .

June 6th 1849

Very pleasant. The New World did not go down today . . . I got up this morning at 5 o'clock to study my lessons . . . That Spaniard who came yesterday I think will be a good worker in the gymnasium before the end of the term for he takes right hold of it . . .

June 7th 1849

. . . Whenever Mr. Kellog takes charge of the school room the boys have a good deal of fun. One Spaniard in particular whistles most of the time . . . Tonight P. White got me in my room and told me to give him some almonds and began cutting up. When I made believe angry and struck at him with a screw driver he left the room very angry. I lay on the floor and had a hearty laugh. Suppose that he does not intend to speak to me.

June 8th 1849

. . . A dancing master comes up every Monday and Wednesday to teach some boys in dancing.²⁶ Asa Holt went home today to stay a short time. Mr. Bartlett forbid[s] us playing at shinney any more because Isaac Bronson got badly hurt. The boys played football in the play hall this morning and Mr. Bartlett took it away and kept it all day. We had fun with it after school. There was a good deal of carrying on and noise in the dormitory tonight. Tuluaga was the principal one. I think that he will be turned away before the end of the term.

June 9th 1849

. . . In the afternoon Chum, [George T.] Lane, Campbell and myself took a walk. We went up the creek as far as the new barn and who should we see there but Gibbs and [Edward] Prime standing in the water. They had been fishing with their seine all the afternoon and had not caught a single fish. Fisherman's luck is pot luck and a hungry stomach . . . Yankee told us today that a man in the village had the Cholera. We all went down to the creek after supper to bathe. The water was very cold, did not stay in. Mrs. Hall does not have to scrub the boys during warm weather. Yankee keeps Root beer for the accomodation of the *public* . . .

June 11th 1849

. . . I received a letter from Mother this morning. I shall put down here the particulars contained in it. She says, (There was a case of cholera reported at Athens yesterday. Your Father and myself attended Mary Mitchell's wedding Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock. Dr. [John] Gosman performed the ceremony. Mr. North and Miss Congden stood up with them.²⁷ She was married in her travelling dress and left at 1 p. m. for Niagara. They had a table set in the dining room with oysters—Ice-cream—Fruit—Lemonade, Coffee, sandwiches and various kinds of cake. The Bride's cake was beautiful. They sent out about two hundred boxes of cake, very pretty style. There were about thirty persons present. The Folgers arrived from New Orleans Monday evening. I went up Tuesday to see them. Mrs. F. looked very happy and appears the same as when she left Hudson) . . . News were received this evening that another person had died down town with the cholera. She died at 4 o'clock this afternoon . . .²⁸ The Steamboats do not go by at present till about 11½ o'clock on account of the fog. It says in the paper that the New World is to go up river tomorrow and is to run opposition with the little James Madison. Almost any large boat on the river can beat her . . .

June 12th 1849

. . . The New World went by today about 11½ o'clock. Quite [a lot of] excitement among the boys all wishing to see her. She seems to be a very large boat . . . I was taken with a severe pain in my neck this afternoon. Perhaps it will turn out to be the mumps but I think it is too severe. Was.

excused and went to bed early in the evening.

June 13th 1849

. . . A new scholar came from New Haven today. I worked on the net today. We had got it about 9 feet long when my chum knit a row across and spoiled all the row. I cut off my side and Ike cut off his leaving about 5 feet. Ike gave me that and the ball of twine for 1/-. Mrs. Hall killed a copper head snake in her room this morning. The boys have begun to make boats. Gibbs and Primes nett is about 20 feet long. The singing class sing[s] in the school room. Innis keeps me company in Mrs. Hall's room. I hope I shall be better soon for it is not any fun. I would a great deal rather be in school.

June 14th 1849

Very restless last night. Staid in Mrs. Hall's room today, read some in a book called Adam Brown. Innis went home in the afternoon. Received a letter from Geo. Fairfield . . . He did not write me a long letter nor answer any questions in my letter. I wish that he would write me a decent letter and not talk so much about the girls. Went up to bed after dinner and had a good nap. Slept about two hours and a half. Henry Dudley's mother came to see him today . . .

June 15th 1849

Rather better today. Went into school this afternoon and recited my virgil lesson. Watts Kearny was taken with the mumps today and went down with some boys in the evening to hear the Swiss bell ringers. He was taken very sick and was carried home. I saw the New World, and Alida pass. Went to bed this morning but could not go to sleep. I have not exercised in the gymnasium this week. I shall try to make it up next week. Gibbs and Prime are hard at work on their net. They will have it finished by tomorrow . . . Mr. Aweng (for a wonder) is unwell. I guess that he will have little more pity on the boys after this for he will find out what it is to be sick.

June 16th 1849

Saturday. My being absent two or three days the past week has put me down in my classes. I shall try to make it up next week. We had a pretty easy Saturday forenoon. We were out of school the greater part of the morning. The New World passed before the Alida was in sight. Prime and Gibbs finished their net today. It is about 32 feet long and 10 feet wide. They went down to the creek, dragged three times and caught 80 large suckers. We took them up to school, they were cleaned and are to have them for breakfast tomorrow morning . . . Ike Bronson brought me a pack of fire-crackers this afternoon. The boys are going to put little cannons on their boats and fight each other. Tuluaga set a fire cracker off in the dormitory last night . . .

June 17th 1849

Sunday . . . Most of the boys went to the Episcopal church to attend a confirmation there. There were 27 persons confirmed one of whom was James Marshall a member of the school . . . Kearny is so weak that he can scarcely sit up. How mumps will prostrate a person if he is careless. If he had not gone down town to the bell ringers I think that he would have had them very light . . .

June 18th 1849

. . . This morning I felt worse and I was out of school all day. Was with Watts Kearny most of the time. Poor fellow how I pitied him when he laughed. It hurt him dreadfully. Began to work on my net again today . . . The old fellow who owns the farm bordering on the creek where we go in swimming says that we cant come there any more because we happened to trample down about 10 feet of swamp grass. Give me an old New England

farmer. One of these old dutch farmers would skin a flint to save a penny. We shall have to go without swimming . . .

June 20th 1849

. . . The barber came up today to operate on the boy's heads. After supper the large boys went to the river to bathe and those that could not swim went to a place called the cholick.²⁹ I walked down to the river with the boys and was sorry I done so for my neck began to hurt me and it did not stop till after I had got on the hill. It is a very long walk down to the river, about 2½ miles. It was about 9½ o'clock when we went to bed. The thermometer was up to 87° in the shade. Whew.

June 21st 1849

Very warm today. I employ all my time out of school in working on my nett. It is too hot to go outdoors. After supper the boys went to the cholick[k] to bathe. It was a very pretty place, but then the smell was exceedingly offensive, because the stream was beautifully interspersed with calves heads and other interesting objects from a slaughter house by which the stream ran. I should think that Mr. Bartlett would not allow the boys to go to such a place. Mr. Bartlett (the weather being so warm) did not make us go to bed until about 10 o'clock. Some of us were sitting on the bench when we heard something fall on the ground. Pretty soon something else came. We found it to be two pitchers which somebody had thrown out from the dormitory window. The boys if they carry on at all ought to wait until after the 4th of July.

June 22nd 1849

Not so warm as yesterday. The boys went in swimming in Skinner's pond. It is a great deal better place than the cholick. After we had come back Innis fired off some fire crackers. Mr. Bartlett called on the boy who done it to report himself. He accordingly reported himself . . . John McCoun and Holt in my french class cheat Frenchy out [of] his eyes and I have to suffer for it. I shall try and do as well as I can and endeavor to have a good standing next week.

June 23rd 1849

Saturday . . . Received a letter from Father this morning telling me to come home the Saturday before the 4th of July along with Isaac Bronson. I saw a programme of the order of the procession in a Hudson paper received by Isaac Bronson. The three fire companies 1, 2, 3, the Worths Volunteers, two cannon companies, the car[t]men and &c are to turn out . . .

June 24th 1849

. . . A couple of gentlemen are visiting Mr. Bartlett today. One of them was a scholar of Mr. Bartlett 12 years ago. He is now in the navy. I heard him at the supper table talking of the Dead Sea and Mount Versuvius . . .

June 25th 1849

. . . Jim thinks that he will bring his brother with him when he comes back. He is about 11 years old. I would not let my brother come at that age for he would learn all sorts of mischief too soon . . .

June 27th 1849

. . . Today Mr. Bartlett called the roll for those boys that were going home to spend the 4th of July, for what purpose I do not know. Mr. Dud said today that he spoke to Mr. Bartlett today about making a pond. He said that he would give Dudley to make one with \$100. I guess that it will not be made this summer or next neither. I measured my net this afternoon. It is about 14 ft. long. I shall knit more on it . . .

June 28th 1849

. . . Phil White is not coming back. I have not spoken to him yet. I suppose that I will have to bid him goodbye. The boys played I spy the wolf

after supper. Mrs. Hall has the list of boys going home and she is getting their clothes ready for them. Gordon and Lindrum feel very sour because they cannot go home . . .

July 9th 1849

I went home the Saturday before the 4th of July in the Steamboat New World. Mr. Bartlett kept us in school until the last minute. Most all the Troy boys went home. I shook hands with P. White and bid him Good bye when I went ashore. I have not spoken to him for two or three weeks. Charley Warring stopped at Hudson and went out to Dr. Bronson's house. I have had very pleasant times whilst I was home. I have been to see Isaac Bronson and Charley Folger several times. On the 4th of July I got up at 4 o'clock to fire my cannon. There was quite a large p[ro]cession and the fireworks in the evening were beautiful. On Friday Night . . . About 1½ I was awoke by the cry of fire. Looking out of my window I saw that it was [James T.] Perkin's machine shop. It was entirely consumed and it was with much difficulty that Martins Hotel was saved. The fire commenced in the upper story and the hose were found to be cut thus proving it to be the work of an incendiary.³⁰ I went to bed about 4½ o'clock and slept three hours. On Friday there was a turn out of the coloured population, *quite a display*. Father bought Willie and myself a violin. I got a pr. of pants and a vest made by Mr. Bachman . . . In the afternoon to Dr. [William B.] Van Vlecks, I went to get my tooth filled. The old fellow cut my lip. In the evening we all went to hear a concert by the Derwort family consisting of 3 girls and a boy ages 7, 10, 13, 5. The little boy plays on the bass viol. He plays Yankee Doodle and its variations on one string.³¹ I came down in the New World . . . Got to Poughkeepsie about 12 o'clock. Met Pomeroy, Allen and Garbrecht on the dock. Isaac and myself went right up to school. What pleasant emotions I experienced when I was almost to the school . . . I wrote a letter to Phil. White this afternoon. After supper I went with Isaac and Oliver Bronson after raspberries. We got about half a pitcher full. We put some sugar on them and eat them. They did not taste bad.

July 11th 1849

Last night when I lay in bed I thought about where I was on Sunday night . . . There is no chance for my getting up in French and Algebra while the boys cheat as they now do. There is no cheating in C. Warring's class. He is a good teacher but I think that he is a mean man in some respects . . . Kearny, White and [James C.] Cook are not coming back, I believe . . . I feel quite sore in my breast and arms from exercising on the bars yesterday. I have not worked enough on them this term. Last term they brought me right along . . . If I was home I should have a vacation of five weeks from the 21st of this month but at the end of this term I shall have a long vacation for I shall go in the store and try to be of service to my father who has generously given me all the advantages that lie in his power. A new scholar came today from St. Louis. His name is Charles Aldridge. He is altogether too free for a new scholar.

July 12th 1849

. . . [George] Wilson slipped in the play hall and fell on Asa Holt's knife. It went in very deep and he lost a good deal of blood. Holt and [William] Bolles had the presence of mind to bind a handkerchief around his arm until Mr. Warring came and put a stick into it and dressed the wound. Today I think is the hottest that we have had this summer. It is indeed a sweltering day . . . Charley Warren, Ludlow and myself split a post of the spring board in the Gymnasium. Charley Warring sent us up to the house. I do not know how much we will have to pay for it. The boys cannot go swimming at the creek any more for the owner has forbidden it.

July 14th 1849

Saturday . . . Yesterday I made an alma[na]ck and put it on my desk. It is 84 days 12 weeks before we can go home. Only think of it . . . There were two serious re[n]contres this morning, but no one hurt. One was between Gordon and Morris and the other Hall and Punderford. These events will be chronicled in the journals of the boys but they will soon be forgotten by the scholars of college Hall among the passing and startling events of our life. I am going to make some catnip cigars today, for real ones have a prohibition upon them. This morning a sudden gale sprang up and I saw a good many sloops on the river with torn sails and scudding before the wind under bare poles. Some sloops I think must have been capsized for it came on so sudden. It has been blowing a stiff breeze all day . . . Wrote a letter to Geo. Fairfield. I hope when he answers it he will write a good long letter not about girls and nonsense but something that a boy away to Boarding School would like to hear about . . . I got my milk today at the dinner table for the first time since I have been back. I hope it will be as cool tomorrow as it has been today for it is a hard job to walk down to church and sit on the hard boards, and then come sweltering up the big hill on our way back. After supper Isaac Bronson wanted me to go down with him after some fine Cinnamon to make cinnamon segars. We hurried down and back and got back just before the 2nd bell . . . Mr. Bartlett called the roll tonight for using tobacco. Only two boys reported themselves out of the whole school. I should think over 1/2 of the boys in school have been smoking today. The dormitory is very cold, the wind blowing and the windows rattling so as to make it almost impossible to go to sleep . . .

July 15th 1849

. . . This morning Mr. Bartlett read to us an eulogy upon the late [Ex-] President Polk who died of the cholera and also spoke about the day for thanksgiving which the President has set.³² Walked to church with D. Campbell. Mr. Ludlow preached a bold sermon upon the effects of giving away to anger. He mentioned the murders that had been committed in this county during the last 4 years out of revenge and especially the last one of [John] Fonda who killed [Dennis] Dody. How he did give the Jury a scorching for acquit[t]ing Fonda. The circumstances are these (it took place in an iron foundry). Dody was passing by a passage when some sand came in his face. Being a very passionate man he rushed upon Fonda a boy 17 years old and beat him severely holding his head down in the sand. Dody then turned away and was talking with some of the shop men when Fonda seized a shovel, came up behind him, made two or three passes with it and then sunk it into his skull. I think Mr. Ludlow was right. He took a bold and decided step against permitting a murderer to go free thus giving a bad influence over the community. Every boy then when he gets angry may think he has a perfect right to take the life of him who had wronged him thus taking the law of God and man in defiance and executing it himself. Mr. Ludlow said that he would [not] change places with Fonda for the whole world for unless he repents his future life will be one of unmitigated misery . . .³³ The bread on the supper table was so sour the boys could not eat it. I suppose it was some J. Bartlett could not sell by hook or crook so he sold it to Charley for us College Hill Rats or Vinegar Hill boys as the loafers call us.³⁴

July 16th 1849

. . . Watts Kearny came today. He has had quite a vacation. He [is] going to leave here the 1st of August and then go to college. This afternoon the boys found a bees nest and stormed it and took pos[s]ession of the honey. Wm. [Augustus] Thompson was stung in two places on his face and several other boys received their pay . . .

July 18 1849

This day has been replete with events and will be recollected in our chronicles of College Hill Life until the end of the term at least. Had to write out my verbs in Latin. Fought a bee's nest this afternoon. Merritt and Hall were stung. The men are mowing Mr. Bartlett's grass. This afternoon Mr. Bartlett went away. At the supper table Tuluaga commenced throwing bread. Bisbee made him leave the hall, though not until Mr. Nairne told him he had better go. When we got out from the supper table we had a good deal of fun with John C. Pulis and when Kellog came out we all put up a groan. Upon this he turned round and says you shant go swimming, just as if he had all to say about it. The boys groaned twice again and he left the field. A new Spaniard came today not to learn the English language but the Spanish. He has been in this country 9 years and has forgot his native language.

July 19th 1849

We have had a too long continuance of pleasant weather for it has turned into a drought. We have need of rain . . . Tib. Lane is going home saturday. The boys amuse themselves a good deal at Oliver Bronsons greenness, walking about staring with his mouth wide open . . . I never asked Mr. Bartlett yet for any thing without he refused me. I am going to ask for Domingo's seat. He is going to leave on Saturday.

July 20th 1849

. . . We had a delightful shower this afternoon for which the farmer ought to be thankful after this drought. Charley Warring kept all the Virgil class in for not knowing a rule. After he had kept me there about an hour he called Oliver Bronson into the room for making a noise. He came in laughing which set our faces in a grin. Charley Warring made us write laughing 100 times and in addition to that I had to write talking 50 times . . . As for the Algebra classes, the one who can cheat and lie the best can keep the nearest head . . . Old Pulis is going to leave next week. A good many boys owe him a grudge. He ought to have a dressing down before he leaves. I think now and have thought all this term that the second term is not altogether the easiest.

July 21st 1849

This morning Frenchy gave in his report for the last quarter. He gave me 90 in scholarship and 95 in attendance. He told Mr. Bartlett that I had maximum last term, upon which Mr. B. said that I had not 100 in conduct in the school room and told all about my not being so good a boy this term as last right before the boys and teachers. I have done as well as I could this term but Mr. Bartlett has not treated me as he did last term, nor Frenchy either. Charley Bartlett sent me to bed before I had been here a week for throwing water. I am determined to act right the next quarter and then if my report is bad I cannot help it. Mr. B. had the Geography class on the floor this morning for about one hour. We made a splendid examination. I missed every question but one. I staid in school and wrote my composition this afternoon. The subject is on the Passions. Tib. Lane went home today. A beautiful schooner was launched at the dock today. There are several cases of cholera in town . . .

July 22nd 1849

Sunday . . . Jim Burden and myself sat together in church. He was quite taken up with a girl down stairs. He said she was the handsomest girl he ever saw. A good many boys smoked today. Believe if there was no rule against it there would be no more than there is. Dudley Ruan and the other little fellows smoke to show how big they can be . . .

July 23rd 1849

. . . The boys had fun fighting bees and hornets nests. Foote was stung

in two places, on the foot and eye. Two new scholars from town came here today, one by the name of [Marvin Richardson] Vincent and the other Fonda. Jim Burden, Charley Warren and myself took a walk in the grove in the evening. Got a comfortable seat and talked about the stirring occurrences of last term and sundry other matters. (*We did not smoke though*) as many other boys did.

July 24th 1849

. . . I wrote home to take up Spanish and leave off Latin. Father thinks I would not be much benefited by studying Spanish for the remainder of the term . . .

July 25th 1849

. . . We have had better living this week than last. We had then rancid butter, sour bread and hash [?] not fit to eat. This evening the boys wet the bench and then got boys to sit on it much to their inconvenience. Innis and myself had a trial at jumping. We went around in the boy's rooms and tied their towels in knots and disarranged the things . . .

July 26th 1849

. . . Gibbs and Pomeroy seemed dissatisfied with the school and Gibbs has been writing home to leave the school. I heard some of the boys say this evening that Mr. [Charles Platt] Adriance has the cholera. I guess it is not so, only a false report. Frenchy has not been cross to me this week. I told him I was going to be a good boy this quarter. Pitched pennies after supper with [George A.] Ackerman and Bronson. I wonder that Phil White does not answer my letter. If I do not get an answer soon I shall think that he does not want anything more to do with me. I have E. Merritt's composition to correct and I would rather learn any lesson than do the job. I can hardly make head or tail out of it. *Quite a crooked concern*. I read in Bronson's paper that all the stock of the Iron company was taken up and that a call of 10 per cent was to be made immediately. I hope it is only a commencement of other enterprises . . . Mr. Nairne proposes to have an historical class three evenings in the week for the whole school. It will be fine.

July 27th 1849

. . . The way the boys knock Olley Bronson around is a caution. He had two hats spoiled this week and is all the time fighting with some boy or another. Any boy in school can give him a drubbing. It is enough to make any one laugh to see him run . . . Pomeroy wrote home about Mr. Bartlett, and his mother is down town. Pomeroy got back his watch and is going to leave in less than a week. So is Gibbs. It makes Charley feel *kinder riley* yes it does. Let us see how many boys have left this term: there is [James Spencer] Van Cleff, Boardman, Kearny, Cook, White, Lane, 6, Gibbs and Pomeroy 8. Fonda, Vincent, Aldridge, [Marcos] Cordero, Longstreet, Phistina, Olivar, Morris and Punderford are new scholars. So Mr. Bartlett has not lost any by such operations. Mr. B. was not so cross last term as this. He seems to mind every trifle. He has not treated me half as well as he did last term.

July 28th 1849

. . . In the afternoon two boat loads of boys went a rowing, one to Hyde Park and the one I was in to Milton. Mr. Bisbee went with us . . . We had to row against the wind and tide going to Milton. It took us about two hours. We saw the blasts go off on the Railroad. They make drills about 5 feet. Dont they have to scatter. A piece weighing about 200 pounds was thrown about quarter of a mile. Dont the paddies have to work. We staid at Milton 15 minutes and then started back. We got back in one hour. We took the waves of the Highlander. There were three others besides myself . . . We engaged the boat for next Saturday. Then we intend to go to Hyde Park . . .

July 29th 1849

Sunday . . . We will have to go to church 9 Sundays before the end of the term. What an age to schoolboys . . . Mr. Bartlett said that he had had a good many boys who had left the school, not having resolution and discipline. He then spoke about Gibbs and Garbrecht leaving tomorrow. He said Gibbs could never be as great a man as his brother who is president of the board of Natural science in New York unless he was more resolute.³⁵ Pomeroy he expected to leave soon. He said Pomeroy was a good dispositioned boy (oh the soft soap).

July 30th 1849

. . . The. Garbrecht felt bad leaving the school this morning. I wonder what his father will say to him after he is arriv[ed] home. If he does not [keep] a good eye over him he will be a regular rowdy . . . I have not got Ed Merritt's composition corrected yet. I declare it is a job . . . Jim Burden and myself staid out on the bench, after the other boys had bone to bed, to watch the Steamboats . . .

July 31st 1849

. . . The bell has been hid for three days. Mr. Bartlett can not find it. I received a letter from Father and Mother today with a little post[s]crip[t] from Willie. Extracts from the letter, (The Iron Company is now organized and the work will progress immediately. Mr. Alexander C. Mitchell is President and your Uncle Sidney [Seymour] Secretary and Treasurer. We expect him here about the middle of this week.³⁶ The Cholera made its first appe[ar]ance here yesterday in the house of Enoch Hubbard near the Hudson River Bank. Mrs. [Hannah] Hubbard and her boy about 9 years old died during the night. There are no other cases. The disease was caused by the foul air of their Cellar which had not been cleaned out or ventilated for twenty years . . .). The above is from part of the letter Father wrote me . . .

August 1st 1849

. . . Old Frenchy calls me a she monkey. I exercised in the gymnasium the last hour . . . Judge Ruggles composition, for my benefit, I shall insert . . . here with various particulars of College Hill Life. Come! Come! Come! College Hill full of care, Plenty of hash and liver there!! . . . Reminds me of what a truly pitiable subject I am going to treat. What a glorious theme it is and how many poor devils have long since undergone the same tribulations as we poor mortals doomed to live on hash and liver are now suffering. And as I feel the subject warm within me, methinks I see the grim visage of Old Kellog start up before my imagination. I hear him groan in his fierce endeavor to raise a miserable excuse for a something in the shape of whiskers—and behold him blushing in the Rhetoric Class on account of certain movements that he either cannot or else is too green to desire to subdue. Kellog! Pulis! and Dudley! What a trio of interesting ignoramusses! Bisbee caps the climax and adds the last reverberation to the distant thunder. Kellog what is he? A kind of amphibeous animal, a notable hash eater. Green by nature, he has grown to be a green horn. A tall, lank kind of personage. Little gray eyes about the size of a pin's head, which ever and anon twinkle with such vivacity, as almost to give a person a fit of the blues. He has a very delicate nose. Six feet long and two inches broad, added to a slight elevation at the end which is superbly set off by an abundant effusion of scarlet red, a beauty evidently derived from the brandy bottle or some spirit stirring agent, the whole development forcibly reminding one of a hog's snout. His arms (or better in his case, paddles) are long, lank, lean and puny, and his hands influenced by some unknown attraction of Gravitation, are always thrust into his breeches pockets, which unmentionables are placed somewhere in the neighborhood of his knees and have the looks of their brethern the pantaloons them-

selves, which appear as if they had been hereditary heir loom which has descended to the oldest son, from Generation to generation ever since the days of the flood. His coats . . . are also beautiful affairs, elbows worn out, waists up to his neck, with collars whose fashions date in the days of the Ancients complete their general appearance. An elegant pair of black velvet slippers besmeared with dirt, and overcome by the ravages of time, adorn his beautiful feet, whose dimensions are shocking to mention. Suffice to say, they are large and happy in these ornaments. He goes hopping about like a grasshopper on ice.

August 3rd 1849

We all went to church this morning. Mr. Ludlow delivered a very impressive sermon. We had very plain food on the table today. We had no school . . . This morning Mr. Bartlett read a number of passages in the Bible relating to fasts. All the stores in the village are closed. The New World has been lying at Milton dock all day. It has probably broken some of her machinery which will be a great loss both of money and time to the owners. In the afternoon I went down into the grove with Ike Bronson. We amused ourselves by setting fire to the grass, and putting it out again. If any field should catch afire we should have quite a conflagration by reason of the drought having dried up everything . . .

August 4th 1849

Saturday . . . The New World has broken her wheels. The loss is said to be \$10,000. The Hendrick Hudson is to run in her place. Went downtown in the afternoon with D. Campbell. Went to [Thomas R.] Payne's to find out how much he would ask for a black Alapaca coat. He said about \$3. I got two anti cholera cigars down town. Mr. Bartlett did not let the boys go rowing or swimming on account of its relaxing the bowels. The boys do not plague Olley Bronson as much as they did. The ground is parched up on account of the draught. Rain is very much needed . . .

August 6th 1849

. . . I received two letters this morning, one from Philander White and one from Charley Prescott. The one from Charley Prescott was the answer to one I wrote him November 1846. I answered it today. John C. Pulis left today for Albany where he is to teach Geography. Oh how sorry I am . . .

August 7th 1849

. . . A number of boys went in Mr. Adriance's orchard today and hooked apples. Some of the boys were G[eorge Edwin] Waring, M[ark B.] Hannum and [S. D.] Hollister . . . Judge Ruggles is trying very hard to get in West Point. On Friday morning he is going to [see] the senator of the state. He will make a great soldier. I could scare him with a broom stick.³⁷

August 8th 1849

. . . The South America is now running in place of the Hendrick Hudson which was in place of the New World. It cost \$10,000 to repair the Empire. I think it is too bad to get to bed these fine evenings at 9 o'clock precisely, but scarcely do you get comfortably seated on the bench after prayers before you hear the soul stirring note of the old bell. Just 58 days before exam, whew.

August 9th 1849

. . . The boys have not smoked much these last days because Mr. Bartlett told Ackerman last night that he knew the boys who went regularly every day to smoke . . .

August 11th 1849

. . . This morning I asked Mr. Bartlett to let me go down to the dock and see George Fairfield and the other boys as they passed on their way to West Point. I received the answer that I might go to West Point if I wished. I immediately posted off to the dock, saw the boats pass and waited two hours

before the Hudson came along. I was much chagrined when I found out they were going to land here. They landed and went up to the Eastern House. Geo. Fairfield and his brother, Bob and Hank McClellan and a whole lot of fellows were on board. The two cannon companies were on board. George Fairfield had fired the cannon so much that he had a headache, and seemed stupid enough. They staid here about 3 hours and then started for Hudson where I shall be if I am alive and well in 53 days, hip, hip, Hurrah.

August 12th 1849

. . . Mr. Ludlow gave us a first rate sermon this morning. Mr. Ludlow is a smart man despite everything that is said against him . . .

August 15th 1849

. . . John McCoun got poisoned by ivy in the woods, he has to sleep in flour. Mr. Bartlett told us tonight that Charley Derby was so sick yesterday that he thought of sending for his father. He is better today. Mr. Bartlett keeps all such things from the boys until the danger is past.

August 21st 1849

I was much surprised . . . receiving a letter giving me permission to come home as Cousin George Brush was there. I showed the letter to Mr. Bartlett and he told me to get ready and go, which I did quick enough. He delayed so long though in sending me down to the boat that they had to throw out the plank for me. I went home in the Hendrick Hudson. Got there about 2½ oclock. Met Willie, Charley Prescott and George on the dock. In the afternoon I went with mother to make several calls. Father came down from the store about 8 oclock and we had a regular concert. Willie performed on the bones. He plays first rate. I fired the Old Independence several times in the afternoon. Father is fixing the store. He is making the front store longer and the back part higher. As it is all open, Edward and John watch there. Each of them have a brace of pistols and they have got a bull dog to boot. The Corporation are busy at present repairing the street. The foundation of the furnace has been commenced . . . I was sorry when I was home that it was cholera season for I could not partake of the plumbs which hung so temptingly on the tree. There are several plumbtrees in the back Jardin which bear this year, that is if the boys do not steal them all . . . On Monday morning we all went a fishing to the stone mills, caught about 3 dozen fish. In the afternoon I went to Bachman's and was measured for an exam suit. I then went with George Brush to roll ten pins. We played two strings. He beat me of course in both for it was the first time for me . . . I left Hudson on Tuesday morning, August 21, after a short and pleasant visit home, again to encounter the trials, privations and joys of College Hill Life. I came back in the steamboat Alida . . . I took a carriage and went immediately on the hill. I [met] Mr. Bartlett on the road. He got into the carriage. I gave him the letter from father and then we had a little chat. He told me the following story. He said he was going from New York to Albany in the night on the New Philadelphia, the captain of which was George E. Seymour. There was a military company in the cabin. They carried on so much and damned the passengers too that they complained to father. He came down into the cabin to quell the disturbance, when they damned him. Father then told the captain of the company that they should decide in ten minutes w[h]ether to go ashore or on deck. He said he had 10 men under him and was able to do it and C. Bartlett called out, yes 160. They finally concluded to go on deck where the[y] were obliged to stay all night. Served em right . . . The boys have got up two [fire] engine companies. Their engines are waggons. They run races with each other. If Mr. Bartlett would only let the boys have a cannon company it would do a good deal of good, for the boys would study hard to get out of school so as to

run with their company . . .

August 22nd 1849

. . . Tomorrow we have our last lesson in advance and then we are going to review. In the gymnasium this morning I raised my weight with both hands five times in succession . . . After supper the boys ran their machine around the el[1]ipse. Mr. Bartlett got one and was tumbled head over heels. We intend getting a good engine if we can get Mr. Bartlett's permission. The nurse is very sick . . .

August 24th 1849

. . . In the gymnasium this afternoon I raised my weight on the bars with stiff legs, 12 times. Malinda has been washing out the play hall and the boys rooms today. . .

September 1st Saturday

. . . For the last three days I have been out of school on account of my tooth . . . I came in school this morning and set about copying my composition. I was examined in Rhetoric this morning. Kellog extinguishes himself by making ridiculous answers. Well he does . . . Yankee brought some fine peaches up here this morning. The bed bugs liked to carry me away in that bed in Mrs. Hall's room. I had to sleep there so as I could walk about when I pleased and could not sleep. It was quite pleasant to get out of a damp room and enjoy the fresh air. Mark Hannum has been taken with the rheumatism very bad. Oh how he groans and cusses College Hill . . .

September 4th 1849

. . . I counted up the letters I have received this term. I have 17. Last term at its close I had 23 . . . This evening I went down with Innis, Burden, Warren and Bronson into the grove. We are a regular company. Ruggles Brother came to see him today from the West. He had not seen him for three years. His salutation was, Lord God George, how do you do. Just 29 days to the close of exam. Hurrah . . .

September 6th 1849

. . . On reading the Hudson paper I saw an advertisement headed Grand Military Excursion to Poughkeepsie. Upon reading it I found that the Fire companies No. 1, 3, 7 are coming here on the Hudson on the 15th of this month to pay the firemen here a visit . . . The Eagle Company No. 2 has disbanded. I think it the best thing that could be done for that company are a real loaferish set from Captain to torch boy . . .

September 7th 1849

. . . Old Kellog was walking on the colon[n]ade after supper when all the boys hollered out, Kill that hog. What Hog? His velvet slippers are in the last stages of decay and to judge from appearances his stock of stockings are in the same predicament . . .

September 8th 1849

Saturday . . . Yankee brought up some fine peaches this morning, also a basket of muskmelons. As the cholera has almost disappeared I hope we can eat more freely of fruit. Mark Hannum is still confined to his bed with rheumatism. Some boys sit up with him every night. Mr. Bartlett happened to be absent from the school room this morning when Kellog came in. The boys all hollered out at him, Kill that Hog. This afternoon Wm. Thompson, J. Burden, Jim Marshall and myself set out to go to one tree hill. We got there in a little while when we proposed to take the road and walk on further. We walked on a good distance when I asked a man how far it was to Hyde Park. He said about two miles and a half. Bill T. and myself stumped the other two to go there, but they would not, so we kept on until we reached the village of Hyde Park. There are a great many beautiful residences near it. Get back 7½. Mr. B. said it was 16 miles.

September 9th 1849

Sunday . . . Mr. Bartlett handed out the pie to our table at dinner so Bronson and myself could not get three pieces between us. We were not called in this afternoon so Bronson and myself went down into the Grove and talked over various matters and things . . . Mr. Bartlett caught George Wilson smoking. He made him take a note to his father. His punishment is he cannot go down town until the end of the term. He also caught George Waring. I will have to go to church three more times this term . . .

September 12th 1849

. . . Last evening while we were speaking little Charley came in and told Mr. Bartlett that his grandmother had fallen. While Mr. B. was out of the room the boys carried on a good deal. Some one threw a book and Mr. B. just caught a glance of it when he came in the room. He said he knew who it was but he thought he would question them. When no one would report we found out that he had been lying. He did not know who threw it. He said he would find out the truth if he had to bring a Justice of Peace up here, yes he will. He laid an injunction on us today. No one reported today. I guess no one will report . . . A new scholar came yesterday from New Orleans. He is about 11 or 12 years old [and has] got to stay here a good many years. Oh how I pity him . . .

September 13th 1849

. . . No injunction was laid on the school today and no one reported. Mr. Bartlett has got a charpentier at work on the inside rooms, putting a siding of boards against the mud wall so that our parents cannot see quite all the miseries of College Hill life when they come here. I received a letter from Fairfield today. The cannon companies are coming here Saturday. He thinks it doubtful w[h]ether he will come or not. I hope he will. I was reading a Poughkeepsie paper today when I read an advertisement headed Sands & Lent's circus.³⁸ It seems that they are coming here on Saturday the 22nd of this month. I looked into Mr. B.'s book today and I saw an order of exercises for examination. I do not know w[h]ether he will change it or not . . .

September 15th 1849

. . . Mr. B. said if the boy who threw the book would report himself he would let us go to the river to see the excursion arrive from Hudson, but no one reported. About two o'clock I saw the Hudson in the opening all trimmed off. I ran down town as fast as I could. I was there in time to see the procession. There were three fire companies from Hudson Nos. 1, 3, 7, also the two cannon companies. I saw George and Willie Fairfield, Bob and Hank McClellan among the boys . . . No. 3 of Poughkeepsie played a little while after dinner and the Hudson company went and got her machine out. She sucked the hydrant but when she put on the blanch pipe the key came out and spoiled the playing . . . When it was time for the excursion to leave I went to see them start. The Poughkeepsie firemen went down to the dock to take leave of our firemen. The boat's guards touched the water. They had quite a time starting, the bands playing, the men hurraing and the cannons firing . . . I got a letter from Henry McClellan this morning. I saw Mr. B. open it and read it. I am very much obliged to him . . . I felt rather tired tonight after the stirring events of this day. I think it is as pleasant a day that I have had since I have been here . . .

September 16th 1849

Sunday . . . The hall lamp was smashed to pieces (by some person unknown) this afternoon. After tea Charley Warring was in the hall and Bronson and myself made a little noise which attracted Charley Warring's attention who went and told Charley Bartlett of us. Mr. B. said that I

should not go into the play hall or into Ike Bronson's room until he gave me permission to do so (as a punishment).

September 17th 1849

. . . Innis had quite a fall in the gymnasium today. He fell from the top of one of the ladders. Yesterday the hall lamp was smashed all to pieces and 7 or 8 panes of glass broken. Mr. B. asked today who done it. No one reported so probably it will be charged to general damage . . .

September 18th 1849

. . . Some of the boys told me today that Mr. Nairne read off the names of the boys last night who have to speak their compositions on exam. I am one of the number. I found a ludicrous speech in the National Speaker called the Lyceum Speech of Mr. Orator Climax which I intend [to give]. I have almost learned it . . .³⁹

September 19th 1849

. . . The orders of exercises were brought up from town today but not given out, however some boy contrived to get some in their possession. I have three classes come on Wednesday morning, French, Algebra and Latin. My Rhetoric comes Tuesday evening and Milton on Thursday afternoon . . .

September 22nd 1849

. . . Most of the boys went to Sands & Lent's circus this afternoon, I among them! They performed very well until it began to rain very hard and then hurried through in double quick time. They have a real mean place for a circus, consequently they had a very small tent. We sought refuge from the rain in Mr. Frost's. After the rain had subsided we went up to Goulders [Hiram Golder] where I intended to be measured for my boots but unfortunately for me he had as many orders as he could fulfill . . .

September 23rd 1849

Sunday . . . Mr. Ludlow gave out notice that there was to be a sermon preached in the behalf of the tract society in the New Dutch church in the afternoon. A good many boys went. The church was crowded. There were 7 ministers sitting in the pulpit . . . I saw the Derwort family in church. They are to perform here next week.

September 24th 1849

Monday . . . I put all the dirty clothes I could muster into the wash. I do not think we will put in our clothes next Sunday. I was 1st in all my classes today. Went down town after school with Bill Thompson. I went to Cabal's [John M. Cable] and was measured for a pair of boots. I got me a pair of kid gloves. Paid 5/1. for them. We went through Mill Street in order to get a glimpse of Fanny Graham who Bill Thompson says is the prettiest girl in Poughkeepsie. We could not come it. The Derwort family were up here today. Most of the boys went to their concert in the evening . . . We fortunately saw Fanny this evening but I did not think her very handsome. The concert was held in the city hall which is right over the market. They played beautifully. The old man recognized me when I went in and shook hands with me. The little girl was lame so she could not stand up and play . . .

September 25th 1849

. . . The Derwort family came up here this morning to see the beauties of College Hill. They went down to the gymnasium. Today Fishhooks Ludlow had the audacity to cast a shadow in Dud's face for which offense he knocked him down, which set Fitch running home without any hat. No one but the principal of a school has the right to take the punishment of a boy into his own hands . . .

September 26th 1849

. . . Received the Daily Star from Father. It contained a paragraph

headed Improvements. It turned out to be in praise of Father's store, especially the Railway in the cellar for carrying iron . . .⁴⁰ Malinda has been busily engaged today washing out the boys rooms . . .

September 27th 1849

. . . Mrs. Hall began her job today by packing up some trunks. After school the boys got hold of a wagon and dragged it around the el[l]ipse . . . Malinda and her associates were busily engaged in the recitation rooms today not studying but scrubbing. She says the rooms of C. H. are cleaner than ours.

September 28th 1849

. . . Malinda and her associates are still busily engaged in the school-room. Mrs. Hall is busily engaged packing trunks. Billy Bolles and Cordero are on the sick list and confined to Mrs. Hall's room. Billy Hall started for home [Lowndesboro, Alabama] today after an absence of five years. When Mr. B. told him he was going he thought that he was joking with him. Amused myself today playing marbles with Ike Bronson. After dinner those who have to speak their compositions on Thursday night came up in the school room and spoke them before Mr. Nairne. The band have an rehearsal every day. They are to play on exam . . .

September 29th 1849

. . . Mr. B. had the desks removed from the middle of the platform this morning . . . In the afternoon I went with Ike Bronson and his brother and Charley Aldrich [Aldridge?] down to the Red Mills where we hired a skiff and had a first rate row up and down the pond. If Charley [Warring] had seen us he might have given us a first rate task . . . This is the last Saturday I will stay on College Hill as a scholar. Next Saturday I will be in that noble and magnificent city Hudson, because every one's native place is the best in his own estimation.

. . . Exams . . .

. . . Very dull the first two days as Mr. Bartlett would not let the boys leave the school room . . . I was examined in three lessons on Wednesday morning. On Thursday afternoon Father, Mother & Mr. Folger's family came to attend the examination. Charley and Natty are coming next term to stay two or three years . . . I showed them all around the school and showed them the gymnasium. After school Thursday afternoon I went down to Skinner's Hotel and took supper there. Rode up after supper. The school room was crowded. I should think there were over 300 persons present. The band favoured the audience with some of their favourite tunes. I went down to Skinner's Hotel the last evening and staid all night. A good many boys left for Albany and New York. Gordon and Lindrum were too late for the boat and consequently had to stay at Skinner's until next morning. Next morning five or 6 boys, I amongst them, hired a boat and had a first rate row. About 11½ o'clock the Alida came along and we started for our respective home each glad to get clear from College Hill.

NOTES

- 1 Henry Gilbert Ludlow (1797-1867) practiced law in Rensselaer County for two years after graduating from Columbia. In 1820 he was the subject of a religious revival and attended Princeton Seminary. He went to Poughkeepsie in 1842 as the Presbyterian minister and remained there seventeen years. See *Ludlow-Frey Papers*, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown.
- 2 William Bushnell built a charcoal blast furnace at the old Union Landing about 1848.

- 3 Jacob C. Tooker (1804-1856) came from Orange County around 1848 to take charge of the Poughkeepsie Female Academy.
- 4 Begun in 1847, the entire distance from New York to Albany was opened in 1851.
- 5 Locust Grove, purchased by Samuel F. B. Morse in 1847, was on the east bank of the Hudson two miles south of Poughkeepsie. See *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, XVII (1932), 21-28.
- 6 Charles John and J. Louis Grube taught music privately and at several Poughkeepsie schools, including the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School. Louis Grube later removed to New York; Charles died in Poughkeepsie in 1908. Dr. Simpson, according to Seymour "formerly of Hudson," was choir leader at the Dutch Reformed Church. See H. J. Andrus, *A Century of Music in Poughkeepsie* (Poughkeepsie, 1912)
- 7 "The gold fever, sometimes called the yellow fever, in derision, is said to have swallowed up for the time being all other excitements . . . Call it a 'mania,' or a 'delusion,' . . . the result can scarcely fail to prove a national advantage." *Albany Argus*, December 13, 1848.
- 8 "A lady widely known for the amiableness of her disposition and her always obliging kindness." *College Hill Mercury*, quoted in J. W. Poucher, "College Hill," *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society XXII, (1937), 10. Mrs. Hall was the matron of the school.
- 9 Aaron Innis (1834-1901), one of the several Poughkeepsie friends of Seymour. Among others were Ludlow, Ruggles, Marshall, Fonda, Van Cleef and Vincent. *Vide infra*.
- 10 John Bartholomew Gough (1817-1886), temperance lecturer and one of the most accomplished platform orators in America.
- 11 Fitzhugh Ludlow (1836-1870), author, editor of *Vanity Fair*, newspaperman and critic. He was the only son of the Poughkeepsie Presbyterian minister.
- 12 "Named 'Yankee' . . . because he always wore an American flag as a girdle when he fought . . . Tom Hyer beat him in 1849, but Sullivan clung to the title of heavyweight champion until 1853." J. A. Krout, *Annals of American Sport* (New Haven, 1929), 228.
- 13 Charles Bartlett Warring (1825-1907), son of Charles Bartlett's sister Sarah; later operated the school, with Otis Bisbee, from 1857 to 1863.
- 14 Dudley Bartlett (1801-1887), youngest brother of Charles Bartlett, came to Poughkeepsie in 1845 to assist at the school.
- 15 The dyewood mill of Gifford, Sherman and Innis, North Water Street, burned with a loss of \$25,000. "Probably incendiary." *Poughkeepsie Journal and Eagle*, March 3, 1849.
- 16 The Dutch Reformed Church, corner of Mill and Catharine Streets, was dedicated on Thursday, February 22, 1849.
- 16a The funeral sermon was published: *Weepers Instructed. A Sermon Preached at the Funeral of Mrs. Abigail Woolsey Welles Ludlow . . . Friday, March 2d, 1849* by Rev. Sumner Mandeville. (Poughkeepsie, 1849).
- 17 No evidence has been found to substantiate this claim.
- 18 Charles Murray Nairne (1808-1882). Born in Scotland, to this country in 1847, he taught in Poughkeepsie, was at the Albany Female Academy in 1850, and in 1857 accepted the chair of moral philosophy and literature at Columbia College.
- 19 John Cay Pulis. "Mr. Pulis promises to learn his pupils as much in one lesson as they can be taught in five by any other method . . . [He] has permanently located here and has classes in the Collegiate School, Mr. Harrington's school and some other schools." *Poughkeepsie Journal and Eagle*, June 2, 1849.

- 20 Adolphe Aweng (1809-1895) was born in Nancy, France, and came to this country in 1835. During his long life he taught in nearly all the schools of Poughkeepsie.
- 21 The steamship *Empire* of the Troy Line on her evening passage up-river collided with the schooner *Noah Brown* in Newburgh Bay. On June 8 twenty-three were counted dead, with some still missing. Albany *Argus*.
- 22 Stephen Frost had a confectionery store at 327 Main Street.
- 23 Henry Burden (1791-1871) was the famous inventor of the horseshoe machine. His son James A. Burden (1833-1906) later joined the important Troy firm of H. Burden and Sons iron works. Two other Troy students were McCoun and White.
- 24 Samuel Otis Bisbee (1824?-1885) came to Poughkeepsie in 1849. In 1850 he married Charles Bartlett's niece. With Charles B. Warring he conducted the College Hill School from 1857 to 1863, at which time Warring withdrew. Bisbee continued on alone until the school had to be auctioned off.
- 25 "*The Steamer New World*.—This magnificent creation, combining elegance, vastness, and comfort in the highest degree of art, came up yesterday, on her first regular trip. She is truly one of the wonders of the day." Albany *Argus*, June 13, 1849.
- 25a The newspapers advertised that the Luca Family Vocal and Instrumental concert would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday evening, May 30th. Poughkeepsie *Telegraph*, May 30, 1849.
- 26 Undoubtedly John Charruaud. See H. W. Reynolds, "John Charruaud, Dancing Master," *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, XIX (1934), 32-37.
- 27 "Married on the 5th inst. by Rev. Dr. Gosman, Robert T. L. Crofts to Mary E., daughter of Charles Mitchell, Esq. of this city." Hudson *Democratic Freeman*, June 12, 1849.
- 28 Dr. James E. Slater was the first to die, followed by Miss Dorothy Power who had nursed him in the absence of Mrs. Slater. Albany *Argus*, June 14, 1849.
- 29 The "cholick" or "colic" located in the Fallkill "a short distance below the High Street bridge." Poughkeepsie *Journal and Eagle*, October 5, 1850. Mrs. Ver Nooy is undoubtedly correct in suggesting that this might have been a deep hole where water would "collect." See K. H. Dunshee, *As You Pass By* (New York, 1952), 176.
- 30 "The loss is estimated at over \$20,000 . . . Too much praise cannot be awarded to the Fire Department for their effectual exertions in staying the progress of the flames." Hudson *Democratic Freeman*, July 10, 1849.
- 31 In November 1847 the Derwort family consisted of Mary Ann, aged 12 (violin), Eliza, aged 10 (violin), Caroline, aged 8 (singer), and William, aged 5 ('cello). G.C.D. Odell, *Annals of the New York Stage* (14 vols., New York, 1926-45), V, 404.
- 32 President Taylor set August 3 as a national day of fasting and prayer because of the cholera epidemic.
- 33 The murder took place at the furnace of B. Arnold and Son. "The particulars connected with this melancholy affair are of such a peculiar nature that we have determined not to publish any of the stories which are circulated, or to express an opinion until the case shall be fully investigated before the legitimate tribunal." Poughkeepsie *Journal and Eagle*, May 30, June 2, 1849.
- 34 Joseph O. Bartlett was the owner of the Bartlett Bakery in Poughkeepsie.
- 35 Doubtless refers to Gibbs' cousin Oliver Wolcott Gibbs (1822-1908), chemist, who at the time was a curator of the Lyceum of Natural History.

- 36 The successful Hudson Iron Company was formed in 1848 as a stock company and completed in 1861. *Columbia County at the End of the Century* (2 vols. Hudson, 1900), I, 344.
- 37 George David Ruggles (1833-1904), son of Judge Charles H. Ruggles of Poughkeepsie and an 1855 graduate of West Point, served with distinction on frontier duty and during the Civil War. Another College Hill student who attended West Point (class of 1853) was Walworth Jenkins (1832-1874).
- 38 "R. Sands & Co.'s Hippoferaeen Arena" advertised afternoon and evening performances on Saturday, September 22, at Forbus Hill immediately in back of the present day Nelson House. *Poughkeepsie Journal and Eagle*, September 8, 1849.
- 39 The speech is transcribed at the end of the manuscript diary.
- 40 "The . . . store of our friend Geo. E. Seymour . . . [is] one of the finest, roomy and most convenient stores for the Hardware business to be found in the State. Among the many improvements . . . is a patent railway through the basement of the building, for conveying large loads of iron from the front to the rear of his office and vice versa . . . The establishment is certainly very creditable to the taste and enterprise of Capt. S." *Hudson Daily Star*, September 25, 1849



There is scarcely a dozen dwellings in town with the words "To Let" on them. Rents have gone up in some instances twenty-five per cent. and in as many just twenty per cent. higher than they ought to be. It is astonishing that capitalists do not invest larger amounts in the erection of comfortable tenant houses, when the demand is so great. We know a man who built two the past year, which cost him about \$2,000, and they have been rented the coming year at \$200.

The Poughkeepsie Eagle, February 22, 1851