

"Journal" New York
Nov' 20th 1835.

Look down O holy Spirit,
heavenly Dove upon this wayward
heart! I have for the last week
labored under a depression of
spirits more than ordinary, it has
arisen from my having reflected
much upon, & examined into
my past life, the whole of which
has been but a succession
of years, over all of which
sin has predominated; little or
nothing in it can I find upon
which I can reflect with the
least satisfaction.

"Alas, alas how blind I've been
How little of myself I've seen.
But I trust that I have at last
been enabled to see things as
they really are, to know myself
as I am, & that I shall hence-
forth no more depend upon
my own strength (which is at
best but weakness & vanity)
but that I shall on all occasions
acknowledge my inability to
do as I ought, & look alone to
him who then will grant
me his aid.

I have been weak, vain, &
foolish, & I have trusted in
all these, & I have reaped the
just reward of my own folly.

I have erred & strayed from the
ways, my Father, like a lost sheep
I have wandered in by forbidden
paths, & I have now nothing
to reflect upon but a life of
foolishness & vanity. But painful
as must henceforth be my re-
flections upon by-gone years,
still I trust they will not be
wholly unprofitable, that I have
learned from them a lesson which
will ~~prove~~ benefit me through
the remainder of my life.

Grant ~~thee~~, oh holy Father, strength
& patience not to shrink from
these examinations of myself,
may I not spare or excuse

myself in one single instance,
but may I unhesitatingly con-
demn everything my conscience
tells me is wrong. Never, oh never
again let my conscience shun-
der, suffer me never more to
stifle ^{its reproaches} ~~my own conscience~~, or banish
reflections because it is pain-
ful. But may I henceforth
live to, & be guided by thee
alone.

"Now to thy footstool, Lord,
I fly,
And flow in self-abasement fall;
A vile, a helpless worm, I lie,
And thou, my God, art all
in all."

Nov 22nd Lord's day.

Oh that I could learn
wholly to forsake my sins, that
I could perform not some, but
all my duties. When I look
around me how much
I ought to do, & how much
I might do, & how little I
do, do; when I reflect upon
the useless, yea, worse than
useless life I have led, &
continue to lead, I am led
to exclaim why ~~do~~ I live,
why does the Lord continue
to preserve one so utterly
worthless! But still, numerous
as are the resolute and I make

to lead a different life, to
endeavour to do something in
the cause of my Master, when
I go to perform I feel such a
perfect inability to do anything
that my hand & heart seem
paralyzed. Then I think I can
not love my Lord, or I would
find it easier to serve him,
but yet I know I love him,
I prize him above my chief
joy, he is my chief joy. "Why
then do I thus live as if I did
not love ^{him}, why is it not my
frequent, my constant desire
to do his will? what is the
reason that loving him, I
do not serve him?"

Oh could I but devotedly &
faithfully serve him through
the remainder of my life, be
it long or short, I never more
be led captive by foolish
& sinful desires, but with my
eye fixed upon him, steadily
"press forward to the mark of
the prize of my high calling
in Christ Jesus." But all my
strength is but weakness, &
even my best desires but vanity
unless thou my heavenly Father
dost aid, unless thy Holy Spirit
guides me, I shall continue
to err, Oh may I be strong in
thee & the power of thy might.

Nov 28th

"Oh, could I find from day to day,
A nearness to my God:

Then should my hours glide sweetly ^(away)
And lean upon his word."

My mind has for some time
past been more than usually en-
-gaged by self examination.

I am often astonished when I
think how slight a thing, will
lead to great things, & things too

^{with} which they have no possible con-
nection. A little circumstance

occurred not long ago, which
though trivial caused me a
great deal of pain, & though the
impression, made on the minds
of others by it, was gone ~~as soon~~
as soon as the thing itself had

past, in my mind it has been the
means of unmaking ^{too} thoughts &
feelings which else might long
have slumbered, & painful as
has been the process through
which my mind has passed, I
would not have these reflections
banished. No if I knew my own
heart I do desire to know myself.
I would not have one error
concealed from my view

"To know the pangs of pious grief,
To sin against the Lord,
To know that naught can give
But trusting in his word:

To know that I am born of God,
My numerous sins forgiven,
My soul redeem'd by Jesus blood,
And ~~then~~ an heir of heaven."

In two weeks my Mother & myself
are ~~to~~ unite with Mr Williams
church, thus are we about renew-
edly to dedicate ourselves to our
Lord & Master. Oh may we keep
dearish the vows we are about
to renew, may we never dishonor
that blessed cause we are again
going to profess to love, may we
dedicate ourselves to our Lord
to his service, & may we never
again be cleaved from than at
the feet of the Saviour.

"Lord, I desire with thee to live
Anew from day to day;
In joys the world can never give,
Nor never take away."

Dec '6th Lord's day.

I attended the house of God
this morning, but was too unwell
to be benefited by anything I heard,
thus is the spirit ever subject to
the body. Oh who shall deliver
me from the body of this death!
I think I have the past week
more than usually enjoyed the
services of religion, I have found
it sweet to commune with
my heavenly Parent, & I think
he has granted me much of
the influence of his blessed
Spirit. I have attended several
most interesting meetings, I have
enjoyed the privileges of being
more frequently with

Christians than I generally am
when in New York, & I have
found it refreshing to my soul
to escape (if but for an hour) from
the torture I daily undergo, in the
society of those whose delight it is
to crucify the Lord afresh, & trample
on his cross. Near & dear to me
as are these very sinners, I find that
still nearer, & far more dear is the
devoted humble Christian though
he be a stranger, yes; give me but
the society of the true, the faithful
disciple of my Lord & Master, &
I ask no more. I know that the
Lord has placed me here for good
& wise purposes, & my daily prayer

is that he will give me strength
to act as becometh a Christian
through every trial, but I must
confess that I sometimes weary
of the constant struggle, I feel
as if I could no longer bear
to have all that is dear to my
heart almost precious to my soul
abused, condemned, smacked.

"The society of a Christian has
become as grateful to my weary
soul, as sweet sleep was to my
exhausted frame. Oh,

"Hearts of stone, relent, relent,
Break by Jesus' cross subdued;
See his body, mangled - rent,
Covered with a gore of blood;

Sinful soul, what hast thou done,
Murdered God's eternal Son."

I have lately in conjunction
with my dear friend Mary Ella
become a "Tract distributor", &
though the duties which devolve
upon me in this situation
are very pleasant, still I feel it
to be a most responsible situation,
& oh may the Lord grant me
strength to perform this duty
faithfully, enable me to throw
off all fear of man, & let me
enter into this field of labour
with no other thought than
for thy glory & the good of souls.
Enable me to feel that these souls
have been as it were committed

to my care.

Dec 12th 1845.

I have since my last date
enjoyed myself as much as could
be expected considering the very
little time I have had for reflection,
& secret prayer. Oh what would
I not give to be so situated that
I might enjoy these inestimable privileges.
My public religious privileges are
very great, but my private ones are
few indeed. I am from morning
till night & night till morning
subjected to the scrutinizing eye
of unbelievers. Had I but one little
corner I could call my own, & feel
that there at least I could seek my
God in quiet, & without interrup-
tion, feel that there I might

think my own thoughts un-
observed, I follow my own em-
ployments, I perform my own
duties unquestioned, but think
I should be better prepared to meet
the struggles & trials I am constantly
subjected to. whereas now I am
often pained, by feeling that I
do not always meet these things
as I should, I feel myself sometimes
growing very impatient & unwilling
to submit. When my only strength
is in God, all I can then do is
entirely to forget myself, & remember
it is the Lord not me against
whom they are sinning, that
though they aim at me, they

would hurt him, & if he continued
to bear with all their amount
of sin, surely it is not for me
to grow weary in well doing.
To-morrow the ordinances of Baptism
& the Lord's Supper are to be admin-
istered by our dear Pastor, & to-
morrow are we to be recognised
as members of that body, oh
may we never disgrace it.
Gracious Father do thou prepare
my heart for the reception of
the communion, for my mind
is so distracted by outward things
from which there is no escape
that unless thou dost aid me
it will be impossible for me

to be in a ^{proper} ~~fit~~ state. Do thou
be with me through this
day, & in the morning when
I wake may it be to glorify
thee.

Dec 16th

I have again solemnly
renewed my covenant with God,
I have again professed to be for
him, & him alone, again have
I dedicated myself, my all to
his service, I have promised
to live to him, & for him, &
with him. I have confessed
that I was not of the world
but born God & devoted to
spiritual things, being in

this world only a sojourner
till my Master call me hence.
And shall I live up to these
professions, shall I keep these
solemn promises? Or shall I
continue to wander in by &
forbidden paths as I have ^{but} too
often done, shall I again
break my vows of allegiance
to heaven? Alas, I fear that,
should the Lord spare my life
another year, it will be but a
repetition of former sins, so
prone is my heart to wander.
I feel that my only refuge is
in constant, fervent prayer

for the aid of the holy Spirit,
for without that I can do
nothing, but with God all
things are possible. I feel
that now my responsibilities
are great, I have undertaken
a great deal, & many of the
duties upon which I have now
entered are new to me, & I
tremble when I see my own
insufficiency, rightly to perform
them, & to God alone can I
look for guidance & direction.
Oh may his strength be made
perfect in my weakness!

I never before since I have
professed the name of Christ
enjoyed such great religious
privileges as I now do, I have
never before been united with
so holy, so lovely a church, I
never before have felt myself
so strictly one of them, have
with them, all their interests,
 joys & sorrows seem to be iden-
tified with mine, I never before
was in a church so entirely
adapted to all my feelings, &
where I felt such perfect unity
with all its members as I now
do in this. I can safely say

I love them all friends, or
strangers, because they are
like my Master. And oh,
have I not abundant cause
for gratitude that the Lord
has cast my lot with them,
that whatever be my persecuting
& trials at home, he has
granted me these inestimable
privileges, he has given me
there a refuge from all my
sorrows? yes; "praise the Lord.
Oh my soul, bethink that it is within
me; praise his holy name"

Dec' 20th Lord's day

I shall not be able to go to
church to day, for I feel as if
one day of quiet rest from
all excitement was very necessary
to restore me to my wanted serenity.
I do not think that I have ever
so entirely realised the uncertainty
of all that is connected with
this life as I have lately, I have
truly felt that we know not
what a day may bring forth.
The dreadful fire that has wrought
such ruin upon this city, has made
a deep, & I trust a lasting impres-
sion upon my mind, & that all
might see the hand of God

in this dispensation, that
they might regard the many
warnings he has given them.
I feel that he is dealing with
us in wrath, & that in proportion
as his judgements are disregarded
so will they be multiplied, till
utter ruin & desolation come
upon us. But I tremble when
I see how entirely they are disre-
garded, when I see these calamities
(in all of which I so plainly
see the hand of God) ever attri-
buted to secondary causes. Alas
how prone are we to forget, that
the Lord he is God & that he
alone ruleth & reigneth.

1836-

January 3^d.

Praise be to God who
has brought me to the commence-
ment of a New Year, who has
thus far not only preserved, but
beautifully blessed me, who has
supported me in ~~affliction~~,
strengthened me in the hour
of need, guided me & tempered
me in all my joys, who, though
I have often wandered from
him, has never failed to lead
me back into the fold.

"I am all the guilt of former sin,
May mercy sit ~~at~~ free;
And let the year I now begin,
Begin & end with thee."

The gloom that was like a
thick & impenetrable cloud,
gathering over my spirits, in
consequence of the late awful
dispensation of Providence,
has in part been dissipated
by leaving the scene of ruin
& desolation. I spent the last
week in December in the
country with my cousin,
where I enjoyed my self more
than I have for months
previous. I have so many old
associations, melancholly yet
dear connected with that
place, that to me it must
ever be the most delightful

spot in existence; There is still
so very much to remind me of
the past, that though they cause
my heart to bleed afresh, I have
to contemplate them, I would
not forget them. I feel at
times when there almost
choked by contending feelings.
I do not think I ever spent a
more delightful week than
the last, & I trust I did not
fail to trust in God alone
for guidance & strength so
to walk before others, that
all might take knowledge
of me that I had been with
Jesus & learnt of him.

for much indeed did I feel
the need of his guidance &
direction.

Jan 14th Lord's day.

Alas how weak, how feeble
is man! how utterly incapable
rightly to perform anything with-
out the aid of God. I do not
think I ever so entirely felt
my dependence upon God
for protection & direction as
I have of late. There is not
an hour of the day, that
I do not find myself leaning
upon him, if any danger is
seen, or feared, I feel him to
be my only refuge, my sole
protector, if any temptations

are to be withstood, he is all
my strength, if sins are to be
resisted he is my guide, if
duties are to be performed he
is my director, my leader, if
afflictions are to be borne
he is my supporter my com-
forter, if any joys are
vouchsafed me, he is their
author, therefore being the
author of all my joy, he is
my chief joy, my everlasting
portion. Father with thee I
am rich; take what thou
wilt away! grant me but
the smiles of thy reconciled
countenance, & I ask no

more. I feel myself to be
a weak sinful servant, to
whom I have erred no than
forgive me, for I know
not how to do as I ought.

January 30th

Since my last date
I have been through many
trials, temptations, & sins.

Last week the whole of which
I spent in the country with
my cousin was one to me
of mingled joy & sorrow, for
when I see those whom I so
dearly love in the bondage of
sin, following after fleeting
& transitory joys, placing there
affections upon that which

when I
must fade, feeling as I most
sincerely do the utter vanity &
worthlessness of all these
things it is impossible for me
to enter into them with any
heartfelt interest, & I feel as
if I would give worlds could
they but know the joy that
I know, could they but know
that peace which passeth all
understanding, & which to
know aright, is life eternal
Oh could I but see them lose
their hold on earthly joys,
& place their affections where
alone they should be placed

I myself to
methinks I would ask no
other joy than this. It is im-
possible for me to express the
overwhelming struggles, the
contending feelings, the hopes
the fears, the doubts, the
joys, & sorrows, that in each
succeeding day I pass through.
There is a link which binds
me to these dear friends
which time, nor change,
nor death itself can never
sever, there is a something
which ever seems to say "for-
sake them not"

And when I sometimes feel
as if our objects in life were
so different, that our interests
could never be the same, that
we must henceforth walk
in different paths, something
seems to whisper "love them
still" Oh could I but know
my duty, half my task were
done, could I but feel that
my conduct was such as my
Heavenly Father would approve
I could rest, could I but
know his will, gladly would
I perform it, for I can safely
say my only joy in this life

is in the performance of duty,
could I but once feel that
that was done my joy would
be complete, for I am but
too weary of this ever during
warfare of feeling. All I
can do is, to commit myself
entirely into the hands of God,
this is my only rest, & my constant
prayer is "God guide me," for
I am utterly incapable without
thy aid rightly to perform any-
thing, all I desire is to know
& do thy will, Oh leave me not
to my self."

February 7th Lord's day.

Oh could I but lift my thoughts
from off this earth, & fix them
alone upon heavenly things, but
it is in vain that I endeavor so
to do, when all around me conspire
to draw me back to earth, I
hardly have a half an hour in
the course of a week to myself,
I can truly say I am never
alone, there is not a spot on
all this earth that I can call
my own, no, not one little
corner where I can go & say "no
one shall come" not one
where I can away from all
the distracting cares & troubles

of this life seek my God in
quiet & without interruption,
where ~~casting~~ casting all my care
on Jesus I can repose my weary
soul, It is really refreshing to me
to be, if but for a few minutes,
away from every human eye,
& sometimes feel as if I
should go crazy for want of
the rest that solitude alone
can give. But I desire to be
submissive to the will of
heaven, & my prayer from
morning till night is "Lord
guide me, support me" &
I have abundant cause for
gratitude that he does ~~guide~~

grant me his grace, for it is
but in his strength that I
live; were he to leave me to
myself I should wander far
& wide, but his grace has
ever been sufficient for me,
through every trial however
severe, his grace has still
been sufficient for me. Oh,
"praise the Lord O my soul
& all that is within me
praise his holy name!"
Feb. 7. 13th

Thanks be to Thee, O
my heavenly Father for thy abounding
goodness, thanks be to Thee who,
in the midst of deserved wrath

last still continue in ways
of mercy towards us. We suffer
we never to forget from whom
cometh every blessing, sweet
may I cease to ascribe all the
praise & glory to thy holy name.
There is nothing good left comes
from God, He is the source
from whence spring all my
joys.

Again are we about to
surround the table of our Lord
& Master, it may it be a "savour
of life unto life" to all who shall
partake

Come, Holy Ghost, my soul inspire
This one great gift impart—
What most I ^{desire,} need—and most
A humble, holy heart."

Feb 21st Lord's day.

"How few the word of God regard,
Or seek their Maker's face!
In vain the gospel is proclaim'd,
If not enforced by grace."
I think I have of late been
more than usually affected by
the condition of sinners, that
is my heart has more than
ever bled for a "world lying in
wickedness" For my friends, for
those I love my heart has always
bled, yea; I suffer agony when I
think of them, & think of them
I do from morning till night,
for the world in general, I have
always prayed & in a measure
sorrowed, that I never had the
miserable condition of a

singular world so impressed upon
my mind as I have lately. I
attribute this increase of feeling
to my taking upon myself the
duties of a tract distributor.

That is a work upon which no one
can enter without feeling deeply
& solemnly the great responsibilities,
& the inestimable privileges of a
Christian; neither can they
rightly perform its duties without
being much, & fervently in prayer
for there, & then it is that we
most fully feel our total insuf-
ficiency (of our selves) to do any
good thing, & then do we most
ardently seek that grace, & strength
from on high which alone
can aid us in such holy
duties.