CONTINUING with our serialization of the Historical Society’s diary of Samuel Breck, we find him in 1834 at Harrisburg, where as a State Senator he is successfully sponsoring Pennsylvania’s first legislation for free public education. It is also at this period of his life that he acquired a lasting interest in the education of the blind.

A break in the diary, occasioned by a missing volume, is followed by Breck’s account of how he saved the Historical Society of Pennsylvania from being dissolved in 1838 when its membership had shrunk to fifty-three. Meanwhile, Breck had rented a house on Walnut Street, just west of Broad, having sold Sweetbriar, his country residence for the past forty years. Life in the country had become too inconvenient for the aging Breck, and Sweetbriar’s location on the Schuylkill had been unhealthy in the summer ever since the building of the dam just below it at Fairmount.

N. B. W.

January 1, 1834  Our landlord ordered wine today, in honor of the new year. A few at table drank a glass or two; but the temperance of our mess, which sometimes in number reaches sixty, perhaps more, is such that, with that number at table, I have left the room among the last and remarked the two decanters of brandy, and two decanters of whiskey, usually placed at dinner, entirely full, no one of the sixty having drank a drop, altho’ it was free of charge, and this is the case almost daily. Beer is served round and pretty generally drunk, but in great moderation.

January 19, 1834  Here is a gap in my journal, owing to constant occupation on a report and bill prepared by me on the subject of general education. . . .

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January 27, 1834  About a fortnight ago from this there came to Harrisburg four gentlemen whose names deserve to be revered; the one as a teacher of a school of blind boys, Mr. Friedlander; and the others, Messrs Edward Coleman, W. B. Richards, and Mr. Frailey, as a volunteer committee to accompany the poor boys.\(^1\) Never did I see a more affecting sight. There sat, in the house of Representatives, on an elevated platform, eleven blind youths: 9 boys and 2 girls. Stone blind for the most part. Under the direction of their humane and indefatigable teacher, Friedlander, who had had charge of them only 10 months, they wrote, read, cast up sums, sang in concert and performed very prettily on musical instruments. Their performances amazed an audience of 1500 persons; and when one of the boys, about 12 years old recited some verses, and came to the following passages, there was scarcely a dry eye amongst us.

I never saw my father's face;  
Yet, on his forehead when I place  
My hand, and feel the wrinkles there,  
Left less by time than anxious care,  
I fear the world has sights of wo  
To knit the brows of manhood so  
I sit upon my father's knee,  
He'd love me less if I could see.

The Legislature endowed the Institution very liberally. I gave it out of my own pocket thirty-three dollars.\(^2\)

February 22, 1834  There was a public dinner today in honor of Washington. This being the anniversary of that great man's birth, the two houses of the Legislature assembled at 9 o'clock, and caused the Farewell Address of the father of his country to be read by their respective clerks, and then adjourned. In Senate, we sent

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\(^1\) The Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind was founded in Philadelphia in 1833 through the efforts of Julius R. Friedlander. Edward Coleman was a vice-president of the Institution and Benjamin W. Richards, formerly mayor of Philadelphia, and John U. Fraley were managers.

\(^2\) On the day the diarist made this entry a bill "To incorporate and endow the Pennsylvania Institution for the instruction of the blind" was enacted and $10,000 was appropriated to its use and $160 granted annually for every indigent pupil.
a committee to invite the Governor and heads of departments, who all attended.

The dinner party, having requested me to preside, I prepared a short Eulogium on Washington, principally taken from Marshall’s history [The Life of George Washington by John Marshall], which I pronounced before the first toast was given. This toast, at my request, was left blank for me to fill up. The paper which I read concluded thus: I have, gentlemen, personally known that great man; I have often partaken of his hospitality; I have felt a share of the distinguished honor, which he conferred on my father and his family, by visiting them under their own roof. On the day, when he resigned the presidency into the hands of the Elder Adams, a brilliant festival was given to him by the merchants of Philadelphia; I had the happiness on that day, to dine in his company. No tongue can tell, or pen describe the enthusiasm, love, admiration and devoted attachment, by which every individual there was inspired. The gratitude and ardent affection felt by me, on that day, still dwell in my heart. . . . I give you, gentlemen, the following toast: Washington! As a patriot, a soldier, a statesman, a Christian—he was the perfection of human nature!

March 1, 1834 Here we have Governor Wolf joining in the vulgar abuse of the Bank of the United States. He has sent us a message, written in the slang of the Kitchen Cabinet, to which he succumbs, and sinks with him the honour, interest, and future welfare of Pennsylvania. . . . I am reminded by this blind devotion to Jackson of the fanaticism, politically speaking, which seized upon the people of this country, in the beginning of the French revolution, when they became so bewitched by the mad acts of Robespierre that nothing but the force of Washington’s character and influence could prevent their going to war to help the bloody tyrant.

March 5, 1834 News comes this evening of the loss by fire of the magnificent steamboat, the William Penn, close by the city of Philada. where she belonged. She was on her passage from New Castle, with 150 passengers. The fire burst out in the wheelhouse,

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3 Governor George Wolf (1777-1840) held the office for six years. Previously having disapproved of Jackson’s attitude toward the Bank, his change of policy on that issue was considered by many to be a betrayal.
and covered immediately the centre of the vessel. Captain Jeffries ran her on the mud near the Navy Yard and saved most of the passengers. Three, however, have been found drowned, and perhaps there are more. The boat cost seventy thousand dollars, and was, I think, the finest steamer I ever was on board. I came in her by the watch, on one occasion 48 miles in three hours! She was burnt to the water’s edge and is totally lost.5

March 15, 1834 This morning, the Education bill, which has engaged much of my attention, passed the Senate, with three dissenting voices, and these decidedly the most ignorant and least educated of its members. . . . It is truly honorable that so good a bill should have passed so nearly by a unanimous vote. If the measure shall work well, my public life will have resulted in some good.6

March 28, 1834 It is much the custom here at Harrisburg to introduce strangers to each other; and then follow a shake of the hand. I reluctantly submit to this custom of pawing, because all the traders, farmers, and even most of the lawyers use their right hand, without handkerchief, to blow their noses! Yes, this filthy custom is alternated throughout the day, with squirts of tobacco juice from the mouth. It is sickening to see men, otherwise amiable, gentlemanly, and most worthy, so grossly inattentive to the decencies of life and civilized manners.

April 14, 1834 In town. Subscribed by a friend twenty-five dollars to the Academy of Fine Arts, which requires a bolstering of six thousand dollars. This is my second or third contribution. But the collection is well worth preserving. On entering the front yard of the Academy is seen a gigantic (unfortunately headless) statue of Ceres, brought to this country and munificently presented to the institution by Commodore Patterson of our navy. It is curious, both for the excellence of the execution and the history of its removal. It was found at Megara (a city founded 1131 years before Christ, and retaining its ancient name to this day, being situate

4 Capt. Joseph G. Jeffrey.
5 According to the National Gazette for Mar. 5, 1834, the loss of the William Penn was “the most serious disaster that has ever occurred on the Delaware.”
6 “An Act to establish a General System of Education by Common Schools” was approved by the Governor on Apr. 1, 1834.
between Corinth and Athens) and purchased for six thousand dolls. by an English connoisseur, who failed in his efforts to remove it. Commodore Patterson employed two hundred men for three days to convey it to his ship.  

April 15, 1834 One of my most pleasing relaxations is the flute and double flageolet. Music exalts each joy, allays each grief.

April 22, 1834 We walked down to Powelton to join the celebration of a Jubilee in honor of the triumph of the Whigs of New York at their late charter election in cities and state. A good deal of ostentation has been displayed in the newspapers in reference to this gala day, and much expectation excited. The merchants have subscribed freely; some of them one hundred dollars apiece. The tables were served gratis, and many thousand people assembled to partake of the provisions. I led my friends to Hardings tavern, where we got a cold cut and a good glass of Madeira. As to the tables in the fields, laid out for the multitude, they appeared to be few in number and wholly incompetent to accommodate the one tenth of the company. A large committee came on from New York. How they were fed, I could not learn, but I fear meagerly.

April 23, 1834 Today I presided at a truly excellent dinner got up by Head’s French cook and partaken of by a few members of the state Legislature as a farewell feast. . . . At Washington Hall, adjoining Head’s, the Philadelphia Whigs were entertaining at dinner about 160 delegates from the New York Whigs, who were part of the 300 that came on to join in our Jubilee. The whole number now at dinner could not be short of 500. . . . Two gentlemen came from them to us, to invite us all to join them. We did so, and

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7 Commodore Daniel T. Patterson presented this draped, headless female statue to the Academy in 1828. When the Academy moved to its present building at Broad and Cherry streets, it was mounted on the front of that building. Badly decayed and considered unsafe it was taken down and destroyed in 1937.

8 Powelton, the Samuel Powel estate inherited by John Hare Powel, was in West Philadelphia. Its ample acres served as the setting for many public events.

9 Harding’s tavern or hotel was on the west bank of the Schuylkill at the Upper Ferry Bridge (Fairmount).

10 Head’s was Joseph Head’s Mansion House hotel on South Third Street, formerly the residence of William Bingham.

11 Washington Hall, designed by Robert Mills, was built in 1814 by the Washington Association, a benevolent organization. In 1831 it was purchased by the Grand Lodge of Freemasons.
I was honored with a seat near the President, between Mr. Duane and Mr. Sergeant. A more convivial party I never saw. The toasts were full of spirit—all political and fulminated against our daring usurper, Andrew Jackson.

May 5, 1834   Nothing can look more miserably, and more fitted to excite compassion, than half naked, smutty chimney sweeps, yet they are a light hearted set and do not think themselves objects of pity at all. It is related of Cooper the actor (but it may be a Joe Miller story) that passing thro' the streets of one of our cities he overheard two sweeps remarking upon him thus: "I say Bill," said one of them, "Look! there goes Cooper the player-man." "Hold your tongue John," returned the other; "who knows what you may come to yourself."

May 7, 1834   The Marshall de Villeroi, governor of Louis XV, expressed in plain terms the line of conduct practised by the courtiers and politicians of his age. "Il faut," said he, "tenir le pot de chambre aux ministres tant qu'ils sont en place; et le leur verser sur la tête quand ils n'y sont plus." (We must hold the chamber pot for ministers of state, while they are in office, and empty its contents on their heads as soon as they are out of place.)

May 12, 1834   Assorted this morning about 32 volumes of pamphlets and miscellaneous fugitive papers, handsomely bound, which I take from my library and present to the library of the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

May 22, 1834   A Roman painter named Monachesi is acquiring reputation by painting the ceiling of the principal hall of the New Exchange in Phila. It is splendidly executed in Fresco. The foreshortening of the figures is admirable. If I mistake not, this

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12 John Sergeant (1779–1852), a Philadelphia Lawyer and promoter of internal improvements, was the vice-presidential candidate in 1832 of the party opposed to Jackson. William J. Duane had been dismissed as Secretary of the Treasury a year before.

13 Thomas Apthorpe Cooper.

14 Samuel Breck's gift of thirty-two volumes was noted as received by the American Philosophical Society on June 27, 1834.

15 Nicolo Monachesi, fresco painter, also ornamented a number of houses of Philadelphia's wealthiest citizens.

16 The Philadelphia Exchange, designed by William Strickland, still stands at Dock and Walnut Streets. It was completed in 1834 and housed the post office.
ceiling will be one of the greatest attractions in Phila. The artist receives two thousand dollars for the work.

**June 11, 1834** Miss Fanny Kemble, a young English actress of considerable celebrity, was married last Saturday morning in Christ Church to Pierce Butler,\(^{17}\) grandson of the late proud Major Pierce Butler of South Carolina.\(^{18}\) This lady continues on the stage at New York, a short time, and then goes to Europe without her husband! It is safe to predict that this ill assorted match will not be fortunate.

**June 20, 1834** Lafayette died at Paris on the 20th of last month. He was born September the 6th, 1757, and was very nearly seventy seven years old. History will place him at the top of the page in which the lives of the greatest, purest and most patriotic of mankind stand recorded. . . . He aided very substantially in establishing our Republic, and in bringing about a representative government in his own country. The beauty of his character consisted of "his perfect simplicity and probity; his humane spirit and unsullied hands." It is a pleasure to think that such a man was my father's friend and correspondent, and that he has dined beneath my roof at Sweetbriar.

**July 1, 1834** On Thursday last 26 of June, I stood on a height near the Schuylkill and saw J. Mills of Baltimore ascend in a balloon of superb construction. He started from Broad Street near Spruce at half past four, having filled the balloon in 2½ hours with 12,000 feet of hydrogen gas procured from decomposition of water with iron and sulphuric acid. Mr. Mills is a native American, and has made two ascensions with the balloon. . . . He rose superbly and having attained an elevation of about ten thousand feet drifted with the wind in an easterly direction at the rate of forty miles an hour. This rapid movement carried him within five or six miles of the sea in sixty-five minutes and made it necessary to look out for a landing place. But he found himself suspended over a vast forest of Jersey pines belonging to the owner of Hanover Furnace, Burlington County. Here he brought his balloon pretty close to earth and threw

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\(^{17}\) Pierce Butler (d. 1867), who changed his name from Mease to inherit his grandfather's money, was interested in the stage, which probably led to his marriage to Frances Anne Kemble.

\(^{18}\) Pierce Butler (1744–1822), United States Senator from South Carolina.
out his anchor, but the wind, which did not seem strong while he sailed before it, whistled and pressed against the gaseous globe the moment it felt itself detained by the grapple, which it dragged among the trees, breaking the car and compelling the aeronaut to leap on the ground or take his chance on the broad ocean. He chose the first, springing 7 or 8 feet into a swamp and abandoning his fine balloon, which immediately vaulted into the air and sailed away for the coast of Spain or Portugal.¹⁹

July 19, 1834 I sent this morning to John R. Coates a present of twenty-five dollars to relieve the Academy of fine arts of its difficulties. Once before I sent its managers a like sum. Elliott Cresson²⁰ got fifty dollars from me for colonizing the negroes in Africa, and I gave thirty three dollars to the institution of the blind. All this within a few months. It bears too heavily upon my slender income which may not exceed three thousand dollars. Current expenses and considerable extraneous calls eat it all up. When I call it small, it is only so by comparison, for it is an ample provision if managed prudently.

August 7, 1834 Brought home a grand harmonicon, or a box of 16 musical glasses, which produce delightful melody in slow tunes.

August 12, 1834 The cholera is officially announced to be in New York. The ravages of that fell disease in Quebec and Montreal are awful. In the latter city more than 500 deaths have occurred in 2 or 3 weeks. Undoubtedly we may expect it shortly in Philada.²¹

August 14, 1834 Congress at their last session ordered a frigate of the first class to be built to be called the Paul Jones. Last July was 47 years that I spent 40 days in the same cabin as fellow passenger with Paul Jones on a voyage from Havre to New York. He was rather taciturn, yet gentlemanly.²²

¹⁹ James Mills made his ascension from an enclosed lot on Broad Street, between Spruce and Pine. Tickets of admission to the enclosure were sold at the principal hotels for seventy-five cents apiece to those who desired to see the process of inflating the balloon, but this failed to draw a crowd.

²⁰ Elliott Cresson (1796-1854) was a Quaker philanthropist who devoted himself particularly to the cause of African colonization. In 1834 he was one of the organizers of the Young Men’s Colonization Society of Pennsylvania. In his will he left the Historical Society of Pennsylvania $10,000.

²¹ Philadelphia suffered severe cholera epidemics in 1832, 1849, and 1866.

²² After more than four years at college in France, the diarist returned home on a French packet, the Courrier de l’Europe, on which Jones was a passenger.
August 16, 1834  Gave my brother some good claret that cost only 50 cents a gallon. Wines are cheap, owing to the duties being taken off, and may become again the drink of the common people. Forty years ago wine was called for by wagoners on the public roads of Penna. instead of spirits. Being charged with high duties afterward, whiskey took its place and spread drunkenness far and wide.

September 20, 1834  Mr. Dupuy of Passyunk[^23] gave a feast, on roofing a large house he is building, and invited me. As every thing partakes of politics at this moment, being on the eve of an election, I made a short stump oration, and gave for a toast: “Education of the rich and poor by common schools.”

This I did because the sheriff has seen fit to withhold his proclamation to the citizens of the City and County of Philadelphia, inviting them, as he ought to have done, to organize under the school law of last session. In my opinion he has been guilty of a misdemeanor by this omission, and I told his deputy so. I sent two pieces upon the subject to the National Gazette.

October 7, 1834  The railroad, by double track, was opened today, when Governor Wolf came over it to Phila. This man was not noticed except by his political and interested sycophants, officeholders, expectants and dependents. He is in bad odor with the respectable part of the community who despise him for eating his own words and disregarding the interests of the state for the sake of keeping in with the kitchen cabinet at Washington.

October 11, 1834  We housed our plants this day in the conservatory where I have made several improvements, which will exhibit 4 or 500 plants to great advantage, I hope, this winter.

November 27, 1834  Visited the academy of fine arts . . . the picture that interested me most is a portrait of William Penn, painted in 1666, when only 22 years old. He is in full armor of coat and mail, which we may suppose was the fashionable costume of portraits in that day. It was presented by the family to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.[^24]

[^23]: Presumably Abraham Dupuy.

[^24]: This portrait, presented in 1833 by Granville Penn, a grandson of William Penn, seems to have been one of three copies made for the family in the latter part of the eighteenth century. It must have been based on an original work as the Penns believed it to be an excellent likeness.
January 4, 1835  Ever since the New Year came in we have had fine bracing weather. Yesterday was clear and cold—glass 17. Last night a quiet cloudless temperature of 9 or 10, I should think. The Schuylkill is, of course, tight and offers fine ice for our ice houses. I have directed preparations to be made for commencing tomorrow to fill mine.

January 7, 1835  Filled the ice house almost to the roof in 3 days—nine men one day and 8 the other two—three carts, two with three horses and one with two horses. Ice about 10 inches thick.

January 11, 1835  I walked across the ice opposite to my house last Thursday to visit a stupendous public ice house, two hundred feet long and now filling by 150 persons and many carts besides hoisting boxes, worked by 3 horses. It is a mighty concern and conducted with great spirit. Its contiguity to the railroad, a branch of which goes even into the house, enables the proprietors to send the ice in vast quantities to the city in cars.25

March 8, 1835  Superb skating on the Schuylkill up to the 6th, that is to say day before yesterday, when many persons were on the river, which was as smooth and pellucid as a mirror. I never saw such a sheet of beautiful ice.

April 5, 1835  My servants have been tolerably steady of late, until now, when Reynolds the cook, who has lived with me at different periods a dozen years, could no longer be endured for her insolence and other failings. So with a man who has been with me 18 months. He has failed in respect towards my wife, and is dismissed. Of coachmen, it is true, about four have been here within a year! and gardeners four! Now there are only Mrs. Breck and me to wait on. We see no company, and I pay the very highest wages in Pennsylvania: such as—to the gardener who has lately gone away, a house, milk for his family, vegetables, a fat hog, and twenty dollars a month. To the waiter—board and twelve dollars, and the two women, board and a dollar and a half each a week.

April 22, 1835  We talked a good deal about that impudent actress Fanny Kemble, now married to young Pierce Mease, commonly called Butler. I brought home a parcel of caricatures of him and his wife, admirably well conceived and drawn, and sufficiently

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25 At a later date one of these commercial ice houses was to be built on the Schuylkill just below the diarist's house and to be called Sweetbriar after his home. By 1858 there were twenty-five ice houses on the Schuylkill near Philadelphia.
well lithographed. They illustrate passages in that foolish woman’s work upon America.\(^{26}\)

[Breck’s diary number 7, covering the period June 1835 to April 1838, is missing.]

**April 18, 1838** Public Schools in Philadelphia. Seventeen spacious buildings, specially erected for the purpose, are at this moment occupied by the public schools in this city and county. Besides these, sixty primary schools, under female teachers, are taught in rented rooms, in different sections of the district (city and county). Seventeen thousand children are thus taught gratis, at an expense per head of $4.75; or at an aggregate cost to the said district of about seventy thousand dollars. When the Girard College gets under way, the facilities for higher branches will be given gratis to five hundred boys at once, who will be lodged & clothed, and instructed by a four years collegiate course. I had the good fortune to introduce into our Legislature, when a member of the Senate in December 1833, the present general school law, by which some hundred thousand children are instructed in this Commonwealth.

**April 21, 1838** At Mr. C. C. Biddle’s this evening,\(^{27}\) I was informed that last night the Philosophical Society of Penna. did me the honor to elect me a member. This was news to me indeed, for I never dreamt of soliciting such an association, not thinking myself qualified for so distinguished a station. I am, nevertheless, flattered by the compliment.

Speaking of societies puts me in mind of a report which I must draw up for the Historical Society, and I shall put it in something like this shape:\(^{28}\)

The committee to whom was referred the consideration of a motion to dissolve the Society report: That according to a list handed to them by the treasurer there have been among its members 22 deaths & 50 resignations, and that the number remaining is 53.\(^{29}\)

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26 *Journal of a Residence in America*, published in 1835.
27 Breck served as a manager of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, of which Clement C. Biddle was president.
28 Breck was a councilor of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and later a vice-president.
29 Today, the number is in excess of 3,300.
They beg leave to add that the treasurer reports verbally the payment of all debts and about fifty dollars on hand. No doubt a considerable sum may be collected from members who are in arrears, and by addressing a note to those gentlemen who have resigned, many may be induced to rejoin the Society. The committee are informed by Messrs. McCarty and Davis that on June 15, 1836, ninety-nine copies of the Society's last publication were delivered to its members, one hundred copies to Messrs. Carey & Hart, and that 101 copies remain in the hands of the publishers. Of the one hundred sent to Messrs Carey & Hart, those gentlemen have sold twenty-two copies and owe the Society therefor. As no sales seem to have been made by the publishers, your committee recommend a trial in the stores of booksellers in Chestnut Street, or other parts of the City.

In order to increase the usefulness and prosperity of the Society, your committee recommend the appointment of three gentlemen who shall form a committee for the purpose of engaging men of suitable literary qualifications to lecture in the course of next winter upon History and all other topics of general utility and attraction; that said lecturers be considered as labouring in friendly aid of the Society, and of course gratis; that the committee aforesaid be charged with the general arrangement of the lecture room; the hiring of the same and have carte blanche in all matters appertaining thereto, and to the selection of the lecturers; providing one restriction only, which is that the Society will be answerable for no other expense than that of the room, printing of tickets and necessary attendants; and that it reserves to itself the privilege of stopping the lectures whenever they shall be found unprofitable.

April 24, 1838  The exciting news of the day is the arrival at New York of two enormous steam-ships, named the Great Western and the Sirius. These vessels have been built in England and are

30 Stationers, 171 Market Street.
31 Booksellers at the corner of Fourth and Chestnut.
32 The minutes of the Society indicate a sad state of affairs. Its council held no meetings in October, November, and December 1837. Six members attended the January 1838 meeting when the treasurer was requested to get up a report. The next meeting did not take place until November, when a committee was appointed to consider the feasibility of a course of lectures such as Breck had recommended.
commanded by Lieutenants in the British navy. They are intended to ply between England and New York as regular packets. The Great Western is a ship equal in size to a man of war of eighty guns, being by registered admeasurement 1,604 tons; in length, 234 feet; breadth including paddle boxes, 58 feet, and with engines and machinery of 450 horse power. The Sirius is only 700 tons. The New Yorkers are all cock a hoop at this new event. Let them take care that it does not destroy their American lines of packets.

May 2, 1838 In the evening I reported to the Trustees of the University a memorial to Congress, praying for a grant of land. The memorial was written by Benjamin W. Richards, and is an ably drawn paper. The Legislature has granted our institution, in common with eight others, an annuity of one thousand dollars. The institution is in a very prosperous state.

May 4, 1838 The last week has brought us fearful accounts of Accidents. The first is the destruction of the Mossell steamboat, near Cincinnati, by explosion owing to the master’s keeping up the steam for a race. Two hundred persons perished!! The second was another steamboat on the Mississippi, called the Oronoco, likewise by explosion when seventy-five souls were lost. The third is a shocking conflagration of one thousand houses in Charleston, South Carolina. And this morning, in my neighbourhood, a cotton mill, near Fairmount, on the same spot where one was burnt last year.

May 5, 1838 I am investigating the history of our old revolutionary paper money: the shin-plasters by which we gained our independence, and which, after a gradual depreciation died without a groan, operating on those who held them in transitu as a tax paid for emancipation from foreign rule. I have many thousand dollars of these old continental bills which I am selecting and arranging for preservation in the archives of some literary society. As we recede from those days of artificial credit, which tried mens souls and purses, these evidences of broken promises and popular gullibility (turned for once to a good end, I own) become objects of curiosity.

May 9, 1838 The Southern slave-holding states have lately held a convention at Augusta for the purpose of carrying on their own export and import business. A committee of this convention, of

33 Breck was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania.
which General Hayne\textsuperscript{34} is chairman, introduce a passage into their report which is so ridiculous that did it come from any other quarter it might well be taken for Irony, or an abolition Quiz. For to take it as a serious argument, or susceptible of the shadow of proof, seems too monstrous to be entertained a moment. It is a pitiful assertion of rank nonsense.

“The particular institutions of the south,” says General Hayne of Charleston, South Carolina, “will be fortified and strengthened [by a system of commerce independent of the nonslaveholding states]. The stream of rich and varied commerce [carried on by ourselves] will stimulate the industry—add to the wealth, enlarge the minds, and improve the character of our people. Civilization and refinement—the hand maids of virtue—will adorn our land, and the \textit{GREAT TRUTH} will be seen, and felt, and acknowledged, that of all the social conditions of man, the most favorable to the development of the cardinal virtues of the heart, and the noblest faculties of the soul—\textit{to the promotion of private happiness and public prosperity, is that of SLAVE HOLDING COMMUNITIES UNDER FREE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS}—a truth hardly yet understood among ourselves, but which the future history of these states is, we trust, destined to illustrate.”

The words in capitals are so given in the Carolina paper. Was ever such precious truth put forth by people pretending to be in their senses?

\textit{May 13, 1838} A very public spirited gentleman, named Newkirk,\textsuperscript{35} who has built in Arch Street a magnificent marble house, received three days ago the celebrated Henry Clay of Kentucky. This Mr. Newkirk is a teetotal temperance man and does not even allow wine in his house; of course the Kentucky statesman had to content himself with lemonade and water. At a party got up in honor of the distinguished stranger, Mr. Newkirk gave no other drink than those. This is going the whole hog, indeed and is almost as bad, and I was going to say, as silly, as the Boston City regulation which forbids smoking cigars in the street under a penalty of two dollars...
May 19, 1838   Last Thursday night was a disgraceful one for Philadelphia. It seems that the fanatical Abolitionists, who have been put down in many parts of the United States, persist in agitating the public by incendiary discourse, and practical amalgamation with the Negroes, by associating in the most familiar manner, even in the public streets and steamboats, so as to exhibit the disgusting spectacle of a black man walking abroad with a white woman on each arm, and white girls parading in public with black women. These pale-faced ultras, having been driven from post to pillar, at length settled on Philadelphia as their head-quarters, and having built in 6th above Arch Street a splendid edifice, which they called "The Pennsylvania Hall," and which was constructed with funds raised by 2,000 shares at 20 dollars each, making the cost 40,000 dollars, they opened it on Monday last, by assembling from all parts enthusiasts, principally women, who constituted an abolition convention. David Paul Brown delivered an oration on "Liberty," before 2 or 3,000 people, most of whom were coloured or black. In the evening the amalgamation continued, when several white women from New England and elsewhere addressed the motley assembly. The noted Garrison (or Garretson) was a spokesman on the occasion; and after these philanthropic exercises had concluded the mingled whites and blacks left the Hall, arm in arm, thus braving long established prejudices and public opinion. The populace became furious, and on Tuesday evening, when another assemblage took place, broke the windows. This continued on Wednesday night, and to an increased degree. On Thursday the Mayor requested the leaders of the convention not to meet, and they consented, giving up the keys to him. He gathered his disposable force, in case of need. About 8 o'clock a party of rioters came from the northern part of the suburbs, entered the building, collected all the books and benches in the center of the noble Hall, and set fire to them; letting in the gas by breaking the pipes and thus increasing the flame. In a few moments all was in a blaze. The firemen assembled, but were ordered by the mob to protect the adjoining

36 David Paul Brown (1795–1872) was a noted Philadelphia lawyer and orator who befriended the city's colored people. In 1841 "The disfranchised citizens of Philadelphia" presented him with two handsome silver pitchers "in testimony of their appreciation."

37 William Lloyd Garrison.
buildings, and not play upon the Hall. In this manner the adjacent property was saved, and the new building wholly destroyed, while thousands stood quietly looking on. Such is the force of public opinion when provoked!!

But where is such license to end? . . . For the rest, altho' the means taken by the mob is to be regretted, the end accomplished is certainly very popular. The Abolitionist must be put down, or the union of these states will be dissolved, and the emancipation of three millions of slaves be postponed, if not forever prevented. The alternative is shocking. Either this large number of slaves must go on in bondage, and in accumulating strength, or they must be set free in ignorance and helplessness. It is Scylla or charybdis! there is no safe passage between.

May 25, 1838 The Governor has issued a proclamation, offering a reward of 500 dollars for the conviction of each of the incendiary rascals who set fire to the Pennsylvania Hall and orphan's asylum for coloured children; and the Mayor has offered two thousand dollars for the conviction of the parties to this vile transaction. I sincerely hope that the miscreants will be punished and the honor of our city vindicated.

May 29, 1838 My landlord has paid off the ground rent and raised my rent to nine hundred dollars. This is high, but the house is large and convenient, and in the highest and perhaps the most fashionable part of the city being in Walnut Street, 144 feet west of Broad on the south side. . . .

May 30, 1838 Affairs in Philadelphia are improving. Many new houses are going up, and we may expect soon the withdrawal of the notes under a dollar, commonly called Shin plasters. The Banks too are promising to pay silver soon for notes of all denominations.38

May 31, 1838 We have had a flying visit from the Prince de Joinville, third son of Louis Phillipe, King of the French. This young man, now under twenty, arrived at Norfolk about 10 days ago from Brazil, via Cuba, in a ship of the line, accompanied by a frigate. He is destined for the Navy, and is cruising from place to place to take a bird's-eye view of foreign countries, which he traverses on the wing, with the rapidity of the inhabitants of the

38 The banks had suspended specie payments on their notes in 1837.
air; and for all the good that such superficial glances can do him may return home (to continue the figure) about as wise as the Pelican Booby. In these 8 or 10 days the Royal traveller has ascended the James River 170 miles, visiting Richmond, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. He travels with a considerable suite, and took lodgings at a rather second rate house (Saunderson’s Merchant hotel) because he wanted 9 rooms, which he could not obtain at the other great inns on account of the numerous company there. At Saunderson’s he was supplied with seven chambers. The young prince spent one day amongst us, dining at the French consul’s in Girard Street, and leaving Philada yesterday morning for Pittsburg; thence to Cleveland, Buffalo, and thro’ the state of New York to Newport, where the ships will meet him in 20 days from this, and carry the Express mail traveller to France. I have mentioned before in my journal that the worthy and talented father of that young prince was an intimate visitor at my father’s during the two years he spent in the United States.

June 1, 1838 The young Prince de Joinville was in such a hurry that he had not time to receive the Mayor of the city. That magistrate told me yesterday that he requested a French gentleman to inform the Prince of his desire to wait upon him, and welcome him in person to Philadelphia. The French messenger brought for answer that “de Prince was make de short visit to dis citay, for he must go dat moment to Pittsburg, and would come de oder time and look at Philadelphie, and keep on his heart de remember of dis act of de polite Mayor, with all de strong sentimens of de true gratitute.” It was somewhat in this style that Colonel Swift told me the story.

At length Congress is beginning to undo the sad and ruinous work of that ignorant and obstinate man, Andrew Jackson. The specie circular mandate, which issued from him, and directed hard money to be paid in all purchases of public land, has been repealed in Congress by immense majorities and will encourage the Banks throughout the union to resume specie payments soon.

39 J. M. Sanderson’s Merchants’ Hotel, 4th Street above Market.
40 John Swift, mayor of Philadelphia 1832-1838.
41 The specie circular was issued on July 11, 1836, and probably hastened the Panic of 1837 during which most of the banks suspended specie payment.
June 5, 1838  John Quincy Adams... is an early acquaintance of mine. When he was a student of law, in Theophilus Parson's office, I was on social terms with him. Subsequently I belonged to a select club with him, which held its meetings at the then well known Jimmy Viley's. More than thirty years after, he was Secretary of State at Washington, when I was a representative of the first district of Penna. in Congress. During the second session of this, the Eighteenth Congress, an election for President of the United States came constitutionally before the House of Representatives, when we voted for the three highest candidates by states, each state giving one vote. These candidates were Adams, Jackson and [William Harris] Crawford. In order to give the members an opportunity to prepare the votes, they were clustered in the hall, so that each delegation sat together. Thus grouped, we of Pennsylvania began to ballot, Mr. [Samuel D.] Ingham and I being appointed tellers. The result was a vote for Jackson by every member except me. I voted alone for John Q. Adams. Never have I ceased to congratulate myself from having thus escaped the reproach of voting for Jackson, whose subsequent conduct caused such wide spread confusion and ruin. Notwithstanding the vote of Penna. Adams was elected, and during his Administration he reduced the Government expenses to Thirteen millions, while Jackson who succeeded him as a Reformer, encreased them to thirty one millions!!! A writer gives the following piquant epigram: Treasury Arithmetic, or 13 turned into 31.

In Tariff times, when Adams reigned,  
How swiftly was the Treasury drained!  
His millions when we come to see,  
The tens were one, the units three.  
This was too bad; and, in a storm,  
We roared for "Jackson and reform."  
Both came; and now, so great's the fun,  
The tens are three, the units one!

June 8, 1838  Hired a carriage and two horses of Charles Hall, a respectable colored man, who by his good conduct has become owner of four other such vehicles and a pair of horses to each. His brother in law, equally respectable, drove me. We travelled thro' a finely cultivated country, covered with heavy crops of grain, to
Quakertown, where we put up. Hot night and feather bed. Rather comfortless of course.

_June 9, 1838_ Off at 5 o'clock. Rode roughly, by detestable ways, thro' a garden. Man, especially the Dutchman, attends to his fields first; his farm house, barn and wagons & horses next, and last of all the roads, about which he cares very little, having plenty of horse power. Breakfasted at Allentown, a thriving borough of four thousand people. Dined at the Gap, and reached Mauch-Chunk about sunset. 42 miles this hot day.

_June 10, 1838_ Found here my two colleagues, Messrs. Nathan Beach and Owen Rice, being the same gentlemen who were named by the Governor, in a commission with me, last October, to report upon the works of the upper division of the Lehigh, with reference to obtaining a license for tolls. . . . In the afternoon Mr. Watson, President of the Company, joined his colleagues, Messrs. White, Erps & Cook.

_June 11, 1838_ A boat, well covered, took us up the river 27 miles, thro' 24 locks of surpassing size and beauty, measuring from 20 to 30 feet lift, by 100 long and twenty wide. No work in America, perhaps none in the world, exceeds this series of locks and dams, either in magnitude of lift, or solidity of construction. The largest one (thirty feet lift) we named the Pennsylvania, and Mr. Watson has promised to get a sculptured tablet for it, with this name. The chambers are lined with plank, resting against a thick dry wall, and are free from leaks. Two boats, side by side, pass the locks in 3 or 4 minutes, with 120 tons of coal. Scenery very romantic, hills one thousand feet high, down which tumble streams of water, cool and copious. One, with a lofty leap, I called Niagara, being the diminutive of Niagara; and the other, heaving over the rocks in a foaming body and lively spray, I named Champaign Cataract. Upon this being announced, the caterer uncorked a bottle or two of sparkling champaign, when the whole party in merry bumpers, confirmed my suggestion. At Whitehaven we slept, amid the in-

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42 On Sept. 26, 1837, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company had requested Gov. Ritner to appoint three commissioners to inspect its improvements. *Report of the Board of Managers of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company* (Philadelphia, 1839), 37–39. Joseph Watson was the company's president, Josiah White, Thomas Earp, and John Cook were among its managers.
convenience of a new town, and a thousand Irish labourers who bivouac in and around while at work upon the company's rail road, now in progress from this place to Wilkes Barre. There Mr. Rice drew up that part of the report that contains the admeasurements, while I wrote the general remarks. In this way we composed a paper perfectly satisfactory to the managers. We declined pay as commissioners, contenting ourselves with the pleasure of the excursion and the discharge of our expenses.

June 12, 1838 Came back thro' the locks, put our report in order, swore to it, and on Wednesday 13 started on the stage for Easton, having Messrs. J. M. Porter, Rice and Watson in the coach, and a coach belonging to the same proprietor in company. At Craig's tavern in the Gap we had a specimen of Irish impudence and ultra democracy. The day was very hot and we all left the coach a moment to get a glass of cool water from the mountain. While we were seated under the piazza, there came up four of the filthiest, ill-looking, half naked, shirtless fellows, with the true tipperary brogue. Craig, the landlord, a Jackson-Jacobin, opened the door of our coach for them to jump in. And this they did without ceremony, taking possession of our seats with an air of triumph, and displaying ostentatiously their whisky bottle. Driven from our seats, we asked for our carpet bags and loose baggage, which they handed to us with insolent assurance. We of course refused to travel with men covered with vermin. Had they been clean in person and attire, we could not have objected, for a stage is open to all who follow the common rules of decency. But even Porter, who is, or pretends to be, a Democrat, was driven off by these princes of the blood of the sovereign people. He fled from the lousy plebians and took a seat in the broiling sun, by the side of the driver, while we three went to the Bethlehem coach.

[Joined at Easton by his sister, Mrs. James Lloyd, Samuel Breck went on to New York preparatory to an excursion to Canada, not returning home until August.]

August 13, 1838 Today our Banks resume specie payments. During all the time of suspension (15 months) the credit and usefulness of those institutions have continued. Substitutes in small paper

43 For this laudatory report on the canal, see ibid., 48–51.
change down to 3 cent notes were issued by the city and incorporated
districts, which under the nick name of shin-plasters circulated
every where in this community with free credit, and have now all
been redeemed; so that today in Philada. we have no bank paper
under five dollars.

August 18, 1838 Mr. Willing, trustee of William Bingham,
told me again that he remitted that unworthy American thirty
thousand dollars a year, and, living as he does in Paris, Mr. Bingham
wants more, which his uncle cannot consent to allow, altho' the
property in trust will afford ten thousand dollars additional.44

August 19, 1838 George M. Dallas, a hot-headed politician,
who sacrificed consistency and country to Party, as was shown in
his dastardly conduct on the United States Bank question, is now
minister to Saint Petersburg. Before he sailed, his cronies gave him
a dinner. During the repast, a barrister, named Brewster,45 proposed
to the company to present their guest with a gold snuffbox. There
seemed some hesitation which amounted to a refusal. Upon this
Brewster drew from his waiscoat pocket a gold box, and addressed
the company thus: “I hold in my hand, gentlemen, the token of
friendship intended for Mr. Dallas. Here it is of pure gold, with a
suitable inscription, and here is the bill of costs, amounting to
seventy-five cents apiece for this company, and let me see which of
you dare be mean enough to slink from this contribution.” This
Brewster is a rough plain-spoken man, possessed of more democratic
brass than polished education, for altho’ a lawyer in pretty extensive
business his pleadings are neither in the language of good society
nor of good grammar.

August 22, 1838 The Philadelphians are trying to get up a
company, to be associated with another in London, for the purpose
of running steam-packets between our city and Havre and London.
I shall be truly happy to see this grand and useful project accom-
plished. That it is feasible cannot be doubted. But (and there is the

44 William Bingham, Jr., received 40 per cent of his father’s vast fortune, under the trustee-
ship of his uncle, Thomas M. Willing. Young Bingham was a coarse man of small capacity,
mature to a French Canadian who led a scandalous life. Robert C. Alberts, The Golden
45 Francis E. Brewster.
rub) is there commercial spirit left among us to execute it? I doubt
it, but nous verrons.46

I put into my cellar yesterday thirty-five tons of anthracite coal,
which, with 5 or 6 cords of hickory wood, will carry my family
through the winter.

August 24, 1838 It is amusing to a man of my age to hear
the conceit of the rising generation, young men and women who
when speaking of the condition of society, its comforts, politeness,
diversions etc they refer with pity and contempt to the days of my
youth. One would think that we lived then in want and darkness,
and that all the good things of this world had just sprung into
existence for the special advantage of the boys and girls who date
their existence some twenty years back. If we sexagenarians tell
them that the society of their grandmothers when young was more
polished, manners more refined, comforts more elegant, dress much
more recherche than the present day, all we say is put down to the
prejudice of age.

August 25, 1838 Three time I have been obliged to repair my
father’s and mother’s grave stones in St. Peter’s churchyard. The
first monument placed there in 1809 was at a cost of four hundred
dollars. In less than a year it was broken and robbed of the copper
fastenings. I spoke to the late Bishop White about it. He could do
nothing. I complained to the Vestry, and urged them to offer a
reward, but they refused. I had the mutilated marble mended.
About 3 months ago the cemetery was invaded, several slabs dis-
placed, and the urn and all the marble on the pedestal of my parents’
grave knocked off and broken. Again, I asked the Vestry to offer
a reward and endeavor to bring the imps of Hell to punishment,
but they will do no such thing.

August 31, 1838 It is a matter of great concern with the
friends of internal improvements to see the whole line between this
city and Pittsburg put in jeopardy everyday by the passage across
the Schuylkill bridge at the foot of the inclined plane of the Loco-
motive with pine wood. No doubt this noble structure, which cost
the Commonwealth one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, is
destined, owing to this circumstance, to be burnt, as the bridge on

46 Breck’s doubts were well founded.
the Brandywine was lately. . . . When ours on Schuylkill comes to be burnt, as burnt it must be with the sparks from Pine wood, it will cost 40,000 to replace it and interrupt the vast trade to the West for some months. The use of anthracite would obviate all this danger and anxiety.

*September 1, 1838* This evening about eight o'clock the Schuylkill-Lancaster Bridge at Fair-mount was wholly destroyed by fire. I was one of the first board of Managers of this beautiful structure and aided in superintending its erection. Wernwag was the builder. Its arch (for it had but one) was perhaps the longest in the world. . . . Its tolls averaged, perhaps, ten dollars a day.  

*September 12, 1838* The community is again agitated upon the subject of a free bridge over the Schuylkill by that pre-eminently troublesome man, John Hare Powel. He has obtained surreptitiously a resolution for building a bridge in connexion with the West Philadelphia railroad, and means to get it to abut on a swamp of his in order to turn his worthless mud into money at the expense of the stockholders in the other bridges, whose investments will be greatly injured by an unnecessary interference of that kind.

*September 17, 1838* I met at my door this morning Mr. Le Jambre, formerly a confidential valet of Joseph Bonaparte, and now a thriving upholsterer in Chestnut Street. He held in his hand a letter from the Ex-King of Spain, informing him of his intention to embark for this country at Liverpool on the 20th of last month in the New York packet “Pennsylvania.” Count Survillier, as he is generally called will be seventy-one years old on the 7th of January next. . . . Le Jambre has orders to fit up his villa at Bordentown with the utmost despatch as the Count may be expected daily.

*September 19, 1838* A few days since, a sword made in Philadelphia at a cost of one thousand dollars was presented by our Governor Ritner to General Brady of the United States Army. The General is a native of Pennsylvania and distinguished himself twenty-five years ago on the Niagara frontier, for which our State

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47 Designed by Lewis Wernwag, this bridge had been completed in 1813. Its single-span arch was 366 feet long.

48 A. Le Jambre, 301 Chestnut Street.

49 Gen. Hugh Brady, died 1851. The sword, made by Thomas Fletcher of Philadelphia, was presented in Harrisburg on September 17, 1838.
Legislature last winter (better late than never!) voted him this sword. When Tiberius was Emperor, one of the Greek cities sent to condole with him upon some melancholy event that had occurred a year or two before. Tiberius, in answer, thanked the Greeks, and begged to offer his sympathy for the loss of Achilles at the Siege of Troy!

*September 21, 1838* At the Philosophical Society this evening, I met Sully, the eminent painter who is just returned from England, where he was sent by the Saint George’s Society of this city to paint from life the portrait and person of the young Queen Victoria. He was received by her and the English people with the greatest kindness. The Queen, he told me, was exceedingly affable and granted him six sittings; some of them extending to two hours and a half. She was always punctual to a moment, and when state matters, or other engagements prevented her attendance at the time appointed, she always sent him word in due season, to avoid inconvenience on his part. Victoria is a small woman, not reaching quite one inch beyond five feet. The sittings were attended by many of her Court. I asked Sully, who is a perfectly well bred gentleman, with an unobtrusive, modest manner, whether he did not feel a little nervous in the presence of such exalted company? He answered that he had the faculty of abstraction from things about and around him when standing before his easel.

*October 3, 1838* Count Survillier (Joseph Bonaparte) arrived at New York a day or two ago with a suit of four gentlemen and nine servants. His residence in America is at Bordentown, where the villa and grounds have been prepared for his reception. No man can be more popular than he is among the people of that neighborhood with whom he lived in peace and friendship sixteen years.

*October 8, 1838* We have now in Phila. on public exhibition two living Giraffes or Cameleopards. . . . For a long while the existence of this animal was doubted and its history supposed to be fabulous, and it is less than ten years that they have been introduced into the menageries of Europe.

*October 13, 1838* A New England clergyman once met a parishioner who told him that it had been settled among the congregation that his salary should be increased, for it was in truth a very mean one. “Don’t do that,” said the parson, “for as it is most
of my time is taken up in collecting it, and if you make it larger I shall not have a minute to spare for anything else."

I had with me last evening the celebrated botanist and traveller Nuttall. He is an Englishman, an excellent mineralogist and superior botanist. He is arranging my cabinet of minerals. Nothing can be more artless and unsophisticated than this man. He seems to value himself very little on account of what he has seen and what he knows. One of his journeys, with a Mr. Townsend, was up the Missouri, the Platt, across to the Columbia River, over to the Sandwich Islands, back to the Columbia, into California, and back to the United States by a five months voyage, around Cape Horn! To hear him speak of it you would suppose it was some insignificant excursion among the neighbouring counties.

October 18, 1838  A justifiable act of Lynching was recently committed at Valley Forge after a temperance address by the Revd. Mr. Hunt. The multitude, led by a dealer in ardent spirits, burnt a barrel of whiskey, after having given it a coat of tar and feathers!

I met Joseph Bonaparte in the street yesterday. His appearance is that of a very plain country gentleman. I thought one of the nine servants he brought from England might have brushed his hat, which looked rather shabby.... It is said that he comes to America to see the sun, being tired of living under the lugubrious and lurid sky of England, in the mid of fogs and rain....

October 23, 1838  I visited today with my wife a very stylish house, built by Haviland the architect. It is replete with convenience, and a range or suite of rooms of novel construction and ornament. [Benjamin H.] Latrobe said of the Philadelphia style of building: "So it was in the beginning, is now, and ever will be." There is in truth an everlasting sameness in our architecture, which, tho' neat and convenient, is in bad taste.

October 29, 1838  Spent the evening at Mrs. Raguet's. Mr. Vaughan was there as brisk as a bee. This aged gentleman has always been foremost in doing the honors of the city to distinguished strangers, so much so that one French traveller published on his

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50 John Haviland, celebrated for his "radiating plan" in prison design as exemplified in Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary at Cherry Hill.
51 Wife of Condy Raguet, Philadelphia economist and journalist.
52 John Vaughan, Librarian of the American Philosophical Society, died in 1841 at the age of eighty-six.
return home that the corporation employed him to welcome foreigners of note and show them all that is to be seen.

November 3, 1838   Going today to a hair dresser to order a crown piece of false hair, of the color of my own grey locks. . . . These scalps or crown pieces are very like the natural hair when glued on with gum arabick, and keep the head warm and comfortable. If gum tragacauth did not cement too tight, it would be better than gum arabick, but I have never tried it. The latter gets loose and dry in about a week.

November 23, 1838   This evening Thomas Nuttall, the botanist and mineralogist, finished assorting and classing my cabinet of minerals. It is, of course, yet imperfect, but among the one thousand specimens there are several of considerable beauty.

November 28, 1838   I walked a mile or so today with C. C. Biddle, who returned from Europe lately. He visited Ireland from the Giant Causeway to the Marquis of Sligo's residence in the south, at whose castle he staid a week. The Marquis held a court as Lord Lieutenant of the County, and seated Mr. Biddle by his side. During the trials, his Lordship took pains to develop the national character of his countrymen. He has visited the United States, and so has 2 or 3 of his sons, whom I saw in Philada. Lord Sligo has an American stove (Nott's) in one of his rooms and drives a couple of American fast trotting horses in his cab.

November 29, 1838   A large menagerie is now open in Chesnut St. which I visited this morning. An elephant, near ten feet high, is among the numerous beasts. The house is warmed by stoves, rather carelessly placed, particularly in the giraffe's stall, and which, without good luck, may make a bon-fire of the house before spring.

November 30, 1838   I attended divine worship this morning at Revd. Mr. Boardman's church (corner of Walnut and twelfth streets) and sat in my neighbour Dr. Mitchell's pew. The seats are all lined and furnished, the congregation crowded, and the clergyman young, handsome and eloquent. His style is pure, his action subdued and graceful, and his doctrine liberal and sensible.

53 H. Nott & Company, stove manufacturers, 24 Chestnut Street.
54 Dr. John K. Mitchell attended the Rev. Henry A. Boardman's Tenth Presbyterian Church.
December 5, 1838 The President’s Message, delivered at Washington yesterday at 12 o’clock, was brought free of charge by the rail-road companies precisely in six hours from the Capitol to the Exchange in this city. It then went to Trenton in 47 minutes, and reached Paulus Hook at 10½ o’clock. Thus travelling 245 miles in 10½ hours! The state paper is not sufficiently important to warrant such dispatch.

December 7, 1838 The accounts from Harrisburg are awful. Anarchy is in full force. The Legislature is a nullity, and the Jacobin press declares the Government dissolved. The Governor has called out the militia, which is preparing to start from here by rail-road tomorrow. But the Loco-focos declare they will prevent it, and tear up the iron rails, to keep them from going. What is Republicanism worth at this rate!

December 10, 1838 The daring rebellion at Harrisburg has obliged the Governor to order from the city and suburbs about 800 of the volunteer militia, who reached that Borough on Saturday evening by rail-road. Some of the ringleaders were arrested before their arrival and it is expected that order will be restored, and with it, I hope, the punishment of the guilty.

December 22, 1838 The rudest behaviour is indulged in by old and young. They come into your parlour with their hats upon their heads, and with a correspondent impudence throw themselves on to the best sofas and squirt their tobacco juice over your hearths, and not infrequently on the carpet. Mr. Raguet told me the other day that a member of Congress from some of the southern states paid him a visit of half an hour, during all of which time he spat upon an expensive carpet, so that when he went away there was a puddle of spittle ... and Mr. Barbour of Virginia, when Minister Plenipo. to London, ejected the filthy stuff into the grates of the houses of the nobility, and sometimes over my Lord’s shoulder, or across his nose.

December 25, 1838 A facetious writer in Connecticut says that the only way to spell a Russian or Polish name is to sneeze three times and say “ski.”

55 An illegal effort to contest the election of David R. Porter as Governor gained the name of the “Buck Shot War.”

56 James Barbour (1775-1842) was briefly Minister to the Court of St. James in 1828-1829.