

/1/ Edward Jarvis, son of Francis and Melicent [*sic*] Jarvis recorded in the life of Charles Jarvis, was born in Concord, Mass., Jan. 9th, 1803.¹ From early childhood he attended the town schools, almost without interruptions, until he was sixteen years old.

He was fond of mechanics. In his boyhood, he made windmills, water mills, trip-hammers, and put them on the corner of the buildings, or in a little water course in his father's field. He was deeply interested in a neighboring mill whose proprietor introduced various machines for the execution of his purposes; and such of them as he could imitate with his shingles, boards, bricks, and the carpenter's tools which his father had, he repeated at home. The new trip-hammers, the new form of complicated bellows for the forges, going by water, were objects of great pleasure to him. Perhaps more than all, the printing press which was brought to, and set up, in his neighborhood, was the object of the intensest interest to him, when he was twelve years old. He had never seen one before nor comprehended the manner of printing on paper. Every new improvement introduced by the mechanics of the village attracted his attention until it became familiar to him.

At the same time he inherited and developed his father's taste for reading. Like other /2/ children he first inclined to fictions, tales. There were few even of these in his town in his young days. His father had a small library which was composed principally of histories, travels, sermons, philosophical treatises and a few novels. There was a good public library of which his father was one of the proprietors and officials. This, like his father's, was filled with graver works than children usually care to read. Edward first read the tales: *Robinson Crusoe*, *Fool of Quality*, *Roderick Random*, *Peregrine Pickle*.² Soon these were exhausted;

¹ "Concord, February 1827. Put down now to ray [*sic*] what I can recollect of myself actions. Born Sunday eve. 9th Jan. 1803 my mother says I was an easy still child never [t]he cause of minute trouble to her and when I was old enough to play was fond of being by the front door playing in the grass with a stick kitten. I went to school from the time I was 3 years old till I was 14 all the time. I was considered a good scholar, learned grammar at 7 mathematic at 11 and geometry trigonometry with enjoying at 13. I got considerable reputation as mathematician much to my father's joy who gave me much more credit for diligence than I deserved, I was in fact rather lazy in school throughout esteemed so." Cf. CFPL, Edward Jarvis Papers, safe shelf 6, item 7(1), Diary of Edward Jarvis (listed as 'Autobiography', original autograph), vol. I, p. 7. On the Jarvis family name see, George Atwater Jarvis (1806–1893), *The Jarvis family; or the descendants of the first settlers of the name in Massachusetts and Long Island, and those who have more recently settled in other parts of the United States and British America*. Collected and compiled by George A. Jarvis, George Murray Jarvis, William Jarvis Wetmore, assisted by Alfred Harding, Hartford, Lockwood and Brain, 1879. Cf. also Andrew P. Peabody, 'Memoir of Edward Jarvis M.D.', *New England historical and genealogical Register*, 1885, 39, July, pp. 217–24; 'Edward Jarvis, M. D.', *American Antiquarian Society, Proceedings*, 3, October, 1883–April 1885, pp. 484–7; Robert W. Wood, *Memorial of Edward Jarvis M.D.*, Boston, 1885.

² *Robinson Crusoe* and Henry Brooke's *The fool of quality*, a "book of some reputation in its day", are two examples of the reading matter—of extraordinary quantity and quality—of John Stuart Mill as a child, as he relates in his autobiography published in the same year Jarvis started his. Cf. J. S. Mill, *Autobiography*, A signet Classic, 1964, p. 30. The works of history by William Robertson (1721–1793) were popular at the time, as were *Roderick Random* and *Peregrine Pickle* by Tobias Smollett (1721–1771).

then he took to travels, and at length to the heavier works of history. He found these very pleasant and attractive. He thought Robertson's histories which he found in his father's library, and Bigland's *View of the World*, were even more interesting than the lighter works of romance.

When he was sixteen years old, casting about for a profession for life, he would have selected a literary profession and followed his brother to Cambridge, but it seemed that the burden of educating Charles was as great as his father could well bear, and it did not occur to either that aid should be asked for this purpose. Some less costly occupation, and one that offered immediate support and earlier profit, seemed necessary. Thus in accordance with his mechanical proclivity, a place was found for him in a small /3/ woolen factory at the Rockbottom village in Stow, where he could learn all the branches of woolen cloth-making.³ He went into the dyeing and dressing department and attended to the coloring and the last finishing of the cloth. He remained eighteen months in this place; but he longed for a different and more mental employment. Mr. Cranston, the chief owner and manager of the factory, told his father that the boy, although faithful to the work, yet seemed much more interested in the books, of which they had many, on dyeing, practical chemistry, and others which he had brought from home, or could borrow; and that he was much more likely to be a scholar than a workman in the art, and then recommended his father to take the boy home and put him in the way of his apparent taste.⁴ Rev. Abraham Randall, a retired clergyman, lived in the neighborhood and took much interest in the boy, lent him books, and in many ways made his life more comfortable. He was a friend of his father, and, seeing his taste, added his advice to (his father), (to that of Mr. Cranston), that he give up the prospective life of a mechanic and manufacturer, and take the appropriate steps to enter professional life. Edward, feeling encouraged by these friends, added his request to their advice. His father at once consented, saying only that he regretted that the matter had not been considered /4/ earlier for he would have preferred that both the boys should go to College together.

But without wasting farther time in useless regrets, Dea. Jarvis at once took Edward home and within less than a week, on the 1st of November 1820, he began the study of

³ Diary, I, pp. 8–9: "the 10th march my father commend me to the said factory where I was left from home for the first time in my life".

⁴ In the original text, the description of people and places is different and much more vivid. The boy was intelligent, and he immediately took a dislike to his master and to the humdrum nature of the work and the whole situation. Diary, I, p. 9: "My hostess was a virago. My master a tyrant of a conceited squire, thinking all must be done as submissively as his workman did. I despised him, refused hevermore. He opened a letter I had written to my brother Charles J. chided me for not calling him squire in it. I lived here miserably, my only comfort was reading, which I summoned indefatigably having nothing else to take up my attention. . . . he often attempt to disturb me in this only enjoyment. I read Shakespeare, Chesterfield, Scotts Novels . . .". Diary, I, p. 9. School and also dance school interested him much more "than the absolute misery of Stow", Diary, I, p. 11. The engagement ended allegedly for health reasons, but in fact due to a sharp conflict with his employer. ". . . during the spring-summer 1820 Cranston and I became more tired of each other. I wanted none of his littleness . . . haughty tyranny [illegible] of my obstinacy, unwillingness to be [illegible] by his manias. He charged me with laziness with being more fond of books than work. I did not deny this: but I did what was to be done, my reading did not interfere with his business. The truth was he kept much help, he had not work for all at all times. So often I had not an hours work a day to do. I kept a book in this factory to read while the others lay still though they invited me to join with them, felt envious or jealous of me. They were ignorant/bigoted like their master." Diary, I, pp. 12–13.

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Latin Grammar in the town school of Concord, under the care of Abner Forbes, A.B.⁵ He studied there until March, 1821, when with his townsman and neighbor, George W. Hosmer, he went to the academy at Westford, and put himself under the charge of Mr. Nahum N. Groce. Mr. G. was a teacher of very high reputation, very accurate in scholarship, conscientious, severe, enacting, unattractive toward his pupils, yet it was his pride to send his scholars to college as well fitted as those from any other academy. In January and February, 1822, Edward taught a district school in Concord to finish out the term of a teacher who was unable to complete his engagement. With the exception of these eight weeks, he was at Westford academy from the 1st of March, 1821, to the end of August, 1822,⁶ when he entered Harvard College with five others from Mr. Groce's care, Hosmer, Brown, Parker, J. Abbott, Cabiness. Edward was accepted with the single condition of imperfect Greek Grammar which had been then, and has ever since been a stumbling block. For cause unknown then and now, Greek, which to others is /5/ usually a very easy and attractive study, has ever been more difficult and unattractive than other studies to him. Latin always was and is easy, and he has read it much for pleasure; but he has studied Greek only in the lessons that were required of him, and these never with the zeal and the satisfaction, with either the labor or the result, that accompanied or followed the lessons in other branches of knowledge.

COLLEGE

In the freshman year he had a room, No. 1 Massachusetts, with Geo[rge] W[ashington] Hosmer.⁷ Here he found a life of high enjoyment which had been his highest ambition to enter upon. He was not as good a scholar as he should have been. His hasty and imperfect fitting, especially in Greek, made the studies harder to him than to many others, and he felt continually that he fell short of his ideal of scholarship.⁸ He was industrious, studied his lessons, but spent much time in historical reading. He was very regular in attendance upon the college requirements, and conscientiously obeyed the college rules. Once being accidentally in the opposite room, Prentiss' and Sumner's, on a dark, rainy evening in November, when the windows of Mr. Tutor Bancroft were broken, while there, two classmates who were rather noisy at times, came in and informed the company of the breaking. They had heard the crash as they came /6/ through the yard from their room in another building. As Mr. B. was unpopular, they told the story merrily although it is not probable that they had anything to do with it. The government made all possible inquiries as to the whereabouts of all who might be suspected of this act, learned that these youths and Jarvis were in Prentiss' and Sumner's room and that they had told this story, immediately sent for all of them and made them prove where they had been all the evening, and prove, by alibi, that they had not broken Mr. Banroft's windows.

⁵ "20th October 1820. I began a new life. I went to school to Abner Forbes, in the center of Concord. He was a graduate at Williamstown, a man of little classical knowledge, a smooth tongued fair telling fellow, but of little advantage to me", *Diary*, I, p. 23.

⁶ *Diary*, I, p. 32.

⁷ See above, Introduction p. xv. In 'Account of class of 1826' Jarvis gave just the bare outlines of his best friend's career. He considered him "one of the most eloquent and effective ministers of our denomination."

⁸ In March 1823: "Soon after this term began I went & learned my rank in the class and found it to be the 56th. I was much mortified & I began to study better", *Diary*, I, p. 33. "In the summer term I did not vary my deportment much, did but little beside study. My rank rose from 56th to the 21th", *Diary*, I, p. 34.

This was especially mortifying to Jarvis, for he had always said that, as he signed an obligation to obey the College laws, he intended to do so both in the letter and the spirit; and if he found that he could not do so, he would leave the College and find another whose rules were more agreeable. Moreover he thought it a mean thing for any one to commit this act in the dark, for his own gratification, and let the blame or odium rest upon any others, or, in general, upon the class or classes. He said if he should be disposed to break windows he would do it openly in the daylight, take all the responsibility and the burden, and no other should suffer in his reputation or in the good opinion of the government, by his acts, palmam if it be, odium if it be, qui meruit.

The relations of the government to the students /7/ was not then confiding, generous, or even just, as they should be and as they are now. Government was then more suspicious; students were less trustful and sympathetic; government was more ready to suspect, and to throw the odium of a bad name on students, and to hold them guilty until they proved themselves innocent. This want of sympathy, and hearty and affectionate co-operation, was a great misfortune for both parties. The government were conscientious and faithful; they gave their best thoughts and mental labor for the good of the students. But their manner was neither familiar, affectionate nor attractive. They were the governors, the masters and teachers, rather than parents, guides, and friends. The students obeyed the rules, learned their lessons and deported themselves respectfully in presence of the professors and tutors not so much because they felt the propriety and desirableness of these things, but because it was required of them. It was obedience rather than co-operation. Among them were some indiscreet, careless, merry, who were glad to play sometimes out of, as well in season. They told their stories of the apparent mistakes, peculiarities of any member of the officers, with or without reason—doubtless most usually the latter. Some were noisy; some apparently on the verge of disobedience if not absolutely derelict. It was said, and with some reason, that some of the officers had books in which students' names were entered on different /8/ pages, and against each one's name all his errors, faults, peccadillos, were entered; and that when any flagrant act was committed, and the guilty party was not manifest, these lists and the accounts of character and life were examined to see whether the suspicion could not safely be thrown on any one from his minor offenses or misbehaviors. Knowing, or believing, or fearing these secret records, many students felt that the officers were spies as well as teachers; and seeing that, occasionally, some who were believed by their associates to be free from fault, were called up and charged with crime against the College laws, and the burden of proving innocence thrown upon them, they felt less reconciled to the power that ruled over them; and although they were not inclined to rebel or to disobey any law, yet they felt less reverence, love and sympathy for the proper authorities.

Jarvis unwittingly fell twice under the censure of the government in the lowest form. Once he was called to Prof. Popkin who had especial charge of the class, when the good Doctor said in the fewest words possible, "Jarvis, the Government directed me privately to admonish you for turning your back to the worship. You may go." He had no recollection of turning his back to the pulpit in prayer time, but afterward he found himself inclined to turn round and lean against the high back of the seat before him. Then he remembered the admonition and /9/ supposed he had unconsciously done this before.

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Another time he was called to the same officer who said, "Jarvis, the Government directed me to privately admonish you for whispering in prayer. You may go." He then remembered that one of his classmates, a boy small in stature, sat behind him. He was so small as to be concealed from the officer by the much larger form of Jarvis. This boy was lively, good-natured, volatile and very prone to talk to his neighbors, and was sometimes annoying to them in this way. They could not help answering him sometimes, and this was Jarvis's misdemeanor.

At another time, on a warm summer evening when the windows were open, at a little after 10 o'clock, Jarvis and Boardman,⁹ his chum, were sitting in their room, 14 Stoughton, with two members of the class below, who lived in the same building. They were talking freely, cheerfully, perhaps merrily, and probably loudly, when a gentle rap was heard at the door. Jarvis opened it and there stood the very gentlemanly and courteous tutor, Otis. Mr. O. said in the kindest and most courteous manner, "Jarvis, I think you can hardly be aware how loud conversation sounds in the rooms, at this hour, when all is otherwise still." Jarvis said he had not thought of it, and regretted that they had not been more careful. Mr. O. said, "I suppose it is an oversight"; and bade them good-night.

Jarvis was a respectable scholar in College studies. /10/ He had a conference, both at exhibition and at commencement. But during these years he gave much attention to chemistry and, too great for his best mental interest, to botany. He was fascinated with this last study, and many a time when he should have been getting his appointed lessons, he was roaming the fields and swamps in pursuit of plants, or analyzing and pressing them in his room. In his junior year he had for especial companion in this study, Leon C. Walker of the class before him, who afterwards became an astronomer of high distinction; and in his senior year, his classmate, Richard Hildreth, afterward the historian of the United States.¹⁰ And thus botany may be said to have been his chief accomplishment when he left College.

In three of the winters of his college life, Jarvis taught country schools; in the freshman year in Acton, in the sophomore year in East Sudbury, now Wayland, and in the junior year in Beverly, all with indifferent success. The relation of pupils to teachers was not then as cordial and pleasant as now. Children were less submissive, and parents less confiding, so that the teacher found it harder to manage a school, and however successful may have been his administration, it was at greater cost of anxiety and thought. J. was spoken kindly of by the Committees, but he felt within himself that he had not fulfilled his own ideal, nor produced the effect upon the minds and characters of his pupils, /11/ that he desired, nor added to their moral and intellectual power, and aided in fitting them for the responsibilities of life as the perfect teacher should have done.

Early in November of the senior year, he went home to take the care of his brother Charles, who was suffering from a lumbar abscess. His father was feeble, his mother was

⁹ John Howe Boardman, ". . . September 9, 1874 he died. A good, honest, faithful man was he, and discharged all his duties to his family and society until his illness in 1872. I loved him from his boyhood in college. He was my room-mate two years. The world honored him in life and missed and mourned him in death", cf. 'Account of class of 1826'. See also BCLM, ALS to E. J., Portsmouth, NY, 7 June 1872, where Boardman wants to tell Jarvis about his own nervous and mental condition.

¹⁰ See above, Introduction p. xv. "A man of great ability, large learning, high and generous principles and tender sensibilities. His works were many and valuable and have done the world good and himself honor." Cf. 'Account of class of 1826'.

sick of consumption of which she died in the April following. There were no sisters, no other brother who could take care of Charles, and he wanted Edward for his companion and attendant. He had no other attendant, nurse, or even watcher. Edward attended to all the personal wants of his brother through his life. Charles was able to sit up some of the time for the first weeks, and to read, talk, hear reading and receive the company of his many friends. They were in the room constantly together, save when E. went out for his daily exercise. This unvarying life in the sick chamber for four months at length produced dyspepsia in E. which, in varying degrees has troubled him to this time, 1873, and probably will through life.

In all this time Charles was bright, cheerful, social and agreeable. He read, and his brother read much to him. The whole tone of the life and intercourse was highly intellectual, moral and religious, and could not fail to be beneficial to Edward's character. The manner of Charles life, /12/ his beautiful and graceful fading away during these few months unto his death on the 23rd of February, 1826, has been already described in the especial notice of his life.

At times he suffered intense pain and would then be sometimes soothed by having his attention drawn to some book that his brother read to him. Later he wanted his flesh to be rubbed, which was done one or two hours at a time, and which the sufferer said drew his attention from the pain and he felt it less. Probably this had a mesmeric or galvanic influence upon the nervous system, and tranquilized the distress of the patient. This pain was most acute late at night, from 8 or 9 to 11 or 12 o'clock. In the last few weeks this constantly recurred.

DREAM

After one of these painful scenes when they had been talking of the near approach of death and the future so closely coming upon the suffering one, Charles became easy and fell asleep, and Edward retired at 12 o'clock, or later. Soon he fell asleep and then he dreamed. He thought that he died and his spirit was wafted to heaven. There seemed to be a field or region of indefinite extent, but all within reach of his eye. The atmosphere was mild and intensely agreeable. The sun—or, rather, no sun was seen, but the light, though clear and sufficient, was not the keen brightness of the unclouded /13/ summer, but rather the mildly softened, and hazy air that we sometimes see in August. The sky was that of Claude, beautiful, pleasant to the eye, but not oppressive. There were people everywhere in groups throughout the immense space. There was a gentle cheerfulness in every one's appearance and manner. They all knew each other; they all knew him. They moved freely and easily, without apparent effort. As he floated about all spoke kindly and affectionately to him as to an old and beloved friend. At length he came to a group of four who received him with great and tender cordiality, and said they had been looking for him. They knew he was coming at this hour, and were watching for him, for he was to be their especial associate. These were Rev. Dr. Channing, Gen. Geo[rge] Washington, Lord Chatham and Thomas Aquinas. There was a grand dignity as well as something very attractive and loving in their bearing, as there was also in all others.

This was, perhaps, the impression of his brother's sweet, but strong and loving character which he had ever manifested, but more and more as his death drew near.

This picture of heaven and its people has been fresh in his mind ever since.

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After the death and burial of Charles Jarvis,¹¹ Edward returned to College and was received with warm and tender cordiality by his classmates /14/ and friends. He entered upon the course of study that the class were engaged in, and made up the deficiencies of the winter in the best way he could.

In April he was again called home by the death of his mother, and then returned to finish the college course.¹² He again studied botany and chemistry in addition to the ordinary lessons.

During all the college course he very rarely missed, on excuse, a prayer when in town. Having a brother in Boston, Charles, who was studying medicine for nearly two of these years, and his youngest brother Nathan, an apprentice to a druggist for two years, and Stephen occasionally there when at home from sea, he frequently, even generally, spent Saturday afternoon there, if not botanizing elsewhere; and, in that case, went on some other evening to see his brothers, and was then absent on these occasions. In the summers of the last three years, he frequently went on long expeditions in pursuit of plants, to Medford, Watertown, West Cambridge, even sometimes to Woburn and Wilmington. He was detained until evening and then missed the evening prayer. He has now (1873) no recollection of ever missing a morning or evening prayer when he was in Cambridge, and especially Sunday morning when comparatively few attended, he was always present. In his senior year he was one of six of his class that missed no Sunday morning prayer when he was in town. He stayed /15/ from chapel service one Sunday afternoon. This was considered one of the most unpardonable negligences, and never allowed except in case of sickness and then it must be excused before the service. If the ailing student was unable to go himself to the proper officer, he could send his room-mate or some other, and obtain dispensation. Nevertheless J. thought he would venture, and went to Mr. Miles, the tutor, and stated that he had been absent from chapel, and asked if he could be excused as a favor. Mr. M. very properly asked what was his excuse. He said he had none that he would accept if he were an officer, and he would not offer it as a proper reason, but only ask it as a favor if it were allowable. Mr. M. said, "You are very honest, and you have not been absent." "No! except when away from the College." Then said Mr. M. "I will excuse you this time. Now tell me why you stayed away." "My brother Charles come to see me and we talked all the afternoon and overlooked the church."

Jarvis felt, on leaving College, that he had not accomplished all the purpose of going there. He had not been idle; on the contrary he had been industrious. He had the reputation among his class-mates of being ever busy; yet he had not devoted his time to the best purposes. He had read much, had studied botany and chemistry much, and had acquired much knowledge that was not in the college programme; yet it would have been better to

¹¹ "Dr. Ripley in his sermon alluded to Charles and gave some account of his character. Father was highly gratified with it", Diary, I, p. 91. Charles Jarvis is quoted twice by Edward Warren (1804–1878) in his *Life of John Collins (1778–1856)*, Boston, Ticknor and Fields, 1860, vol. I, p. 12, and vol. II, p. 93.

¹² "She had been sick of the consumption for 10 years and in that time relaxed in none of her care of the family and even the day before she died also she gave orders from her bed on the family business." Diary, I, p. 96.

In the 'Number of deaths from disease in 100 between 1779–1878 and the proportion of each to the whole % of 1000 of the living' by E.J., deaths from consumption represent the highest figure. Cf. CFPL, Edward Jarvis Papers, safe shelf 6, item 7, vol. 3, pp. 176–7: "Mortality in Concord Massachusetts from 1778 to 1841 recorded by Rev. Ezra Ripley D.D. . . . the whole was copied by Capt. Francis Jarvis and his daughters, Laura & Lucy H. Jarvis. These just were digested and analyzed and calculations made, deductively drawn by Edward Jarvis, M.D. of Dorchester, Massachusetts."

have given more exclusive attention to the course prescribed in the government. /16/ He would have gained a more thorough discipline, a better mental habit, more concentration; and thereby he would have been better prepared to grapple with the professional studies that should come next, and be his life work. He would have gained more versatility, more power of adaptation to the business of life, and greater power to sustain its responsibilities. Nevertheless, educated as he was, he went home and took the next step in his life's progress.¹³

In the freshman year Jarvis lived in No. 2, Massachusetts, and in the sophomore year in No. 6, Stoughton, with Hosmer. In all these two years they had lived in perfect harmony. There never had been the least difference, alienation or aversion. They were then and have continued to be until this time, 1873, constant, affectionate, confiding friends. Yet they both, after calm deliberation and much discussion, concluded it would be better for both if they each had a different constant companion. As they were natives of the same village, had ever been associated with the same people, had ever been in the same schools, and now, for three and half years, had occupied the same rooms, studied, read, walked, played together, and probably had mutually aided in forming each other's character, now they thought it better for both that they should separate, find different room-mates, and in them, perhaps, different habits of person, of mind and of judgment. Thus they might obtain a better opportunity of development /17/ and of training their mental and moral habits; their characters might become broader, stronger and better prepared for the wide world which they, within a few years, were to enter. They would still be intimate friends, very frequent companions, as valuable to each other as ever; and yet gain more for their own moral and mental characters from different sets of associates to which the change would introduce them. Hosmer then lived with Adams, afterward Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Adams, of the Essex Trinitarian church of Boston. Jarvis lived with John H. Boardman, afterward the most estimable and highly favored Dr. Boardman of Portsmouth, N[ew] H[ampshire].¹⁴ They continued with their newly chosen room-mates through the rest of college life, each party living in the greatest harmony, and mutual confidence. Jarvis and Boardman occupied No. 14 Stoughton in the junior year, and 14 Holworthy in the senior year. Boardman was a man of less intellectual power than Hosmer, but an industrious, faithful student, genial, affectionate, amiable, never ruffled, never disturbed, never at variance with any one. With him Jarvis spent two years with unvarying happiness. Hosmer was his most frequent visitor, and he was, in turn, with Hosmer in his room. Jarvis's other principal associates were Brown, Julian Abbott, Parker, Hildreth, Dodge and Keith.¹⁵ These were, after

¹³ In the Diary, on the other hand, the deep discomfort and frustration of the young Edward is described very explicitly: "so my route continued falling, in the spring it was the 27th and now it fell to the 29th. . . . I began to despair of doing any thing as a scholar", he wrote in June 1824.

¹⁴ Diary, I, p. 39 et seq.

¹⁵ When Jarvis was writing his *Autobiography*, Addison Brown "died [1872] at Brattleboro' after a long and useful life." He had been editor of the *Phoenix* newspaper in Brattleboro' in 1862. "His paper is admirable . . . He gives a very lively photograph of the being and doings, and of the social and intellectual habits of the people in the towns of his country. A file of his paper will be of very great value to the historian and antiquarian in all future time as showing the character and life of the society of southern Vermont in the days of Brown's editorship." "He lost one son in the war, Col. A. Brown, and a son in law, Capt." On Julian Abbott, Jarvis wrote: "1878: A shadowed life; but the man under the shadow, true pure, devout, and sincerely regretting the ill health that has hindered his usefulness. He is sadly alone." On Willard Parker: "1835, professor of surgery at Cincinnati, Ohio, very famous. . . . 1839: removes to New York, professor of surgery; prosperous in practice. 1842: in good

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College, and during their several lives, among his most intimate friends. Besides these he was on pleasant and familiar terms with most of /18/ his classmates, and on pleasant terms with all. Out of his class he had many friends and companions among those who were before or after him; and with all of these his life passed very pleasantly; and, more than this, these friendships so begun and established in College were, in most cases, an abiding union while life lasted with both.

COMMONS

Jarvis's father, though a prosperous farmer, was not rich. He could pay all the bills of both his sons in College, yet he felt it needful to be economical in his expenditures. The government still maintained the Common's halls, and boarded the students for \$1.75 per week. About half boarded in those halls; the rest took their food in families around the village, in most cases more elegant and costly, yet probably not better or more digestible food. There was a certain system and order in the food of Common's. The same thing recurring on the same days varying according to the season; there was a certain style of cookery, and peculiarity of appearance and flavor of some of the aliments which, to some of the students, were occasion of fun and joking; and to others, of discontent. The only reasonable ground of fault was that the bread, excepting cornmeal cakes, or biscuit from the College kitchen, was from the baker and always new, or, at least, baked on the same day. In some this new bread was /19/ supposed to cause indigestion; and to others its narrow range of variety produced weariness and even disgust. Nevertheless, the food was good, wholesome, and, with few exceptions, digestible and nutritious; yet it was not costly. It could not be for the price paid. Still it was good for the student—good for anybody. Most who boarded out paid from \$2.50 to \$3.50 which was probably the highest at the most fashionable boarding-house. This, however, but a few paid. Some boarding-houses furnished table for less than \$2.50; one certainly, perhaps more, charged \$1.75, the same as in Common's. At this house, Hosmer, Brown, Parker, Moore, and men of like tastes and character in other classes, boarded through a good part of their college life. These were Jarvis's principal and most loved friends, and after living in College Common's, nearly two years, he was induced to leave and take his meals in this boarding-house with his friends. He tried it one week; but he found the food, though satisfactory, was no better than in Common's. There was no better style of life. No lady presided, or sat at table. The manners of the boarders were no better than those of the Common's halls. There was no opportunity of improving in domestic and family habits; there was nothing to be gained by the change.¹⁶ The boarding-house was a little more

business. . . . 1852: stands very high and doing an immense business in New York. 1858: same. Income said to be \$25,000 a year from his profession. 1859–60–61: same. Income rises to \$35,000 a year. . . . 1871–2: same. . . . Deeply interested in charities and humanities. . . . 1876: as before. At class meeting. Broken in health; but bright and showing the finest results of a full, prosperous and useful life." On Allen Dodge, a lawyer and senator, "1878: died. Much respected in Essex County." No mention is made of Keith in 'Account of class of 1826' from which these quotations are taken.

¹⁶ To be "introduced" to the well-to-do Bostonian families seems to have been an unconscious problem for the less than rich student such as Jarvis (cf. *Diary*, I, pp. 44–8). The cultural background of his respectable family was also relatively modest. It took the James family three generations to accomplish cultural acceptability in the form of William, who "would flounder for twelve years (from 1860–1972) in search of his vocation", and who was "a gifted young man, and the length of time required before he found his direction could be considered natural for a

distant and a little more time would be consumed. The additional excuse was not needed as J. was so much in the habit of walking at other times. There were his /20/ friends and very pleasant companions, but he had left similar associates in the Common's halls. He then, after the experiment of one week, returned to the College boarding-house, and there he remained until his college life ended. Thus, with the exception of this single week, he lived in College Common's, and through all the four years at the cost of \$1.75 per week. If he had been rich he would have been glad to have lived in a cultivated family, and enjoyed the advantage of more polished domestic companionship; but he did not feel like putting his very kind and tender father to any more cost than was necessary to carry him through College.

As his father was able, with economy, to pay all his bills, he asked no aid from the government. The bills were rendered quarterly to the students. Jarvis sent his at once to his father who immediately sent the amount to him to be paid to the steward. At the end of the third quarter of the junior year the government made a deduction of \$24 as exhibition or charity money, and of \$2.50 on the tuition, making a reduction of \$26.50¹⁷—about half the whole bill. Dea. Jarvis sent to Edward the whole amount of the undiminished bill and wrote that this deduction was not his, it was there by mistake and was intended for and belonged to another; and E. must pay the whole. He went with the whole sum and offered it to the steward, Mr. Riggison. He, Mr. R., said he could only /21/ take payment of the bill as finally made out, unless he could get an order from the president, giving him liberty to pay the bill in full. Accordingly he went to the president with his father's money. The president said it was a mistake and granted the request. The full bill was paid. The next bill came with the deduction of \$2.50 in tuition. This was sent home and returned with the money and direction to pay the full bill. The same process of petitioning the president for official permission to pay the whole amount was gone through. At the last interview the president said that but a short time before the tuition was raised to this extent with the proviso that the increase should not apply to persons of limited means, farmers, mechanics, ministers, teachers, etc. and those who made great effort to send two or more sons to College, and he thought Dea. Jarvis came within that category although he asked no aid from the government. The next bill and all the others of the senior year, came out with the deduction of \$4.50 in tuition, the amount of the increase for seniors, for reasons given by the president. Dea. Jarvis said he had struggled long enough in that battle, and sent the sum of the bill as made out; and thus he paid \$4.50 in each quarter (\$18 in the whole senior year) less than the highest; but the same as the average of his class. With this exception, Dea. Jarvis paid the whole of his sons' education at Harvard College. Charles taught school two winters and Edward, three winters, /22/ and earned, beside their expenses, about \$40 each winter. The whole cost of Edward's college education—for board, tuition, room rent and other college expenses, for fuel, oil, books, clothing, travelling, pocketmoney, everything was \$1,082. It is not now remembered whether this was exclusive of the money he earned by teaching in the three winters. If so, then the whole cost was about \$1,200, \$300 [sic] a year.

youth with multiple talents and a family with ample financial resources to support his wandering." Howard M. Feinstein, *Becoming William James*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1984, p. 89.

¹⁷ Diary, I, p. 62.

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Dea. Jarvis gave his sons manifold lessons of economy yet always supplied them sufficiently with money, and always charged them to pay the cost of everything they obtained or enjoyed and never to live at the cost of another; as when Boardman, whose father was rich, proposed to have a carpet in the room at his own exclusive cost which was \$20 for the year, Dea. J. said to Edward that he regretted that B. wanted it, as he himself could not or ought not to afford it; yet if B. wanted it, he would not object, but would pay half the cost. He would not have his son enjoy the carpet at Boardman's cost.

At that time, the stage, Morse's, went three times a day to Boston. These three stage loads, nine inside, and two to four outside, were all that wanted public conveyance to the city. The rest walked. Saturday forenoons, when pleasant, there was quite a procession on the sidewalk to Boston, and as many returned in the afternoon and evening. Jarvis, as before stated, /23/ went to Boston frequently to see his brothers, and for other reasons, averaging probably once a week in term time. He rode only once in the stage, and once near the end of the senior year, he and Hosmer, wishing to visit some friends in Boston and also in Brookline, hired a horse and chaise at cost of \$1.50 (75 cts. each) for this ride. Jarvis generally got leave to go home in the middle of the term, and generally walked thirteen miles. At the end of the term, when he had baggage, he usually took the stage unless his father came or sent for him.

Charles had retained his college books and, as far as these had not been changed, Edward used them and bought all the others. None of these were sold, but all were retained and afterward lent to others to whom it was an object to save this cost, so long as they continued to be used in College, or were worn out or lost. Some of these books—even some that Charles used in his freshman year in 1817, and Edward afterward—are still in E's possession.

Although Dea. Jarvis was not an educated man, yet he read so much and had so much intercourse with men of the world, of education and high intelligence, that he was familiar with the character and appreciated the advantages of classical and scientific acquirements; and, next to his ardent desire to cultivate in his sons the purest and strictest moral character, he was ambitious that they should be scholars and acquire the discipline, the power and the versatility of the scholastic character. When they were studying /24/ at home before going to college, he watched their daily progress asking frequently how much they had learned in Virgil, Cicero, the Greek Testament, &c.

He thought much of manner. He owned and had read Chesterfield,¹⁸ and though he despised his morals, yet he thought his advice as to manners or to proprieties, worthy of consideration, and frequently quoted those rules for his children. He advised them ever to cultivate courtesy in their intercourse with their fellows, to treat the world with a becoming respect, to treat even the meanest and humblest with kindness, and to live in harmony with all men.

JOURNEY TO NEW YORK

After leaving college his dyspepsia troubled him, and he had some fears that it might

¹⁸ *Letters to his son* by Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield (1694–1773). The son to whom Chesterfield's famous letters were written was Philip Stanhope, his illegitimate child by Mlle Du Bouchet in Flanders.

interfere with his school labors. He then took a journey which he hoped would benefit his digestion.¹⁹ He went first to Salem and spent a short time in the family of his friend, Gen. James Miller, then collector of the customs; thence to Portsmouth where he stayed a week with his college room-mate, Boardman. Then he went, in a coaster, around Cape Cod, through Long Island Sound to New York. The passage was five days. J. was seasick. This was his first experience of the sea, and it was very delightful after the seasickness had passed away. They met head winds when passing Cape Cod, and spent an entire day in beating /25/ round that long reach of sandy bluffs. The vessel kept as near to land as possible, sailing southeast about three miles and southwest the same. The weather was calm, the sun bright, and they were alternately presented with the hills of sand and the open ocean. With the Captain's Charts J. kept familiar with all the variations of coast as they passed along. It was night when they passed Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. In the morning they were in the sound, and there they met the New York steamer going to Providence apparently filled with passengers on the decks—ladies, gentlemen—all seemingly enjoying the luxury of the most comfortable means of travelling. This was a new experience to Jarvis. He had never been on board or even seen a steamer, except the ferry boats in Boston Harbor. Comparing that mode of travelling with the coaster in which he was sailing, the steamer's ample dimensions and the show of cabins and staterooms, with the narrow and stenchy cabin where he had slept below, it seemed to him that there was a luxury much beyond his present power to enjoy.

In New York he stopped at Bunker's Mansion House, Broadway, for five days. He found friends—some whom he had before known, and some to whom he brought letters—and was treated with great kindness. This was his first sight of a great city—his first experience of the broad world. He had for years had a yearning to see New York, and /26/ trusted that the time would come for this privilege; and now it had come to him and he had enjoyed it. He met scientific men, ate at the tables of noted men and so far he was satisfied. Still when he heard of Philadelphia now so near at hand, he wished that the time would soon come when he could see that, also. Yet this was not then to be his opportunity, and he went up the river in a steamboat to Albany, Troy and to Saratoga Springs; thence eastward over the Green Mountains to the Connecticut River; then from Charlestown, N[ew] H[ampshire], down the Connecticut, to Northampton where he found his classmate Walker in Messrs Cogswell & Bancroft's celebrated Round Hill School. Next he took stage for Cambridge where he wrote his part and was ready for Commencement.

At Commencement, Hosmer and Jarvis having most of their friends in common, had their company in the same room; from Concord and Stow, from Boston, Salem, Charlestown and many other towns they asked more than one hundred and fifty, old and young, to meet them there. About one hundred came. Their table was spread from their homes in Concord, with the usual substantial and delicate matters of the day.

Most of the others of the graduating class, especially those who had parts or whose families lived within reach of the College, had similar gatherings (and similar entertainments) of friends to hear them /27/ or, at least, see them and congratulate them on the completion of their college course, and partake of their hospitality. These gatherings

¹⁹ In the Diary, I, p. 108, there is no reference to "dyspepsia" but only a great enthusiasm for the departure, and a search for letters of recommendation to be used on his trip.

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with others who came for the general interest in Commencement, filled the church to overflowing in the forenoon. They were in the many rooms occupied, or borrowed for the occasion, by the seniors; they filled the windows; their cheerful voices were heard through the entries; they, and others, were scattered about the college yard, and until night the whole quadrangle was a scene of beautiful hilarity and enjoyment; so many welcoming their child and friend into the broad world, so many of the graduates of earlier years there to renew their association and receive these cherished friendships of college life.

Jarvis and Hosmer with their hundred friends in 14 Holworthy, felt the full force of this then the great day of the College—the great day of their intellectual life, when they were acknowledged as men—when they parted from pupilage and boyhood, and stood on the new platform of manhood, and were thenceforth to take a part of the world's burden on their own shoulders, and assume new responsibilities of duty and effectiveness.

At night their friends returned to their respective homes, and the waiters, aids and co-operators, carried the debris, the table furniture back to Concord. The next day everything was cleared away, and the room swept and garnished ready for new /28/ occupants, as it had been for an age before, and will be for ages to come as long as Holworthy Hall shall be occupied by students.

CONCORD TOWN SCHOOL

He had engaged to teach the Concord town school at the usual salary, \$500 a year. This was a low reward, but he could board at home without cost and his father, feeling very lonely, wanted his son to be with him, for which he considered the cost of board as nothing. After he was engaged some of the people looked with fear and doubt on his labors in the school. They thought it impossible for a native to manage the children who had grown up in his neighborhood. They said the money would be thrown away and the children's year lost, and consequently urged the Committee to discharge Mr. J. and find a stranger to take the school.

The Committee adhered to their decision, and the school began pleasantly and was so continued through the year. E. J. had the reputation of being a very exact disciplinarian without severity.²⁰ He punished very little and always with pain to himself. He never worked more comfortably or satisfactorily. There was a marked co-operation between teacher and taught. The children seemed to love the law as their best way of life, and to work according to the rule rather because it was the most satisfactory and pleasant way, than in /29/ obedience to a prescribed law. The work was easy to him for there was no ground of anxiety or fear. He punished very little with the ferule—much less than his predecessor. He did not then see his way clear to dispense with corporal punishment entirely. He weighed every case carefully and conscientiously. He was naturally somewhat irritable, and watched this weakness with jealous care, and if he discovered any feeling of unkindness toward the erring pupil, he would not trust his judgment as to the offense or the retribution. He feared this feeling might enter into his motives or determination, and rather than err at the boy's expense, he acquitted him. Perhaps some really guilty boy may have thus escaped punishment because the teacher feared that he might condemn him

²⁰ One of the schoolboys was the nineteen-year-old Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862), see above, Introduction p. xxvi.

wrongfully or over-punish him. Although in every case he thought he had there sufficient cause to punish, and that he would do wrong to the boy, to the school and the cause of good order, by omitting punishment, yet in after years looking back upon these cases and analyzing with his better judgment, he concluded that in every case he could have spared himself and the boys the pain of punishment without lessening the power of the government, or the influence of the law, or the respect for the law on the part of the delinquent.

/30/ PROFESSION

Jarvis's predilection was to be a minister. To him there was something indescribably attractive in the profession. The nature of the employment, as teacher of holiness and as messenger from God to men, the opportunity to put forth those exact and elevated notions of right and wrong, of leading people, by love, to the paths of wisdom; there seemed to him a beauty and a grace in this position and relation more than any other, and he wanted to devote his life and power to it. But his friends—especially his brother Charles—thought that this was not his field of service. His speech was indistinct, his enunciation was imperfect, and he could not succeed as a minister. People would be unwilling to hear him, and perhaps his severe notions of life and duty, and, probably, unfeeling way of presenting them, would rather repel than draw hearers to his preaching. As none advised him to study this profession and some positively dissuaded him, he gave up the cherished hope and took that which alone seemed not to be closed to him, and studied medicine. But his first affections were not so easily given up, and afterward, while studying anatomy, medicine and healing, his thoughts too often wandered to his friends at the divinity hall, their delightful studies and their lovely prospects of usefulness in the field of humanity. His sympathies with that profession remained through life. His best and most intimate /31/ friends of college became ministers, and they have ever been his pleasantest and dearest associates, and he has ever been drawn to the prophets of godliness.

During this year J. studied medicine between schools, with Dr. Josiah Bartlett;²¹ but this was not much more than nominal. He once told his friend, Mr. Samuel Hoar,²² that he regretted to find, on self-examination, that he had made very little progress in his professional studies, that, although he had planned to do much and there were apparently many hours in the week that he might devote to anatomy, &c., he found that he almost constantly yielded to the inducement to attend to general or lighter reading, to botany, to excursions abroad, visiting, &c. To this Mr. H. said, "This is what you should expect. A man can be but one thing good, a good teacher or a good student; he can not be both. Now you are a good teacher and therein you expend all your mental force. Of course you have but little left for anatomy and physiology". There is a general, even a universal truth, in Mr. Hoar's opinion.

Jarvis studied much botany this year. He gathered and analyzed most of the plants of Concord. He read much history and many novels. He took great interest in the Sunday School which was organized for the first time in May, or June, 1827. Dr. Ripley, then

²¹ Josiah Bartlett (1797–1878), see above, Introduction, p. xxi.

²² Samuel Hoar (1778–1856), see above, Introduction, p. xviii.

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seventy-five years old, felt a strong sympathy with the young, and was ever ready to listen /32/ to any new plan for their or the town's improvement. He called a meeting to establish a Sunday School on a permanent foundation. The most desirable of the men and women of middle age and youth readily enlisted in the scheme. Jarvis was ready to co-operate, but he thought that, as he taught all the week, he could not do more in that way, without impairing his mental and moral power. He therefore declined taking a class, but offered to take care of the library which he supposed would only require an hour's clerical work on Sunday. He was chosen librarian. But he soon found that the library was first to be created, before it could be kept and distributed to the scholars. Moreover the means of creating the library were, even before that, to be found; and this seemed to devolve on the librarian. He raised funds by begging of the people, then he selected books; but as none were to be put into the library except such as would be profitable to the children, they were to be examined in advance. Hence many were taken from the store, and all read carefully; a large proportion were rejected and a few, only, admitted. All were then to be covered, labelled and catalogued. So he found that instead of giving only an hour a week as he had intended, he gave eight, ten, or more hours a week—beside the hour and a half or two hours on Sunday—to the work. He did this cheerfully because it seemed necessary for the prosperity of the Sunday School. He wanted to put the library on such good foundation that it would remain through after years. He wanted to /33/ create the nucleus of a library that would be attractive to the children, and elevating, ennobling and strengthening to their hearts, minds, and lives; and one that should determine the character of the collection in all coming time. He felt that he was working not only for that season and for those children then in the school, but for future years, and for those who should come after these had disappeared.

LIFE IN CONCORD (1826–27)

Richard Hildreth, his classmate, took the Concord Academy at the same time, boarded with Dea. Jarvis, roomed and slept with Jarvis and was his constant companion. They read, studied, botanized and walked together. They walked, every day, two, four, or six miles after school, at night, whatever might be the weather. Storm, cold, wind, heat, were no sufficient objections and they suffered nothing from exposure, but on the contrary they had robust health and enjoyed the life abroad.

THE DEBATING CLUB

There was a debating club in the town, to which Jarvis was elected when he left College, and was soon chosen secretary. This society was, according to the customs of the time, for debate or disputation or given questions. Certain members were to take the affirmative, and certain others the negative, and maintain their appointed sides in the best way they could. It /34/ was simply a trial of skill at mental gladiatorship. Reason and sophistry, truth and error, were alike to be employed if they seemed to favor the part assumed. This was not well for mental discipline, nor did it aid the search for truth, nor was it always productive of good feeling and harmony. The society was afterward superseded by a lyceum which was far more instructive, and had a higher and more desirable educational influence on the members and the people that came to hear.

Edward Jarvis

VACATIONS

There were quarterly vacations of a week. In November Jarvis went, after thanksgiving, to Plymouth, and spent two days in the family of Rev. Dr. Kendall, with Hosmer who was then teaching a private school in that town and was engaged to Miss Hannah K., daughter of Dr. K. In February he went to Boston, to the hotel, with the representative from Concord, visiting his friends in Boston and Cambridge. In May he went with Hildreth to Gloucester, in the family of Rev. Hosea H., the father of his classmate.

ENGAGEMENT

In November of 1826, Jarvis engaged to be married to Almira Hunt of Concord.²³ Her family lived half a mile from his father's. They were nearly of the same age; he was born in Jan., 1803, and she in July, 1804. They had been to school together in their childhood and early youth. They attended /35/ dancing school together in 1819–20. They had been familiar and very pleasant friends, and for years before this conclusion, their associates had thought they would ultimately come together. She was the daughter of Reuben and Mary Hunt. Her father's family were among the substantial farmers of Concord, and had lived there from the beginning of the town, and on one farm through many generations. Her mother was a woman of rare good sense, mental balance and sweetness of character. She was the daughter of John Russell Esq. of Littleton, an old family of high respectability and influence in the town. She died in 1840 at the age of ninety, and her husband at the age of seventy-four in 1816.

Almira inherited her mother's mental and moral strength, and her discipline and sweetness. She taught school from her eighteenth to her twenty-eighth year in Leominster at first, afterward in Concord, with unvarying success.²⁴

CHURCH

In May, or June, 1827, Jarvis joined the Unitarian church under the charge of his father's and his own very dear friend, Rev. Dr. Ripley. This seemed to him to be the appropriate step for his higher moral, and religious culture. It seemed to bring him nearer

²³ In December 1826 Jarvis wrote in his Diary, I, p. 129: "In this month I engage myself to marry Almira Hunt the daughter of the late Reuben and Mary Hunt. I was this 23 years 11 months, and she was 22 and 5 months. I had previously obtained my fathers consent".

²⁴ Diary, I, p. 137 *et seq.* He writes of his future wife with tenderness and admiration: "thankfull that she is to be my partner for my life. She has talents superior to my own/ her amical disponibility . . . her correct [illegible] principles, are sufficient to make her worthy of [illegible] man", p. 156. "She is over careful of me and is never at ease when I am, as she fears, sick. I cannot suffer or appear to [illegible], without giving her more pains and anxiety than I myself have. Nevertheless she is a girl of fine feeling, high notions of honor and integrity and truth, of a mind much superior to the medium of ladies and educated more than is common to ladies of her standing. . . . The labour is very pleasant in her company, and she is willing to aid me", pp. 165–6. "I have within four weeks written to her 9 letters, I received 6. Her letters are in themselves good and as from her exceedingly pleasant. She is a good girl of fine and strong feeling, of pure principles, generous & noble & liberal sentiments . . .", November 15th, 1827. In December 1827, "I went home the morning of thanksgiving, get home at 7 1/2, at 9 1/2 went to Mess. Hunts found Almira well and as pleasing as I had left her. We were glad to meet after so long a separation. After Church stayed at home till 6 1/2 in the evening then went and stayed till 11 with Almira. In the evening I told her I kept this private Journal. She was much surprised and sorry giving that I had not told of it before. I had never told anyone but Nathan. Hosmer discovered it accidentally. I am sorry I did not tell her before. I have disclosed all my secrets (except this) to her, and she has reciprocated the confidence. I will not be reserved on any other thing to her", pp. 183–4.

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to God, to Christ, to his fellow men and to duty. It increased his happiness and his love for the world, and created a deeper interest in the affairs of life. Almira Hunt, Harriet Moore, and several other friends joined at the same time.

/36/ CONCORD

The form of joining the church was in Concord, and probably elsewhere—perhaps generally—an occasion of some public ceremony. The candidate applied to the minister. He announced it to the congregation on the next Sabbath. This was called propounding for the church. After the required period of probation, the candidate was called out from the pew into the broad aisle, before the whole congregation. Then the minister stated that he, or she, had been propounded for the suitable time, and, as he had heard no objection, he would take silence for consent and read the covenant and admit the person. Then the covenant was read and the candidate bowed consent, and was then declared a member of the church in full communion.

Jarvis was diffident as to this publicity and so were the others who wanted to join the church with him. They talked the matter over with Dr. Ripley who, at first, saw no way of avoiding it. They urged that it kept some away from the church who would gladly join it if they could do so privately. Dr. R. said he concurred with them in some measure, yet this change could not be made without the consent of the church, and probably the church would not make it of its own volition nor even at the request of any one out of its pale; “yet,” he added, “if you will join the body, you then will have opportunity to talk with and, perhaps, persuade the members to accept your proposition”. At length Dr. R. consented that */37/* the candidates might remain standing in their respective pews, and have the covenant read to them while the congregation should be present. This was accepted, and these candidates joined on this condition.

Jarvis’s school was so satisfactory that the Committee requested him to renew his engagement, which he declined. The Committee of the Academy asked him to take that as successor to Mr. Hildreth. This also he declined. He felt that it was better that he should enter upon his profession exclusively, and complete his preparation as early as possible; and if he should not have sufficient means for this purpose he could borrow money to be repaid out of his professional earning; so he closed his school-teaching labors forever.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1826–27

In reviewing this his first responsible year, he felt that it had been a very profitable one for his mind and character, and it had been one of the happiest of his life. He had been successful in his vocation. He had tried himself in the world. There had been a definite work appointed for each of his days, and every night had found it accomplished. He had no plans (save of professional study which he early gave up as impracticable) which had not been fulfilled. He had made many friends and strengthened the connection with others; and the end of the year found him stronger, happier, and better prepared for the next year’s work.

/38/ PROFESSIONAL STUDY

He continued to study anatomy with Dr. Bartlett reading mostly the books that Charles had left to him. This he continued until the course of lectures began in Boston.

Edward Jarvis

Before he went to Boston, he arranged all the flowers he had gathered and pressed, according to the Linnean classification, into an herbarium. He had large sheets of coarse, brown paper, tarred, which would preserve the plants from insects. The plants were all labelled with the class, order, genera and specific names, generally with the place of growth and date of gathering and with many, some incident or circumstance connected with it, as the companions at the time, &c. In making up this herbarium Jarvis took first his brother Charles' plants which were collected, pressed and classified in the same way. This constituted perhaps a third of the whole collection in which were most of the plants which are found in eastern Massachusetts.

MEDICAL LECTURES

In November he went to Boston, took board at Mr. Macondrey's, on Sudburg Street, and tickets for all the courses of lectures in the Medical School. He took notes of all, as he was a very rapid, though not very legible writer. He could write from the professor's speaking, very full notes, so that students who missed any lecture, borrowed his to copy into their books. He missed no lecture during the season.²⁵ /39/ It was expected that those who intended to graduate at the end of the year, should sit in the front seat and be examined at the end of the lecture. Any others might join and submit to the same examination. A few did so, but most of these were the candidates for graduation. But Jarvis, thinking that if he had faithfully attended to the lectures he should be able to pass their ordeal which should be a text of his success in learning, therefore offered himself, and was examined with the others through the winter.²⁶ He dissected much at the College, and read as much as possible in connection with the lectures.

Fearing a return of his dyspepsia he lived much abroad, and without a single mission he rose early in the morning and went abroad as soon as he could see, and walked the streets an hour or more. He thinks that in the course of the winter he threaded every street, lane and alley in the city; whenever he saw an opening new to him, he went in and followed it to its end. Sometimes he went to a cousin's in Charlestown, and sawed wood for his morning exercise.

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At the end of the lectures he returned to Concord and there remained a student with Dr. Bartlett, until the middle of August. This year from Sept., 1827, to Aug., 1828, Horatio Wood A.B., Harvard C[lass] 1827, had charge of the town school, and was Jarvis's principal companion out of school and study hours. They /40/ walked together in the morning from two to six miles, regardless of storm or cold, and, comparing the experience of this year when they walked in the morning, with that of the previous year when he walked in the afternoon, Jarvis found that the rain and storm were more frequent in the latter than in the former part of the day. Socially the year passed in the same manner as the year previous. It was a very happy one for Jarvis. He was in the Sunday School as before,

²⁵ Diary, I, p. 194, *et seq.*

²⁶ February 1827, he wrote, "My examination was the 26 February and it was well. The Committee fully heartily approved", Diary, I, p. 135. In Boston, where he went immediately "I bought at Kelly & Hudrow an elegant suit of blue peck coat & pantaloons".

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saw the many friends of home and early life in Concord, read much, studied botany as a pastime, and his profession as a matter of graver business.

Dr. Benjamin Lincoln, a young physician of high scientific acquirements, in Boston, was appointed professor of anatomy and surgery in the University of Vermont, in Burlington. His lectures were to begin about the 1st of Sept. and continue fourteen weeks. He was entirely inexperienced as a lecturer, and wished the aid of some medical student who was familiar with anatomical demonstration to do his dissecting and prepare his subjects for exhibition in the lecture. He had been an intimate friend of Dr. Charles Jarvis, and was a friend of Edward. He asked E. to go with him to Burlington, be [a] special student, and prepare the demonstrations for his lectures and otherwise aid in the preparations for this purpose if occasion should require. This was /41/ a very advantageous offer. The position held out opportunities of learning anatomy better than could be found in an ordinary office. It was cheerfully accepted.

Jarvis went a few days in advance of the lectures and visited Montreal before taking up his residence in Burlington. In Montreal he made friends who made the visit very pleasant as well as profitable by putting him in the way of seeing all that was desirable in the city and neighborhood, and by many pleasant courtesies.

On returning to Burlington, Dr. L., who suffered much from rheumatism and wanted aid and some nursing in his home, was boarding with Prof. Sweetser in a very cultivated family, at the cost of a dollar a week more than the students paid in the ordinary houses. He asked Jarvis to take board where he was, to room and sleep with him, and he (Dr. L.) would pay the excess of cost over that in other houses. J. accepted the invitation without agreeing to the condition. He wrote to his father who, at once, sent in answer his desire to do as Dr. L. wished, but to pay the entire cost and not accept any aid or gratuity. This was in accordance with Dea. Jarvis's usual spirit of personal independence.

The season was very pleasant and J. profited much by the opportunities there offered.

About the middle of December J. returned to Concord and soon went to Boston, entered his name /42/ as a student in the office of Dr. Geo[rge] C. Shattuck corner of Cambridge and Staniford Street, and there remained until he finished his professional pupilage in Feb. 1830.²⁷ There were students in the same office, Henry Dyer of his class, Geo[rge] Bartlett A.B., Harv[ard Class] 1827, John C. Howard A.B., Harv[ard Class] 1825, Ezra Palmer Jr A.B., Yale [Class] 1826 and Thadeus Brown A.B., Yale [Class] 1826. All these remained in the office until they graduated respectively, Howard in Aug. 1828, Dyer, 1829, Brown and Bartlett in 1830, and Palmer in 1831.

Jarvis entered at once into the medical school, attended all the remaining lectures, and submitted to the weekly examinations, as he had the winter previous. Dr. Shattuck was the nominal instructor. He always had many students for whom he furnished a very valuable library, a comfortable office and every facility of study, and was unvaryingly kind to his pupils. But he assumed no direction of their studies, gave no instruction and assumed no supervision of their professional education. Each one studied as he thought best. They followed the course and plan prescribed in the lectures, and sought the aid and counsel of some of the young physicians of the city. These were ever ready and competent, and

²⁷ "I left Boston to Concord, now my pupilage was closed. I mast [*sic*] begin life on my own responsibility", Diary, I, p. 412.

rendered good service to these unguided students. There was then a school under the care of Dr. James Jackson and Jacob Bigelow—men of the highest discipline and exactness. J. was familiar with their students and found great advantage from their conversation and co-operation. He was also on very pleasant terms with Dr. Jackson who was especially kind to him, and gave excellent /43/ advice. Dr. Lewis and Dr. Otis were also his familiar friends, and aided at every opportunity. Dr. Hildreth, then one of the dispensary physicians, was in ill health, and engaged J. to aid him in the visitation of the poor patients, and for about a year he went daily to his work, partly with Dr. H. and partly alone, making his examinations and prescribing in the best way he could. In the neighborhood of Dr. Shattuck was what was then called Negro Hill, including Belknap Street, Southarc, George and some other streets on the north slope of Beacon Hill, toward Cambridge Street. It had previously been the place where the wicked, the vile, the abandoned, the criminal and the dangerous were concentrated. Mr. Quincy the elder, Mayor, had broken up this especial haunt of wickedness, yet it was still the place where most of the colored population dwelt, and where a large proportion of the poor, the dissolute and abandoned, found their homes. Among these people there was necessarily much sickness, and as they were destitute of money, ambition, or self-respect, they went generally to Dr. Shattuck's office for medical aid. They wanted one of the Doctors, meaning one of the students with whom they appeared to be satisfied. From these the students had almost constantly as many patients as they could attend—as many as it was profitable to take care of. The students were, in the view of these people, all equally competent and trustworthy, whether they were just beginning their pupilage or had about finished their education—they were all Doctors alike. Fortunately /44/ most diseases, if not tampered with, will cease of themselves, and the human constitution will bear not only much disease and interference, but also much disorder and medicine at the same time; consequently most of these poor patients recovered from their ailments even under the varied methods of treatment by these students. In cases of doubt, Dr. Shattuck was always willing to go with his students and aid them. Sometimes they called their friends among the younger physicians whose co-operation was both desirable and freely given.

MEDICAL DOUBT

As soon as J. began to read on practical medicine, and the statement of the remedies prescribed for disease, he began to inquire farther as to the precise relation of the agent to the evil that it proposed to influence. He could easily understand that ipecac or antimony, and vomiting, were cause and effect, for one followed so constantly after the other, that it seemed that the last event was the necessary consequence of the first. So also Epsom or Glauber salts, calomel, rhubarb, castor oil, &c. were causes of quickened action of the intestines. Yet the question remained as to the effect of these agencies and interferences on the disordered state of the body. Did these remove fever, cool the skin, allay the thirst, moisten the tongue, give muscular strength; or in pneumonia did they remove the fullness of the lungs and the difficulty of breathing? He saw people thus diseased and medicated, and yet the disorder continued, but gradually left the patient. /45/ Except in special cases as when pain yielded to opium, although the specific effect of the medicine was more manifest in the physical organ, as vomiting after antimony and intestinal activity after jalap, the doubt arose in his mind whether, in many cases the action of the medicine and the cause of the disease were not two independent series of facts, or events, co-existing in

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the same body, perhaps with or without an active influence upon each other. From reading, conversation and observation, it was seen that for the same diseases, or same series of marked events, as fever, pleurisy, dysentery, &c. at different times, in different places, by different persons, various and different medicines had been and were given; the physical form had been and was very differently acted upon by these agencies, and yet one event of death happened to a few, and the other event of recovery to many, about in like proportion under these manifold kinds of treatment. The remedies that were supposed to be effective in removing disease in one age, were forgotten in the next; and others used with the same apparent effect in their stead, and these, in turn, yielded to a new means of treatment, and these again to the later inventions. Means believed to have power to annihilate disease in one place, and in one physician's hands, were rejected by others for the same kind of malady. If these therapeutic agents were the inscrutable causes of the events that were looked for and generally followed, if the removal of disease were the necessary consequence of the use of the medicine /46/ as evaporation is a necessary consequence of the increase of heat, and congelation the consequence of the great loss of heat, why then were they not used by all? Why were they not continued from age to age through all generations?—at least so long as the disease continued the same. It seemed to him, the inquirer, either that the same results in the animal body, the removal of the same morbid state, the same change from the disturbed to the healthy condition of the animal organ or function, had been and could be produced by a great variety of causes, or remedies; or that the morbid conditions—fever, dysenteries, colds, &c.—were different in different ages, or in various places, or under the care of different physicians, and therefore were removable only by different agencies; or, what seemed most probable, that these disorders were the same in all ages, and places, and that the agencies had no effect on their removal or continuance, that they were not causes of the disappearance or the series of morbid actions or conditions, and the restoration of the healthy or normal condition was not a consequence of the use of these remedies.

These doubts and inquiries began with his earliest studies of the theory and practice of medicine, and in various degrees have followed him ever afterward, and although he studied this branch of the profession with earnestness, yet he felt that, thus far, it had partaken very much of the nature and result of the search for the philosopher's stone, and offered less hope of /47/ practical reward.

CAUSES OF DISEASE

Another and different line of inquiry seemed even then to be more interesting, and more promising of profitable answer, i.e. into the nature of the causes of disease: what is, first, the exact anatomical and physiological condition of the body in health? second, what is its condition in state of disease? third, what is a cause or what are the causes that changed it from the healthy to diseased state?

If these causes could be ascertained in any specific case, then the inquiry would be, are those causes still present and in action? and, if so, can they be removed? and how? If they are not present, but their effects only are present, how can they be neutralized? This last seems to have been the main object of medical treatment.

Beyond their application to the special cases under observation, the knowledge of the causes of disease might be spread abroad to all the healthy world, who, however, are liable

to sickness as others before them, and thus warn and protect them against the dangers that surround them and that have produced the many bodily ailments since the world began.

This seemed to be the true field of professional inquiry, and in this way it seemed the physician should make himself useful to his fellows and hold himself ready as a prophylactic adviser to warn the people of danger and keep them in the path of health. /48/ So the world should look upon the medical profession, as guardians of their health, and consult its members as to the management of their lives, as the commercial and financial world consult the legal profession, and obtain their guidance in the legal and sure way of administration and business and property. These notions of the purpose and responsibility of his profession, presented themselves naturally to the view of Jarvis in his early pupilage, and they followed him into the world in all his practice, even to the present time, 1873, when he is seventy years old, and now they seem to be the paramount interest of the physician to cultivate and of the world to be able to profit by them.

Jarvis endeavored to make the most of his opportunities in Boston. He dissected much at the College, and also at Dr. Shattuck's private dissecting room, saw much practice at the hospital where he followed the alternating physicians and surgeons, in the dispensary, and in the neighborhood of Dr. S.'s office. For the last six months he was Dr. Shattuck's especial, private pupil, slept in his house, answered the night bell, sometimes went with Dr. S. and was sometimes sent out for the night call. He rode some with Dr. S. in the day and had opportunity to see his method of practice.

He attended the third course of lectures in the winter of 1829–30, and then, as before, submitted to the /49/ weekly examinations. At length in February, 1830, he was finally examined for a degree. As he had been examined for the year and was well known to all the professors, this examination was very slight. His admission seemed to have been a foregone conclusion. From the time he was first called into the examiner's room to his return to the ante-room it was only twenty minutes, and much of this was consumed in examining his certificates and in the discussion whether six months should be allowed for the study between schools in the year when he taught in Concord, and in regard to some little irregularity in the form of the certificate that Dr. Lincoln gave him for his attendance on the lectures at Burlington in 1828.²⁸ And yet in the very few questions that were asked, J. missed one which readily corrected itself on slight reflection. Then he was made a Doctor of Medicine, and launched on the world to seek employment, and earn his bread by his professional labor, and establish his character, and exert such an influence as his talents and exertions might permit.

GRADUATED AS DOCTOR OF MEDICINE—SEEKING A PLACE FOR LIFE

Having completed his professional education and received his degree, the next thing was to find a place of employment. The world was before him with all its wants and

²⁸ The lecture cards of E. J. are recorded in three envelopes at the Boston Countway Library, Cf. 1 K 260, Harvard University lecture tickets (1827–1829), for a total of 11 tickets; lectures Theory and Practice of Physic, 2 tickets, October 1827–1829, with James Jackson; *Materia Medica*, 2 tickets, 1827–1829, with Jacob Bigelow; Chemistry, 2 tickets, 1827–1829, with M. Webster; Practical Anatomy, 3 tickets, 1827–1829, with John Warren; Theory and Practice of Midwifery Medical Jurisprudence, 2 tickets, 1827–1829, with Walter Channing. At Vermont, 3 September 1829, lectures in Anatomy and Surgery with Benjamin Lincoln. In Louisville, 4 tickets, 2 in Anatomy with P. Cobb, 1838–1839 and November 1839; 1 in Surgery with Joshua B. Hint, 1837, 1 in Theory and Practice of Surgery, with John Flint.

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supplies. Was there any vacant place for him? any town or community in want of a physician, and in which he would be accepted and employed and earn his bread? Another question as /50/ to himself—was there any such town that would suit his taste and character, where he could develop and establish his ideal of character, where he could enjoy pleasant and cultivated society, and feed his mind and soul as well as his body?

There were three places that seemed to be offered to him. He had met friends in the city who (or whose friends) lived in these places, and who represented the want of a physician or the opportunity of such a man as he, for obtaining employment in them. He visited each one of these and examined their worth, moral, mental and financial to him.

In March he went to Concord, New Hampshire. He found there a young and vigorous Unitarian Society who were ambitious of having a physician among themselves besides the addition of an educated member to their numbers. They wanted for intimate association in their families, and especially in times of sickness, distress and anxiety, a physician of their own religious faith, whose sympathies would be more thoroughly with them. At that time religious differences were very marked and decided, the diverging sects had less confidence in each other, the members in each sect clung more closely together, and the religious strifes tended to widen these distinctions of sects, and to strengthen their individual connection and confidence; and hence the sects frequently endeavored to enlist professional men, and especially physicians, and to give them their support.

In Concord there were respectable physicians, and /51/ one who had a sort of meteoric reputation and practice. He went to all the region round about and had a large collection at his house on Sunday which was his appointed time to be found at home. The Unitarian Society had within it some of the most intelligent and influential families who would be an effective nucleus of future practice. The town was growing. It was intelligent and cultivated. Dr. Renton, the physician and surgeon of great practice, was called much abroad, and detained a day or more at a time. The people at home had begun to complain of his absence. They wanted a domestic physician who would be always within call. Moreover in a few years he moved to Boston.

The town would have been a good place for a new physician, but Dr. J. distrusted his own ability to gain and retain public confidence against such competition as he would find there. Moreover, although the Unitarians offered a warm and apparently a strong support, he very greatly mistrusted such a foundation for professional reputation and success. He did not wish to limit his field of service to a religious denomination. He wished to rest exclusively on his professional character for his reputation and hold on the people's confidence in the worth of his services. He was a decided Unitarian, but this should govern ecclesiastical associations alone; while his medical associations should be allowed to extend as far as his own fitness to meet the people's wants, should be much known. Moreover the ecclesiastical harmony /52/ might change. They might swerve from the faith they then held (he, or the members of the Unitarian Society) and if this community of belief were the sole bond of connection, the people might want a new doctor as well as a new doctrine, and he find himself out of business as well as out of church. From all these considerations he concluded not to settle in Concord.

HALLOWELL, MAINE

The representatives of several families in Hallowell, Maine, whose friends he knew in Boston, had also invited him to take up his abode in that town. Thither he went from

Concord in the stage and the cold rain storm of March. He was received very cordially by these families and their friends, and many inducements were held out for him to remain with them. The town was prosperous, growing and intelligent; there was much wealth, 4,000 or 5,000 people, and excellent society in the town. The professional competition was not appalling. The leading physician, a man of education, talent and great force of character, had worthily enjoyed the full confidence of the people, and might hold it for life; but he had recently become a democratic politician, a supporter of President Jackson, and was supposed to have ambitious aspirations which would lead him out of his profession to political station and employment. The people, at least those whom Dr. J. saw, were opposed to Jackson. They were grieved and offended at these movements of their physician, and concluded /53/ that he not only should, but certainly would be professionally lost to them. They therefore sought for another who must, of course, agree with them in politics, and be opposed to President Jackson.

The other physicians were old and declining. The competition would not be difficult to meet. So far as represented, the town offered satisfactory inducements for a young physician to take up his abode there. But Dr. J., probably influenced unconsciously by the same distrust here as at Concord, was also unwilling to go into the arena as a political physician. He had even less confidence in the permanence of any professional connection founded on this basis, than in the ecclesiastical. The people might turn to Jacksonism, or he might do so, and then the same notions would induce them to seek another to heal their diseases.

Another event was even more decisive of the matter. Dr. Hubbard, a physician of high character and reputation, of middle age, had for several years, lived in a town sixteen miles distant, but his practice had extended to the neighborhood, even to Hallowell. He had at this moment determined to remove to Hallowell as a center of a large field. Very probably he would meet all the present medical wants of the people. These decided Dr. Jarvis to look elsewhere for a residence, and he then returned to his native place.

NORTHFIELD, MASS.

In Boston he had met and found a very pleasant friend in Hon. Samuel C. Allen, of Northfield, then /54/ member of the Massachusetts Senate, previously representative in Congress for fourteen years. He proposed to Dr. J. to go to Northfield, and find business there. At the same time Geo[rge] W. Hosmer, his classmate and very intimate friend, was invited to settle as minister of that town. He was then for some weeks preaching as candidate. The old and principal physician wanted to go away. Some of the people wanted one of higher and more modern education to take his place. They saw Dr. J. and urged him to come and live with them. On visiting the place in May, he concluded to accept the invitation, and live there with his lifelong friend.

He began his professional work June 1. The town is in a lovely valley on both sides of the Connecticut, with mountains on the east and high hills on the west, within two miles of the river on each side. There were there 1,757 inhabitants in the town. They were almost exclusively farmers. The village ran along the table of land 70 or 80 ft. above and about a mile from the river. Pleasant, comfortable white houses were along each side of the single street for a mile and a half. Almost every building was a house or a barn or something connected with agriculture. There was a church in the middle of the street, a school-house,

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a tavern, a lawyer's office, one large store, one unoccupied small store, a tailor's shop, two blacksmiths' shops, a shoemaker's shop, carpenter's shop and a large three-story house occupied as the /55/ Northfield Academy and boarding-house. With these exceptions every building was [either] farm house or barn. Except at the store and tavern there was not a sign in the village. The wide street was almost deserted—no travel, no business and rarely any one to be seen except the farm people going to or from their lands, and children going to school or playing. There was no sound to be heard save the lowing of cattle—no sound of hammers, no rattle of machinery, no mechanical operations.

Dr. J. had not before experienced such quietness, such absence of all objects or events of interest. The only day of variety or manifestation of outward life was Sunday when people went to church. If one wanted opportunity for study undisturbed, he would find it here without interruption. There was but little travel through the town, no large or important road. A stage and mail came three times a week up, and as often down the river. Another with the mail, a branch of the line from Boston to Brattleboro', left Warwick, six miles distant, three times a week, bringing the Boston mail, and such passengers as wished to come to Northfield, and immediately returned with the same. There was very little communication with the world abroad. Few persons visited the families of the town. Few of the townspeople visited others abroad. Some said, with satisfaction, that they had been to the "down country", meaning Boston. A few had been several times to sell their farm produce in that city. A very large proportion of the people were natives of the town. They and /56/ their fathers and mothers and remote ancestors, for generations, had lived there. The people were quiet, faithful to their pursuits, good farmers, generally well-educated and acquainted with the affairs of the world. A few families were of rare intelligence.

There was a good library of history, travels, some philosophy, more sermons and moral treatises, and a few novels. Some of the people read much, especially works of a graver nature.

There was one Unitarian minister, Mr. Hosmer, and one Orthodox minister, a lawyer, three physicians and the teachers in the academy. One physician was old and intemperate, another but little educated, and the third of uncertain manner of professional preparation. The old lawyer was appointed sheriff and Mr. Benj. R. Curtis, then a law student, took his place. Mr. Alvoord of Greenfield, held the law office until Mr. Curtis finished his preparatory studies. O. S. Keith, classmate of Dr. J., kept the academy until Sept. 1830. Then Cyrus Hosmer, brother of the minister, Jonathan Stearns, Edgar Buckingham and W. W. Wellington successively taught the school. Mr. Hosmer was a man of very large mental and moral power. He seemed to have complete control of the minds and habits of all his pupils without apparent effort. He magnetized them and they were drawn into, or voluntarily followed his ways of duty and faithfulness and gracefulness of life.

Messrs Stearns, Buckingham and Wellington were /57/ graduates of high scholarship at Harvard. Rev. Mr. Hosmer was a minister of extraordinary adaptation to his work from his natural wisdom, his love of his profession, his excellent education and great facility of adapting himself, his conversation and ministrations to the people's wants. Mr. Curtis was a scholar of highest rank and a young lawyer then of great promise. Mr. S. C. Allen, an old lawyer of high standing had been in political life most of his mature life—fourteen years in Congress and the others in the state legislature or Governor's Council. Mr. Alvoord was a leading lawyer of the county, and afterwards member of Congress. These were Dr. Jarvis's

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principal associates through the two and a third years that he lived in Northfield. They were a rare collection in that retired place, and were necessarily very much thrown together.

LYCEUM

There was a lyceum where [there] were weekly lectures and debates. Dr. Jarvis wrote and delivered a course of lectures on chemistry, and some others on other topics. He took active part in the debates. This society was kept up with much energy and spirit. The hall was usually filled with the people who took much interest in the lectures and discussions, and went home to talk of what they had heard. Stephen Jarvis, brother of the Dr., had been a few years at sea and much in the Levant trade. He was then mate of a merchantman. In Jan. [June?] 1831, he fell on his ship, at Richmond, V[irgini]a. He came home to recover and waited for several months during the slow process of restoration.²⁹ After leaving the hospital in Boston, he /58/ spent a few weeks with his brother in Northfield. There he was much urged and at length consented to give an account of his observations among the Greeks and Turks with whom he had been much and had become familiar. He digested the lecture and arranged its parts in his mind, and then went tremblingly to the hall and met his audience. He began, at first, hesitatingly; but soon gaining self-possession talked freely through the hour holding the attention of the audience unbroken to the end. This was new and fresh to the people, and they thought and talked much of it afterward. Twenty-eight years afterward, Mrs. George Mason, then about 40 years old, visiting Dorchester, gave to some friends an account of this lecture which she heard her father repeat and describe to his family when she was fourteen years old.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dr. Jarvis was soon elected superintendent of the Sunday School and held the office as long as he lived in the town. It was a very pleasant office to him, occupying the noon of every Sabbath. He wrote a course of lectures for the Sabbath School teachers on the evidence of design, wisdom and benevolence manifested in the anatomical structure and physiological operation of the animal organs. From the beginning of his professional studies this had presented itself to him as an extremely interesting proof not only of the skill and love of the Creator, but also of the constancy of this skill and benevolence in sustaining our lives and being here.

/59/ He wrote several lectures for popular audiences, on vegetable physiology and natural history, and delivered them before the Lyceums of Northfield, Greenfield, Warwick, Athol and Winchester,

Properties of Life	Northfield	} Lyceums
	Greenfield	
	Warwick	
	Winchester	
	Athol	

²⁹ Cf. Diary, II, pp. 56–7, June 12th, 1831, “two days ago I fell in the wood while on a mineralogical expedition at the mountains. In the fall [illegible] into my leg . . . Dr. Mash home injected the [coca ?].” For pastime he read: “Maxwell 2 vols, 1 vol. Entertaining Knowledge, 1 vol. Tales of a Grandfather, a vol. of Edgar [illegible] Moral Tales, part of a vol. of Shakespeare”.

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Peculiarities and Habits of Animals	}	Northfield Lyceum	}	Lyceums
Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology (two lectures)				
Analysis and Difference of Vegetable and Animal Economy	}	Northfield	}	Lyceums
		Greenfield		

Article on Cholera in Warwick, printed in *Medical [and Surgical] Journal*, Boston.

TOWN SCHOOLS

He was elected a member of the School Committee at the town meeting in March, 1831, with Rev. Geo[rge] W. Hosmer and Ezekiel Webster. The town was larger in territory and some of the schools were distant. The schools were many especially in the mountain region. They were in good order, never gave any trouble or especial anxiety. The Committee determined to give the schools all their vigilance. They frequently visited them and made long and patient examinations. This work could not be done without great cost of time and labor. At the end of the first year Dr. Jarvis concluded that at that time he should not be so much diverted from his professional and scientific pursuits as this office seemed to require, and he would not hold it in any other way, therefore he declined re-election in 1832.

BOTANY

He found in Northfield a new friend for the /60/ pursuit of his favorite study of botany. The high regions of the mountains produced their peculiar plants. There were many of these, and many in the rich, alluvial lands of the river, that were new to him; and he studied them with great zest and greatly enriched his herbarium with the new collections. One little incident delighted his heart so in love with this study. Dr. Jacob Bigelow's excellent "Manual of Botany" was his hand-book. He felt a desire to find, analyze and preserve every plant that Dr. B. had described. He marked in the book as he found them, and reading the descriptions of the others, became familiar with their general characters and was constantly on the watch for them. He had found five of the six species of the hypericum—all except one, the _____, the giant hypericum. Being the only missing one he felt very anxious to find it, and thus complete the list of this family; but for years it baffled his search until at length when walking in the meadows and turning into a little nook, there he saw it in its full vigor and beauty. At once he recognized it from the description and said, "Giant hypericum, my long-lost friend, I have searched long and anxiously for you"! So eager was he to get it he filled his box with many specimens and carried it home immediately, and found on examination that it truly was his long-sought plant.

Several young women began and pursued this study. They formed a class and met frequently at his office bringing fresh plants which they analyzed under his /61/ supervision. They became zealous students, and made excellent progress in the science.

EXPERIMENT OF THE ABSORPTION OF WATER BY PLANTS

Wishing to determine the absorbent power of plants through the roots, and the exhaling power through their leaves, he put water into several distinct cups, carefully weighed the

water in each and covered it with a film of oil which prevented evaporation, or reduced it to an unimaginable quantity. There he gathered the branches of various kinds of trees, shrubs and other plants and weighed them, and then put the ends of their trunks into separate cups of water and left them for twenty-four hours. At the end of this time, he weighed the remaining water and also the branches, and then determined the amount of water that each absorbed, and also the quantity that it exhaled through its leaves. As the oil prevented evaporation, all that was lost from the cups must have gone into the stalks, and as the stalks gained little or none in weight and some even lost, the water thus taken into the trunk of the branch must have passed through the natural vessels of the branches and branchlets, into the leaves, and there evaporated through the exhalent pores of the under surface. The quantity thus absorbed and exhaled was very various. In some it was more than the whole weight of the branch in twenty-four hours. The soft velvety leaves of the flowering raspberry drank and threw away the most, while the smooth, glazed leaves of the oak and pine took the least. The evaporation through the pine leaves was very slight. Many /62/ experiments of this nature in respect to the anatomy and physiology of plants, occupied and interested him.

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Besides the studies of botany, chemistry, and much general reading, he found much time for professional study. The town was of a quiet character. There were few interruptions. Except from a few of those very familiar friends who saw each other very frequently, there was very little visiting. There were no amusements, nothing to dissipate one's mind or habits. Clear and uninterrupted study was the rule. Dr. J. having a good library, and cases of sickness at once thrown into his hands, had much occupation in studying these cases, analyzing them and determining their character. He studied comparative anatomy, and dissected cats, squirrels, &c.

NEIGHBORING PHYSICIANS

The physicians in the neighboring towns were all old and established in their several towns as men of character deserving and receiving the confidence of their communities. They were educated according to the systems of an earlier period, and were rather men of good observation and experience than scholars. Yet they were men of reliable judgment, honest, honorable and very courteous. They all received Dr. J. with very great cordiality, and treated him with unvarying kindness during his sojourn among them. Dr. Washburn of Vernon, Va. (6 miles from Northfield) was then probably sixty-five years old, and had been about forty years in practice in that town. He was intelligent, /63/ clear-headed, of very large experience and commanded the confidence of all the region round about. He was the advising authority in difficult cases in all the neighboring towns. He was honest, very courteous and kind, always gentlemanly and acceptable in every relation. Very soon after Dr. J. went to Northfield, Dr. Washburn called and said he came to give him the right hand of fellowship, and to welcome him to the Connecticut Valley. Ever after that, as long as Dr. J. remained in Northfield, Dr. W. was his frequent visitor, and Dr. J. was frequently at Dr. W.'s house, in Vernon; and through all Dr. J.'s residence in Northfield and for many years after, until Dr. W. died in extreme old age, their intercourse was of uninterrupted friendship.

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PROFESSIONAL AIMS—SURGERY

Gen. Nevers with whom Dr. J. first look room and board was a lawyer, postmaster and upright man. He seemed to take Dr. J. into especial favor and treated him with marked confidence. He was very anxious to establish Dr. J. as a very distinguished physician; but Dr. J. knew that all such precarious reputation must end in failure, and perhaps worse. A man does not spring into reputation. He grows in character and strength, and thus gradually gains reputation from industry and faithfulness, and this is the only kind of reputation that can be obtained or that is worth possession.

Gen. N. was desirous that Dr. J. should operate for cataract, and thus gain a great name. Dr. J. was /64/ not a surgeon and had no intention of endeavoring to be one. He considered that one can only be a good surgeon by large and long experience. This in the country would require a very wide field, a great extent of travel and much absence from home. All this must interfere with general practice which was much more easily attended to, more profitable, and offered a much better opportunity for mental culture.

GENERAL PRACTICE

Dr. J. had immediately some practice. Dr. Ames, the leading physician of the town, wished to return to his former field in Brattleboro'. He offered to relinquish his business to Dr. J. and to throw his whole influence in his favor for \$200. Dr. J. was not pleased with the thought of buying practice. He supposed that people's confidence could not thus be transferred and if obtained in this manner, could not be retained; and he declined. But Dr. William Pomroy who had been instrumental in getting Dr. J. to go to Northfield, himself a very wealthy and generous citizen, was always looking for the good of the town. He thought the exchange of Dr. A. for a physician of more modern education would be beneficial to the people, and was willing to make sacrifices for this purpose. So he urged Dr. J. to accept the terms of Dr. A. adding, "I wish to have him go away satisfied. He is not rich, and I will pay this sum for the benefit that we and the town will derive from the exchange."

/65/ A few patients came immediately, and Dr. J. had some income. In the first year he earned \$500 or \$600; and in the second much more.

Yet he was ever beset with the distrust of the effect of medicinal agencies which had followed him from the beginning of his pupilage. Observation and experience did not lessen it. As it was the necessary custom for the country physician to supply medicine to his patients, he furnished his office with all the drugs that would probably be needed, such as were recommended in the standard books on medicine and surgical practice. In his practice he gave these as prepared by the authorities, yet in very small, the smallest apparently allowable quantities. The medicines had their specific effect on the animal body. Ipecac and antimony inverted the action of the stomach. Salts, oil, rhubarb, &c. quickened the action of the bowels, and the patients generally recovered. But he could not see that this medical interference had been the cause of the removal of the disorder. He was distressed and anxious lest in doing this, he had not rather retarded than hastened the restoration to health. He gave less and less medicine and the recoveries did not diminish. He gave up a large portion of his drugs and confined himself to a few that he had the least doubt about. Visiting Dr. John Ware, in Boston, about this time, he told him of his troubles, and was assured by this learned and wise physician, that he had the same doubts.

He had lost confidence in most of /66/ the agents and confined himself to about the same that Dr. J. used. This was a great comfort, for Dr. J. was getting to fear that his doubts were due to his want of sagacity or acumen, and that it was rather his want of power to perceive, than the want of power in these agents to heal.

Although Dr. J. did not aim to be a surgeon above others of his vicinity, yet he prepared himself to attend to the ordinary surgical cases that occur in every one's circle. The first case was interesting. Mr. Alexander, about forty years old, a large, full, robust farmer, fell from a load of hay and dislocated his shoulder, throwing the head of the humerus into the axilla, and sent for Dr. J. The Dr. went, but with much anxiety. He had seen others restore a dislocated shoulder, but had not done it himself. He regretted on his own account that this had happened, and even that he had been called. He wished he could meet Dr. Washburn, or find an excuse for sending for him. But there was no escape—he must restore the bone, or at least make the attempt which he feared would end in failure, and then another must be called in to do the work. Nevertheless he made the due arrangements as if he were sure of success, and, without any difficulty or delay, the bone slid into the socket with a very audible sound or click that was as music to his soul. No sound ever conveyed to him so much as this which told him of the success of his first attempt in surgery.

/67/ BOARDING HOUSES, HOMES

At first in May, 1830, both Mr. Hosmer and Dr. J. took rooms and board in the house of Gen. John Nevers, the lawyer. The family consisted of the Gen., his lovely and excellent wife, and a nephew. They made a very pleasant home for these boarders through the warm season, but their rooms not being convenient for winter occupation, they left and Dr. J. went to the house of Mr. Mason, the former minister.

Mr. M. was a man of great talent but of singular eccentricities. He had great power and should have been one of the best preachers and pastors in the country; but in consequence of his indiscretions, the parish was divided solely on the question of his continuance. The severed parts afterward united under the very wise and genial ministry of Mr. Hosmer.

Mrs. Mason was a lady of the sweetest character. She with her three daughters made a pleasant home for Dr. J. who lived with them nearly a year. Then he took room in the Academy with Mr. Cyrus Hosmer, and board with his beloved friends, the minister and his amiable wife. The minister wished Dr. J. to pay only the cost of his board. To determine this he consulted Mr. Pomroy who was a man of remarkable sagacity and close observation and law and could measure the details of every process of business and domestic life. He thought the cost would be \$1.25 per week. Dr. J. consulted Mr. /68/ Cyrus Hosmer who was an excellent observer, and wise and exact in all business affairs, and moreover, then kept the boarding-house for the academy scholars. He came to the same conclusion of \$1.25 weekly cost for the substance of board when placed on the table.

Dr. J. lived in his large and pleasant Academy room for \$20 a year as long as he remained in Northfield, and boarded most delightfully about a year with the minister until there was sickness in the family which rendered it expedient that Dr. J. should go elsewhere until the health of the family should be restored. Then he went to the tavern for his meals with Mr. Curtis, and there he remained as a boarder until he left the town. Mr. Curtis was his constant, and very pleasant and profitable companion at table, and also very frequently elsewhere.

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GENERAL REVIEW OF LIFE IN NORTHFIELD

Notwithstanding the many pleasant advantages of life in Northfield, Dr. J. felt a great loneliness there. He was ambitious of a larger field of service, of association with a wider circle of people of high and broad culture, especially in medical and other science. He had no reason to complain of insufficient success in his profession. He had as many patients as one so young as he could profitably take care of and study properly. He had as much of the confidence of the people as he could sustain; and they gave him as much respect and affection as he should desire. Yet he longed to be nearer the /69/ active world, to live among men who had a larger share in its great responsibilities, and took a larger part in its movements. He felt that his training and education had fitted him for—or, at least, had given him reason to hope for—a richer intellectual field. It seemed then that he was wasting his years in obtaining a name and establishing connections that he was ready to throw away whenever opportunity should offer. So discontent lurked secretly in his heart.

The years he spent in Northfield were yet very pleasant and profitable.³⁰ He studied much. He had much opportunity to observe disease, and to try his theoretical knowledge, and to test his power of managing it or, at least, of treating it without manifest failure, and of dealing with men and women in the professional relations. His professional intercourse with families was very agreeable, and apparently satisfactory. His relations with the physicians in the neighborhood were very happy, excepting one who was very intemperate and irresponsible. His social intercourse with a few families was very intimate and exceedingly agreeable, and with others very pleasant. With the Hosmers, Keith, Curtis, Stearns, Buckingham, whom he saw most frequently, there was unvarying sympathy. These were all men of worth, men of power beyond the wants of the place, and all, within a few years, were called to larger fields of usefulness, and to assume heavier responsibilities in the broader world.

Northfield life and society had its important /70/ influence on Dr. Jarvis's mind and character. They aided in his growth and development, and he left the place in 1832, a stronger man and more available for usefulness in the world, and for his own happiness, than when he went there in 1830.

CONCORD, MASS.

On the 22nd of Sept. 1832, he went to Concord to visit his father and Almira Hunt, his bride elect, with the intention of returning within a week; but on his arrival in Concord on the 23rd, he found that one of the physicians of the town, Dr. Smith, had left for Lowell on that morning, with none to take his place. Dea. Jarvis, Miss Hunt, Dr. Bartlett the leading physician, and others, advised Dr. J. to take up his abode there. The advice was very pleasant to him. No place was more desirable than Concord. He concluded to stay. He took office, wrote immediately to Northfield of his new plans, and was at once a resident of his native town. He was received with a warm welcome by his old friends, and soon had patients. It seemed that he had made a wise move and there was an apparent promise of

³⁰ In the Diary the situation is quite different. The autobiographical memory erases almost all the obsessions, frustrations, feeling of failure and rivalry, tensions and stress that the Diary includes; he "forgets" also his exasperation at being neglected and isolated. Cf. also Gerald N. Grob, *Edward Jarvis and the medical world of nineteenth-century America*, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1978, pp. 30–4.

good and permanent success, pecuniarily as well as mentally. He took board at Sheppard's Hotel, and ate with the family and the workfolk.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

He at once joined the Sunday School and took a class. In July, 1834, he was elected superintendent, which office he held until he left the town in 1837. /71/ He found this position very pleasant and profitable to his mind and heart. The most cultivated of the young men and women of the town were engaged as teachers. They earnestly co-operated with Dr. J. in his plans of operation both in teaching the children, and in self-culture. They had teachers' meetings for conversation and mutual instruction, frequently, at their several houses. Rev. Dr. Ripley and Mr. Goodwin³¹ were usually present. Dr. J. repeated the course of lectures that he had delivered at Northfield on the proof of the creative wisdom of God as manifested in the creation of man, and of His benevolence and constant love in preservation and maintenance of animal life.

The conversations at these meetings were always maintained with excellent spirit, upon the deeper and generous themes of morality, religious duties, the responsibilities of life, and the best methods of teaching the children these holy sentiments and inspiring them with love for God, for their fellows and for duty.

This office required the superintendent's weekly presence at the Sunday School and, although in the general practice of his profession, he could so arrange his work that he was rarely detained from the school by the necessities of his patients.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Dr. J. was elected member of the school committee in March, 1833, and re-elected yearly until March, 1836, when a change was made in the constitution of the board, and he was left out. He was secretary /72/ during his term of service, and kept minute records of the state of each class in the several schools, and wrote the annual reports to the town. He gave much time to the schools, visiting all of the ten frequently, and it was supposed, by his friends, that he sacrificed too much of his personal interest for the public good.

Being deeply interested in this work, he struggled hard to gain, for the children, every advantage. The town had, for a long time, been in the habit of appropriating \$1,400 yearly to the support of the schools. The money was divided in established ratios among the several districts. This enabled them to keep about ten weeks in the winter and twelve to fourteen weeks in the summer, in some, and twelve or thirteen weeks in winter and sixteen weeks in summer in others. Dr. J. wished to extend these schools so that with merely long vacations in spring and fall, they would be almost continuous. He therefore proposed to the town in the spring of 1834, to raise \$1,800 a year which would lengthen the schools about eight weeks. The project pleased the people generally, but was strongly opposed by some of the economists. One gentleman who was noted for sharp trading asked if the Doctor

³¹ Hersey Bradford Goodwin (1804?–1836), Jarvis lists him in 'Account of class of 1826', "He has been an active, energetic, industrious and exemplary minister". He married Lucretia Ann Watson, and was the father of William Watson Goodwin (1831–1912), the famous Harvard Hellenist who in 1860 succeeded C. C. Felton. Emerson quoted him in his *Journals*, vol. 3, p. 563.

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would not take a little less. The measure was carried by a great majority, and the people seemed to be happy that so much more opportunity of education was offered to their children.

LYCEUM AND LECTURES

Dr. J. was enlisted in the Lyceum at the annual meeting, and was elected curator and had the principal /73/ charge of procuring lectures. He retained his connection with this society through the whole period of his residence in Concord, to March, 1837. In all these five seasons he took great and active interest being one of the officers and bearing much of the responsibility of its movements and success.

His first lecture which he wrote in the autumn of 1832, was on 'Mental Freedom', the effect of prejudgment on the formation of opinions. This was read to the Concord Lyceum and, afterward, to the Lyceums of Stow, Harvard and Framingham. In the course of his residence in Concord, he wrote several lectures on Diet—Vegetable Diet, Mixed Diet, and Nutrition. Looking on intemperance as simply a cause of waste of health and life, he took very earnest ground in favor of all measures of repressing it. He wrote a lecture upon its effects, and another on the 'First Steps toward Intemperance', ascribing the manifold temptations to apparently harmless indulgence which, however, tended to another and another, until some are entrapped beyond recovery, and destroyed. He wrote a series of articles for the *Boston Mercantile Journal*, on the 'Pathological Effects of Intemperance' and an article for the *Boston Medical [and Surgical] Journal*, on the 'Proportionate Amount of Sickness caused by Rum'.

Besides lecturing yearly in Concord, he was called upon to lecture in Acton, Lincoln, Lexington, Waltham, Belford, Billerica, Carlisle and Littleton. This labor /74/ was gratuitous. No pay was given or offered for the lectures. Some lyceums paid the cost of travel to those who came from other towns.

LADIES' FAIRS

There was a great fair in Boston, for the blind. The best, most cultivated and most fashionable ladies and gentlemen of Boston, and the state, enlisted in its behalf, and made it very successful. Ten thousand dollars profit for the Blind Asylum was the result. Nevertheless Dr. J., looking upon it from a moral point of view, thought the sacrifice too great, even for the gain, and this even for the blind; and accordingly, to express his sentiments, he wrote an article for the *New England Magazine*, on 'Ladies' Fairs'. It seemed to him that although these were for excellent purposes, yet the ways and means were not in accordance with the principles of private or political economy. Much of the merchandise offered was useless, and much was bought that was of no use to the buyer. The trade did not enrich the community or its individuals. The motive of purchase was, in many cases, the fear of public or social disapprobation. The friends of the measure enlisted Mrs. Grundy, the popular sentiment, to persuade, urge, compel individuals to add their encouragement, their contributions and their purchases.

Moreover the raffles were but gambling—lotteries—which the law prohibited, and which no charity or elevation of purpose could sanction.

/75/ This was Dr. Jarvis's first attempt at magazine writing, and the \$15, a dollar a page, the first money he earned by his pen.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dr. J. was on the committee to purchase books for the social Library, with Mr. Goodwin. They were anxious to make this as useful as possible, to fill it with the best books, and to gain the largest number of readers. They found a large quantity of floating literature, pamphlets, essays, documents, in miscellaneous mass, without connection, order or availability. They proposed to arrange these according to their natural affinities and to bind them.

They still further proposed to gather matters of the same kind from families who had, but were willing to spare them. They found a very great quantity in these houses, which the owners could not bear to destroy, which they had no use for, and which they were glad to place in the public library for permanent preservation. The whole amounted to one hundred and fifty or more volumes.

Thus, much that is valuable for reading or reference is put within reach of the present and future generation, that probably would otherwise perish and be unknown, when those who knew them in their beginning shall have passed away. The antimasonic excitement³² which entered so deeply into the people's interests, and biased their social and political judgment for six or eight years, might otherwise be /76/ known to future historians as one of the passing clouds that overshadowed a few people, and its story told in a paragraph of tradition or history.

MARRIAGE

January 9th, 1834, his thirty-first birthday, Dr. Jarvis was married to Almira Hunt to whom he had been engaged seven years. Dr. Ripley, his time-honored and beloved minister, and Mr. Goodwin his classmate, friend and minister, married them. His income did not justify house-keeping. They took rooms—parlor and chamber—at Mr. William Heywood's for \$4 per week for board and room rent. Dr. J. furnished the rooms and supplied his fuel and lights. Afterward Mr. Heywood advanced his price to \$4.50 which Dr. J. thought reasonable and cheerfully paid. They remained with Mr. H. until 1835, when Mr. H.'s health failed. Then Dr. J. took the old Parkman house which was the only one that could be obtained in that neighborhood, for \$90 a year rent.

They lived in an economical way, took some boarders, and, from these and the profession, had sufficient income to pay the expenses. Thus they incurred no debt. This was a new experiment both for Dr. J. and his wife who had been mostly employed in teaching, but assisted her mother in her domestic duties. They lived together alone, and did their house-hold work without assistance. Nevertheless she proved to be a wise and efficient housekeeper, and made a /77/ very comfortable and happy home for her husband and the family.

Dr. J. was especially happy in this new relation. Except the year and a half after leaving College, and occasional vacations spent in his father's house, he had boarded in other families from March, 1819, when he first went to Stow to dwell with strangers. Dr. J. had a garden in which he worked himself and raised his summer vegetables—also a flower garden—and found great pleasure in this pursuit. Housekeeping in all its relations and

³² Reference to William Morgan, Freemason, accused of revealing secrets of the order, he was abducted and killed, and his supporters organized the Anti-Masonic party in 1826.

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responsibilities was delightful to him. Since leaving his mother's home he had found no such domestic comfort and pleasure. Life seemed now to have a higher purpose, a larger expansion and a more important responsibility.

INSANE PATIENTS

A new and unexpected experience was thrown open to him in 1836. A young man in Cambridge was taken insane. The case was mild and very manageable. The physician in charge advised the friend to send him to the care of some young physician who would watch over him, and take such care of him as should be necessary. He suggested Dr. J. of Concord. The patient was brought to Concord, boarded near to Dr. J. and placed in his charge, and in the course of four or five months, was restored.

Then one was sent from Cape Cod who had been long insane and past recovery. He was taken /78/ into Dr Jarvis's family and remained there a year in comparatively comfortable condition, but did not regain his health.

A third, a lady of Boston, was sent by Dr. James Jackson of Boston, and was three months in Dr. J.'s family, and was then taken to the McLean Asylum.

This turned Dr. J.'s active attention to the subject of insanity, and changed his whole professional course of thought and life. He had not paid attention to mental disorders before, but when the matter was brought to him, he found it more consonant to his mental habits and taste, than the care of physical disease. This seemed to be the opinion of others, besides those who had sent patients to him and who advised him to open a house for the special care of the insane.

McLEAN ASYLUM

In the autumn of 1836, Dr. Lee, superintendent of the McLean, died. Even before his death, Dr. Jackson, after visiting him on his deathbed, seeing the certainty of the fatal result, said to Mr. George Bond, one of the trustees, "You are certain to lose Dr. Lee, and now as you must have some one to manage the Asylum, it is well to look for a successor, and I know of no one so fit for the place as Dr. Jarvis of Concord." Much inquiry was made by the trustees and their agents in regard to the character and habits of Dr. J. and his wife, with very satisfactory results in the minds of Mr. Bond and his friends. In the meantime Mr. Louis Dwight, Secretary of the Prison Discipline /79/ Society, and very familiar with and deeply interested in Insane Hospitals, brought forward Dr. L. V. Bell, of New Hampshire. He was an excellent man, well-fitted for the office, and, as afterward proved, a man of great skill in the management of such institutions.³³

At no time in his life was such a prize so desirable both to his mind and taste, and to his fortune, ever held out to the eye of Dr. J. It seemed to offer to him a field for the highest exercise of his mind where he could develop his talents more than in any other. Here was opportunity for the employment of all his philosophical training. It seemed to open a way for his broadest culture and the best refinement. His heart was strongly fixed upon it, and he waited with anxious hope until January, 1837, when Dr. Bell was elected.

³³ Luther Vose Bell (1806–1862), see E.J. to L.V.B. letters, BCLM, B Ms b 56.4, vol. 1, ff. 135, 137; vol. 3, f. 232, vol. 5, ff. 223–5. In 1848 Bell published a book on what came to called Bell's disease or Bell's mania which was entitled *On a form of disease resembling some advanced stages of mania and fever*.

Mr. Bond wrote to Mr. Emerson that if Dr. Jarvis had been presented to the trustees at first, as he was at last, no other candidate would have been thought of.

This was a painful disappointment to Dr. J., nevertheless it fixed his mind upon the question of insanity which took a leading interest in him afterward. Thenceforth he felt that he could do more for humanity in healing mental disease, than in the care of physical disorders.

DISSATISFACTION WITH CONCORD

Dr. J. had been in Concord four years and had lived very happily with his best-beloved friends. There he /80/ had the most cultivated and agreeable society. He had been trusted with the Sunday School, and, in great measure, with the secular education of the children in the town schools. Personally, socially, mentally, he could hardly desire a better place or a better people to live with.

But he had not succeeded in his profession as he supposed he had reason to expect. He still owed the debt with which he began his profession. Although he was satisfied with his first and second years practice, he had made little or no advance beyond those years. He had barely sustained himself in all his Concord life. His income from both profession and boarders had only supported his family living with the most rigid economy. He took care of his horse himself. He rode horseback always except when there was sleighing. In the severest storm and cold he went in the saddle and never suffered from the exposure. His earnings had all been consumed in his living; none devoted to the payment of his debt which was not diminished since he began his professional practice.

He began to despair of farther increase of reputation, business, or income. Dr. Bartlett, the leading physician, was an excellent practitioner, very popular, industrious, and thoroughly devoted to his patients. He had strong hold of the people's confidence and probably wanted to hold the great majority of the families, and those the best and most profitable, as long as he should live. It was apparent, then, that in Concord Dr. J. must remain the subordinate physician, and receive a /81/ meagre support even among his friends. This conviction wore upon his spirit and made him feel that his present position was not the best that he ought or, at least, hoped to enjoy. Possibly it was in himself, his want of fitness for his profession. He might be sufficiently versed in the science, and yet not adapted to present it to the world; or it might be that Concord was not his true professional field, although his domestic life and social intercourse were all that he could desire. Certain it was that the people who received him most affectionately and cordially into their parlors, and entrusted their children's healthy minds and souls to his care, did not invite him to their chamber of sickness, nor entrust their diseased bodies to his hands. Was the fault in his professional character generally, or in his relation to the people of his native town? His success in Northfield and in some families in Concord, led him to suppose that it was not in the professional character, but rather in his misadaptation to the feelings and wants of the people about him. Nevertheless he began to cherish the willingness, at least, to change either his profession or his abode for another, in the probability that any other would profit him more.

In the midst of this doubt the offer of insane patients came as a relief, and their continuance showed that there was a talent in him, and a field in the world for its exercise, whereby he might work with more success. This gave him comfort and hope, and removed much of the cloud that hung over him.