

January 1865. Stanton General Hospital, Washington D C

Sunday, January 1.

The old year has gone, gone forever all its joys, sorrows and cares. A new year is just begun, our hearts beat high with thankfulness and hope for the future and we begin the new year with a merry greeting to all especially to our absent comrades in the field, may the god of battles protect all of them and ere another new year's day restore them again to our waiting anxious friends- a greeting to our bereaved ones with tender sympathy, those who mourn the loss of those gone forth to battle never to return – to our country and all lovers of freedom a greeting ,with the wish that the angel of peace will furl its wings and rest over our beloved country. This had been a very cold but beautiful day, in the morning was very busy on office work, received a letter from [*here he has written an obvious type of code made up of various symbols which need not be reproduced here*] answered the same in the evening, also wrote to my cousin in the Mount Pleasant Hospital. In the afternoon was visited by my friend Mr.Moon and two members of my regt, was not out of the hospital today sent this morning's *Chronicle* to Aunt Mercy.¹

Monday, January 3.

A cold but beautiful day, at work in the office all the forenoon, spent a few moments over to the Douglas Hospital, saw there Brig. Gen. Connors, in the afternoon had the pleasure of doing a little work at my old trade printing, took a walk and called at the house of a friend, H.H. Sperry,² did not find him at home; today was the President's Reception Day so several members of this hospital were fortunate enough to shake Mr. Lincoln by the hand, am very sorry that I did not take the opportunity to see him. In the evening wrote a letter to my mother. I have not heard from her for a very long time, also called on my friend Mr. Moon. In the evening played a game of chess with the Chaplain's clerk, have a very severe toothache, otherwise feel very well. Hospital life is dull and very inglorious for the soldier. The company doing duty here are having a great time tonight celebrating New Years Day. The news this morning not of much account but still encouraging, tried today to leave off some of my old habits, succeeded well.

Tuesday, January 3.

A very beautiful day, as usual at work in the office settling up clothing accounts. The war news today is very meagre, report says the enemy is preparing to make a movement which will be their last attempt to invade the north and force a peace or give all in the attempt. Was quite amused reading some extracts from southern papers in which they contemptuously speak of GenL. Sherman's late march through their country as nothing & that the fall of Savannah and Atlanta was no loss to them. Who can tell what a loss is if Savannah & Atlanta were not. Taking

advantage of a few moments I wrote a line to the Hon. H.H.Sperry, sent it by friend. In the evening visited my friend Dr. Owen Munson, formerly surgeon of the 108th, his daughters sang several beautiful pieces, the Dr. invited me to dinner and supper, never enjoyed myself so well for a long time. This evening we were favored by an old gentleman with a lecture on temperance – a very good attempt. Have not received a letter from home for a long time begin to think I should have one. This evening much snow fell, not only today.

Wednesday, January 4.

Very cold day old Boreas howling dismally and impudent to those who venture out. At work as usual in the office, no great amount of work today- war news meagre, Hood has been driven by Thomas until he don't know himself where he is, unsuccessful attempt to open the long talked of Dutch Gap Canal.³ The Army of the Potomac are doing their best to keep themselves warm, the enemy frequently making attempts to surprise our pickets but with poor success. In the afternoon wrote to cousin David Underdown, 'nary' letter for "dis chile" today, do not understand why. Late this evening received a letter from Cousin Phinie Millagage, the first one I have ever received from her. In the evening commenced and wrote quite a long letter to [*here has inserted his coded symbols which cannot be reproduced here, probably meaning "Judith" or "Beloved"*] although I have not received any letter, will finish in the morning. It has been very cold with some snow, have a cold and sore throat, should like very much to be at home to night birthday of [*the coded name again- Guess Who?*].

Thursday, January 5.

A very beautiful day, sun shining brightly over all. In the morning finished my letter commenced last night- at 11A.M. a friend called for me and together we took a walk, visited Mr. Sperry's rooms at the Capitol but he was not there then called upon Col. Chas. J. Powers of the 108th and at the house of Dr. Munson where I spent a very pleasant hour, in the afternoon wrote to cousin Phinie Millagage. The war news quite good from all quarters, except the failure at Wilmington NC. But that place will ere long feel the iron grasp of Uncle Sam. The Board of Examiners for the new 2nd Corps⁴ under Maj. Gen. Hancock were here today, made an effort to hurry up my papers at the Adj. Genl's office but with no success, have felt quite unwell today but still have continued at my work, no letters received today from any source, am getting impatient for news from home. My term of service is slowly but surely wearing away, twill soon be gone. How are you citizen and Mr. N.

[*above the entry below*] Commenced reading The Rebellion Reord.⁵

Friday, January 6.

Dreary rainy day, feel somewhat like the weather, to use a printer's phrase "am out of sorts". One year ago today I was enjoying myself at Gen. Alex Hays HdQrs. He is no more now, the pleasant camp and its good associations are gone except in memory. The war news this morning was good, our great planner of campaigns Sherman has roused himself and before long, he will make himself felt in a locality where he is little expected. At work as usual in the office but little to do, am thinking of taking a course of instruction in bookkeeping from Messrs Bryant and Co. will wait however for advice from home. No letter for me today. Great sensation rumour that Gen. Lee is marching on this city with 100,000 men, good for the amount it is worth. This has been an exceedingly dull day, one of the longest I have experienced, have been troubled with ennui all day, a good long letter from somebody would set me right again. A K___ for someone.

Saturday, January 7.

Cold wind howling dismally, the news today good but very meagre. A very interesting letter from Savannah, descriptive of the city and people, if all were so thoughtful as the wise mayor of Savannah many happy homes would be spared, tis not the place of a captured city to dictate to a conquering general his terms but to quietly submit. At noon received letter from my friend Miss Helen M. Sweet of Rochester, right welcomed, long expected, enclosed was a little case to keep my photographs, must answer tomorrow. This was a very good cheering letter, doing my soul real good to read. In the evening was cheered by seeing my old friend Mr. Moon and had a very good visit and long talk with him. In the evening wrote letter to Robert Dranesfield of Rochester,⁶ also made out inventory of material necessary for doing a printing business for the hospital, expect to have an opportunity to do something at my old trade, no news from my best friend today.

Sunday, January 8.

Today was cold but very pleasant, in company with my friend Pitcher, visited Mount Pleasant Hospital found cousin Johnny well and received for my reward two good letters from my truest best friend, very very welcome are they, proving I am not forgotten and still dear to her. Late last night after all had retired I wrote a letter to an old friend Robert Dranesfield Rochester NY, on returning to the hospital found that services were to be held in Ward 4, attended and heard a good discourse by Rev. W.H. Channing. In the evening wrote two long letters, one to Miss H.M. Sweet & another to my betrothed. Date of letters received today Dec.23, Jan 1st the last a truly cheering letter bringing me news from my home and my mother. War news today encouraging

but very meagre, the enemy holding on to the hope of foreign recognition, have felt very well all day.

Monday, January 9.

A fine beautiful day, feel very well. In the morning finished letter to my betrothed also sent Aunt Mercy yesterday's paper. The war news today very good and encouraging, interesting account of Stoneman's Great Raid through W. Virginia and Tennessee,⁷ vast amount of rebel property destroyed, Gen. Sherman's army again moving, also some activity in the Potomac Army. The day seems not far distant when we shall have peace. The board of examiners of the new 1st Army Corps met here again today, wrote in my scrapbook, not but little work today, feel very well. Appearance of rain tonight, the beautiful white robe of snow, emblem of purity has disappeared leaving nature in its meanest apparel – mud. In the evening wrote a beginning to my letter for Thursday to my betrothed, no letter from home today.

“Strive not to live long but live well / How long we live not years but actions tell.”

Tuesday, January 10.

A very disagreeable day, rain falling in torrents since late last evening until 5 o'clock pm today. War news this morning very meagre, scarcely no work in the office to do, busied myself by reading several interesting scientific articles in Littel's Living Age also by copying into my scrapbook. One man sent to state to be mustered out of service, envied him, but will wait my turn. No letter received today, quite strange, have been thinking of my past life and forming some new resolutions and to act on them at once. In the evening wrote another page to my Thursday letter to J.U., am feeling quite well but rather dull also commenced reading a work called 'Hope and Fears' a very good story. The board of examiners for 1st Corps assembled here again today, examination of 4 applicants.⁸

A naval question: If a Boatswain marries does his wife become a boatswain's mate?

Wednesday, January 11.

A cool but much pleasanter day than yesterday, quite a sudden change. Feeling well, war news of no account, at work as usual in the office, considerable to do. Board of Examiners met again today. A man by the name of Hayer died this morning, he had been here but a few days, wrote several pages in my new scrapbook. In the afternoon read a few chapters in 'Hope and Fears', find it a very interesting story. In the afternoon received from my beloved a letter announcing the

painful news that my uncle had fallen and badly injured his leg broken last summer. In the evening wrote long letter in answer. Had quite a social talk with some comrades on the interesting topic of marriage, one contending that it was a more prejudicial than good. I could not agree with him, on the whole the discussion was quite interesting. Prayer meeting in the 11 ward conducted by Rev. W.H. Channing Hospital Chaplain. Succeeded quite well in my resolutions.

Thursday, January 12.

A beautiful cold day, at work as usual in the office, war news from the Potomac army all quiet. Gen. Butler farewell address to the Army of the James rivalling Napoleon's address to his army after defeating the Russian and Austrian armies. Good news from Sherman, he is doing well ere long we will hear of another grand march, from Thomas all is well. Inspection of this hospital by Colonel Willson Chief Inspector of Hospitals. A class in Algebra and Mathematics started by some young ladies, have joined the class. In the forenoon received communication from Boston relating to printing press. In the afternoon wrote letter to an old schoolmate friend Miss Libbie B. Hedges of Rochester NY. Read several chapters of Hitchcock's Geology. In the evening commenced letter for Sunday to Miss Judie U, my betrothed. Have been feeling very well all day, no letters from home received.⁹

Friday, January 13.

Very beautiful day, feel very well. War news no account, except for Sherman, his army on the move again destination unknown. Gen. Grierson's great raid a success bringing many prisoners and destroying much property but not accomplishing its grand purpose the release of our unfortunate comrades lingering in southern prisons. Gen. Hood's army reported going into winter quarters¹⁰. In the forenoon visited Mr. Sherry and received promise to help me in my receiving a position in the War Dept. also invited to his house and spend the evening some time, returning to hospital found a letter awaiting me from my truest friend Judie Underdown, had to make out inventory of stock necessary to start a printing office for the hospital. Think of organizing debating club & starting a little paper, in the evening at work till after 12 o'clock- wrote part of a letter to Judi U. Surg. in charge very much in favor of our debating society.

Saturday, January 14.

A pleasant day, wind blowing from the North indicating another change in the weather. War news very good from all quarters, Gen. Sherman reported near Charleston S.C. and Gen. Thomas started on a great march through the enemys country, interesting report of the campaign into Wilmington and evident cause of its failure, feel satisfied in regard to our position. In the

afternoon received letter from my mother relieving me of great anxiety, am very thankful that she is still well, also rec'd letter from Miss Flint of Rochester consigned it to its proper place, the stove, it being very distasteful, a very busy day in the office doing a very large business. In the evening wrote letter in answer to my mother, also wrote to Judith for tomorrows letter, feel very well.

Sunday, January 15.

A calm and beautiful day, nature seems reposing, rest for all to day. War news meagre but encouraging, in the forenoon heard a sermon by Rev. W.H. Channing in the House of Representatives. The president and cabinet and a large majority of both houses of Congress were present, twas a very eloquent and timely discourse on the condition of our country. In the afternoon visited my brother Johnathon in Mount Pleasant Hospital, found him well. In the evening heard Dr. Channing again, then in company with a friend attended evening services at the church of the Ascension. Sermon from the text "For all our conversations is of heaven." After church returned here and wrote a letter to my Judith, have enjoyed this Sabbath much, feeling very well.

Monday, January 16.

A beautiful but cold day, in the morning at work as usual in the office. Sad news comes to us today the noble great Everett has laid aside his armour and gone to rest. He to the last was true, his last great effort was to benefit the suffering people in Savannah. War news good today, all seems working to the end that we shall have peace, a conquered peace, peace that will be permanent. Today wrote letter to my cousin David Thatcher, also finished in the morning my letter to my betrothed, feel very well, no news from home. Remained in the hospital all day, in the evening an appearance of snow, attended grammar class in the 11 Ward.¹¹

Tuesday, January 17.

A cold beautiful day, a little snow in the morning, clearing up bright and pleasant in the afternoon. Glorious is the news today, Fort Fisher has fallen now the entrance to Wilmington has been closed to all blockade runners and the capture of the city easy and sure. Charleston too is in danger, all our armies rising to action. The loud notes of the cannon are proclaiming to our willing ears the glad notes of freedom and victory. All honor to the brave tars and boys who have assisted in this glorious work.¹² Today received a letter from my friend Mrs. Edgar Gray, a welcome letter from a Christian friend. In the afternoon took a walk to the post office. In the

evening attended grammar class and then wrote a letter to my betrothed, how I long for the expiration of my term of service that I may claim her as my own.

Wednesday, January 18.

Another pleasant day, rather cold in the evening. Glorious news this morning confirming the capture of Fort Fisher and closing the harbor of Wilmington. From the Army of the Potomac all is quiet, from Sherman we hear cheering news, from Thomas the same good news also that our sister states Missouri, Maryland and Tennessee have forever abolished slavery.¹³ In the afternoon received a very good & true loving letter from Miss Judie Underdown, my own betrothed, may kind heaven watch over and bless my darling. In the evening wrote to Mrs. Edgar Grey of Rochester and addressed an illustrated paper to my Judie. Feel very well, very disagreeable change in our mess having the same fare as those who do nothing.

Thursday, January 19.

Another beautiful day, rather cold in the morning. In the forenoon wrote off a theme composed by Edmond J. Brookings, subject "still alive" as a nation & a people – in the afternoon attended a class in mathematics, and received two letters, one from an old schoolmate and friend Miss Libbie B. Hedges and another from my little friend Thomas Cornell of Rochester, feel very well, no news directly from home except in the letter from Miss Hedges, she reports all well. In the evening wrote long letter to my betrothed. Man shot tonight by a man belonging to the hospital at a drunken row near the hospital.

Friday, January 20.

A cold but pleasantly, am not feeling well. At work as usual all day at the office, war news good from all quarters, Fort Caswell in Wilmington Harbor blown up and the city reported as evacuated¹⁴. Sherman's victorious army again on the move and giving the enemy great anxiety in regard to Charleston. From all quarters of the South the people and many of the leaders seem anxious for peace, seeing the utter hopelessness of their infamous cause. Tonight the young men's debating society held their first meeting and decided to debate next Friday on the great question 'Should slavery be abolished or not?' A good representation of all wards were present, in the evening took a walk to see my friend Mr. Moon at the Government Printing Office.

Saturday, January 21.

A very disagreeable day raining and freezing, making the walks very dangerous for pedestrians. War news good, threatened rupture of the rebel government, gold down to 20½. Feel quite unwell, have a severe headache, no news from home nor from any loved one. At work as usual in the office, pay rolls received, in the afternoon wrote to my old friend and schoolmate Miss Libbie B. Hedges & also my little friend in Rochester, Thomas Cornell, nothing of any importance today.

Sunday, January 22.

A beautiful very beautiful day. Nature in her bridal dress, decorating trees, budding all over with spangles of diamonds glittering in the rain. War news very good, capture by Genl. Sherman's army of Pocotaligo Bridge between Savannah and Charleston.¹⁵ At work as usual in the office, very slack is the business today, did not go out all, only for a few moments in the evening to see my friend Mr. Moon. Wrote two letters, one to my betrothed and one to Miss Mary J. Foster of Rochester NY, received a note from my cousin at Mt. Pleasant Hospital also wrote to him in answer.

Monday, January 23.

A very disagreeable day raining continuously, destroying the beautiful face of nature in its purity. War news also good today, exciting times in Congress, also disturbance in rebel congress. At work as usual in the office but little to do, pay rolls received for signature, no letters received or written today, feel unwell, would like very much to hear from home, received a paper announcing death of my former teacher and friend Mr. Thomas Kaufenoll.

Tuesday, January 24.

A cold but far pleasanter day than yesterday. War news very good and exciting, Forts Caswell and Campbell surrendered with 152 guns also good from other quarters. Paymaster appeared today, received \$36 two months pay and \$20 clothing account. No letter received today, have to record the burning of the famous Smithsonian Institute with all its contents. I am feeling very well today, visited my friend Mr. Moon, also went to the Express Office and expressed \$18.65 to Ezra R. Andrews, Rochester NY.

Wednesday, January 25.

A beautiful day but rather cold, no news of much account from the armies. From the rebel senate news is very exciting, the members resigning, Secretary of War resigned.¹⁶ In the hospital all day, at work in the office. Received two letters from my betrothed, good cheering long letters, answered the first and enclosed \$10 to Miss Judie Underdown also to cousin Johnathon a letter written.

Thursday, January 26.

Cold with blustering wind and some snow. War news of no account, was at work as usual in the office, considerable to do in the evening, out making a few calls, high old time, returning to hospital at 12 pm., am feeling very well, no letters received today from any source.

Friday, January 27.

Another cold blustering day, good skating on the Potomac, have an invitation to go this evening, shall accept. At work as usual in the office, war news good but rather meagre, no news from home or anybody. This evening our debating club assembled and proceeded to debate on the question resolved that slavery should be abolished, took first on the affirmative. Debate good and quite exciting, decided for the affirmative. After debate went with two gentlemen friends and three ladies to the Potomac, found the skating splendid, grand times and one or two tumbles down.

Saturday, January 28.

A bitter cold day with considerable snow. At work as usual in the office. Nothing of much account in shape of war news. In the forenoon received a note from my cousin at Mt. Pleasant Hospital that he was to return to his regt. After dinner started for the hospital, found him but not very well, hope he will not have to go, remained with him all the afternoon, had considerable difficulty to get back on account of the extremely colds weather and slippery walking. Stayed in the hospital, in the evening after 10 pm had a very pleasant chat with the Misses McLaughlin and my friend E. Brookings.

Sunday, January 29.

Pleasant but quite cold, at work as usual in the office not much to do, did not go out at all, not feeling very well. Received a letter from my friend Miss Libbie E. Hedges of Rochester in answer to mine of the 21st inst, a good letter. In the afternoon wrote a letter to my loved Judith,

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

no news from home. War news good, rumour says the enemy are about to send peace commissioners to Washington. Attended church in hospital, sermon by Rev. W.H. Channing.

“Sunday church doors enter in/ Rest from toil, repent of sin/ Strive a heavenly rest to win.”

Monday, January 30.

A pleasant day but cold. At work in the office all day, considerable work on hand. War news very good, reported evacuation of Charleston, also good news from the Potomac army, continual skirmishing going on in front of Petersburg. Received a letter from home, the first I have received since my return to the city, very welcome, feel very well.

“Monday to your calling go / Serve the Lord, love friends and foe / To the tempter answer ‘No.’”

Tuesday, January 31.

A grand day for our country, slavery forever abolished, was present at the session of Congress today, never felt happier that today. At work as usual in the office, 15 patients admitted some of them very sick, one poor fellow died a few moments after he was admitted. Quite warm and thawing, feel unwell, my wound troubling me. Wrote two letters, one to my betrothed and one other home to Miss. M. L. Foster, Rochester NY. War news very good.

“Tuesday do what you can / Live in peace with God and man/ Remember life is but a span.”¹⁷

Notes:

¹ The “code” he devised probably means Judith Underdown, his ‘betrothed’. His cousin is Johnathon Underdown of the 179th NY (see earlier entry), Mercy Underdown is Johnathon’s mother. The paper was “The Daily Morning Chronicle” published in Washington DC from 1862-1874 when it became “The Washington Chronicle”. Mount Pleasant Hospital along with Judiciary Square Hospital were constructed in the winter of 1861-62, designed on the pavilion principle and located on Meridian Hill on the east side of the 14th St, Road.

² Henry H. Sperry (1819-1897, see earlier entry).

Brig. Gen. Selden Connor (1839-1917) as Colonel of the 19th Maine, was wounded on May 6, 1864 in the Wilderness – shattered thigh bone – and was incapacitated for the remainder of the war. For his gallantry in the battle, he was promoted to Brig. Gen. on June 11, 1864.

³ Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood (June 1831-Aug. 1879) C.S.A. replaced Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston (Feb.1807-March 1891) on July 17, 1864 for Johnston’s failure to stop Sherman around Atlanta. Hood however lost Atlanta to

Sherman. In Nov. Of 1864 Hood began his Tennessee Campaign and lost a disastrous battle At Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864 and followed up his failure with another by being routed at Nashville on Dec.15-16, 1864 by Union Major General George Henry Thomas (July 1816-March 1870). Hood was replaced by General Richard Taylor (Jan. 1826-April 1879).

⁴ The 'New' 2nd Corps was actually the 1st Veteran Reserve Corps commanded by Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock U.S.A (Feb.1824-Feb.1886). The examiners were probably there to evaluate his status re: suitability for Veteran Reserve.

⁵ *The Rebellion Record* was compiled in 12 volumes by Frank Moore (1828-1904) an American journalist.

⁶ There is a Robert Dranesfield in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester who died in July 1868 at 30 yrs of age. He was a book and job printer at 8 State St. so Nightingale's letter might have been about possible post war employment.

⁷ Maj. Gen.George Stoneman USA (Aug.1822-Sept.1894) cooperating with Sherman's advancing army, led a raid into Eastern Tennessee & SW Virginia from Dec 10-29, 1864.

⁸ *Littels Living Age* was an American general magazine which included selections from various sources and genres from 1844 to 1941.

Hopes and Fears or Scenes from the Life of a Spinster was written by Charlotte Mary Yonge (Aug. 1823- May 1901, an English novelist.

⁹ Hitchcock's Geology was actually titled *Elementary Geology* and was written by Edward Hitchcock in 1840. He was a famed geologist and president of Amherst College from 1845 -1854. His son Charles Henry Hitchcock (Aug. 1836- Nov.1919) revised the 1840 edition with his father in 1861.

The failure at Wilmington refers to the attempt by Butler to take Fort Fisher from Dec 18, 1864 to Dec. 24, 1864. After the failure, there was the expected finger pointing and such with the final result being the dismissal of Butler. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Butler (Nov.1818- Jan. 1893) was relieved of command of the Army of the James for his inept handling and failure at Petersburg and Fort Fisher. In his farewell, he claims that it was his refusal "to order useless sacrifice of the lives" of his soldiers that cost him his job (*NY Times* Jan. 12, 1865).

As far as can be determined there was no "Colonel Willson" Chief Inspector of Hospitals but there was a Col. Thomas Wilson, Chief of Commissary who left the army on April 27, 1865 due to illness and "the shattered condition of his health" (O.R. 46, pt.3,p.970).

¹⁰ After his decisive defeat at Nashville in December 1864, Hood retreated to Tupelo, Mississippi, and blaming everyone but himself (of course) reluctantly resigned on Jan.15, 1865, in just 6 months he had wrecked the Army of Tennessee.

Sherman moved from Savannah Ga. Towards the Carolinas, specifically Columbia SC in late Jan. 1865. Col. Benjamin Henry Grierson (July 1826 – Aug. 1911) an ex-music teacher turned cavalry general, led a raid from Memphis Tennessee into Mississippi to destroy the Mobile and Ohio RR from Dec 15, 1864 to Jan 5, 1865. The freeing of Union prisoners was not included as an objective.

¹¹ Edward Everett, the well known American orator died on Jan. 15, 1865. He was born in Dorchester Mass. On April 11,1864 and is probably remembered as the invited speaker at the dedication of the Union Cemetery at Gettysburg on Nov.19,1863. The uninvited speaker was A. Lincoln.

¹² In the second week of Jan.1865, a more successful concerted effort to take Fort Fisher as a combined Naval and Infantry operation was launched under the command of Maj. Gen. Alfred Howe Terry (Nov.1827-Dec. 1890),

Butler's replacement, and Admiral David Dixon Porter (June 1813-Feb.1891) of the navy. The attack started on Jan 15, 1865 and the fort fell in the forenoon of that day.

¹³ Missouri abolished slavery on Jan.11,1865 ; Maryland on Nov.1,1864 ; Tennessee on Jan.14,1865.

¹⁴ Fort Caswell armed with 61 guns, guarded the mouth of the Cape Fear river and with Fort Fisher was the main defense for the port of Wilmington, the confederacy's last open port. The Union took the fort on Jan. 15 and blew it up on Jan. 17, 1865.

¹⁵ On Jan. 15, 1865, Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard (Nov. 1830- Oct. 1909) commanding the Right Wing of Sherman's Army of the Tennessee [15th Army Corps, under Maj. Gen. John Alexander Logan (Feb. 1826- Dec.1886) and the 17th Corps under Maj. Gen. Francis Preston Blair Jr. (Feb.1821-July 1875) made a lodgement on the Charleston R.R. near Pocotaligo Creek.

¹⁶ Fort Campbell was an outwork of Fort Caswell – a battery really with 18 guns – was abandoned and destroyed on Jan. 16, 1865.

James Seddon (July 1815-Aug.1880) succeeded Judah Benjamin (Aug.1811-May 1884) as CSA Secretary of War on Nov. 212, 1862 and he resigned in Jan. 1865 due to the backlash in congress when he supported Jefferson Davis' demotion of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston after the loss of Atlanta. Davis replaced Johnston with Hood which was disastrous . This must be the uproar in the "Rebel Congress" that he is mentioning.

¹⁷ The report was wrong. Charleston was not evacuated until two weeks later.

The daily homilies are collectively called "A Week's Work" from the Family Christian Almanac, 1851, published by the American Tract Society.

February, 1865.

Wednesday, February 1.

A beautiful day, no news from home today or from any other source, feel very good. Peace commissioners from Richmond arrived today, war news also so very good as to make my soul rejoice. Sent yesterday's paper to Judie, begin to long much for a letter from her, my arm very troublesome, pain in the shoulders and down the arm.

“Wednesday give away & earn / teach some truth some good thing learn/ Joyfully good for all return.”

Thursday, February 2.

A drizzly rainy day, quite cold and freezing in the evening. War news quite dull, nothing of account from any of our armies. Was mistaken in the idea that peace commissioners had arrived, twas a sensation story. They have however arrived at Genl. Grant's HdQtrs and will proceed from thence to Fort Monroe where President Lincoln and Sec'y Seward are supposed to have gone. Received a letter today from my little friends in Rochester L. Cornell & M. Lauren. No word from my beloved nor from my mother.

“Thursday build your house upon/ Christ, the mighty cornerstone/ Whom God helps, his work is done.”

Friday, February 3.

A beautiful day, feel very well. At work as usual all day in the office. No news from any source. President Lincoln left this city for Annapolis, from there to City Point to confer with the rebel commissioners. Feel quite anxious about my dear friend Judith. War news vary good but quite meagre, at work until nearly 12 o'clock pm.

“Friday for the truth be strong/ Own your fault if in the wrong/ Put a bridle on your tongue.”

Saturday, February 4.

A beautiful day and evening, took a walk to print out a fine about 11 o'clock in the evening. War news of no account. President Lincoln and Cabinet returned from Fortress Monroe today with a hopeful countenance. Received a letter from Cousin David Thatcher but no news from my loved one, wrote a letter this evening for Judith, feel very well.

“Saturday thank God and sing / Tribute to his treasury bring/ Be prepared for heaven's king/
Thus your hopes on Jesus cast/ Thus let all your weeks be past/And you shall be saved at last.

Sunday, February 5.

A very cold day, feel very well. War news good, President Lincoln returned the enemy demand for recognition which was refused.¹ At work as usual in the office all the forenoon, received a letter from cousin Jenna with one enclosed from my betrothed, a good cheery letter dated January 9. In the evening wrote two letters, one to my Judith enclosing a note from Jenna also wrote to my little friend Thomas Cornell of Rochester. Services in the evening in Ward 8 by Dr. Channing.

Monday, February 6.

A very fine but cold day. No war news of any account this day. In the forenoon visited cousin Johnny at Mt. Pleasant Hospital, found him well and in a good situation, stayed with him all the forenoon. In the afternoon returned to the hospital and was at work in the office until evening. 19 patients admitted, all sick. In the evening wrote a letter to cousin David Thatcher & sent Aunt two papers, no letters received today, feel very well.

Tuesday, February 7.

A rainy snowy very disagreeable day. Applied for and secured a pass to Alexandria to visit a sick lady friend, took the 10:20 am. Train and arrived in Alexandria at 11 am. Hired a hack, procured a pass to go outside the lines and arrived at my friend's house by 12 M. Found her quite sick, about 3 pm. The hackman was frightened at a report that guerillas were near and started for Alexandria, leaving me to walk back through the snow. At 5pm returned to Alexandria afoot, visited a friend Nicol F. J---- at the Sickles Barracks, found him badly wounded, returned to Washington at 7pm was almost wet to the skin, spent about an hour with some lady friends at Mr. McLaughlin's house then retired to bed.

Wednesday, February 8.

Another wet disagreeable day, sick a bed all day, received a letter from my betrothed, am relieved that she and all dear friends are well. In the evening a temperance movement was inaugurated by the Grand Worthy Patriarch of the city and a lady, Mrs. Hobart, wife of the chaplain of the live eagle regt. 8th Wisconsin Vols, a very eloquent speech by each, feel better this evening.²

Thursday, February 9.

A very cold day, news of a great battle in which the old 2nd Corps was engaged, also my regt. losing several men, our boys are successful. No letters received today, wrote one letter to a friend R. Bishop of Tomkins Co. NY, also wrote to my betrothed. Feeling very well today. About 11pm. A fire broke out in the ward master's room which was well nigh destroying the whole hospital as it was help on the first alarm was speedily gained and the fire was extinguished doing no further damage than destroying two rooms and the ward master's clothing, was however a very narrow escape.

[The following letter was addressed to Nightingale on the same date as the above entry]

Stanton Hospl.
Feb. 9th / 65.

Friend Henry,

It gives me great pleasure to improve the present opportunity of expressing my regard for you which has ever been of the most sincere character and that no emotions of opposite character may ever arise between us is the earnest wish of your friend

Wm H. Pitcher.

Friday, February 10.

A beautiful day, the news good, great battle in the neighbourhood of Petersburg, our army successful but losing many men. In the forenoon finished my letter to Miss Judith, at noon received a note from my cousin Johnathon informing me of his being returned to duty. I started immediately to the Soldier's Rest to see him but he had gone. Also received letters from my betrothed Miss Judith Underdown. In the afternoon and evening our debating club assembled, the subject for debate being resolved that single life is conducive of man's happiness than married, as the president was absent, I as vice-president took the chair, the question was decided in the negative.

Saturday, February 11.

A beautiful but cold day. News from all quarters good. Very concise details of President Lincoln's peace measures, all seem glad that he did not give them the terms demanded. He has sustained, even while endeavouring to bring about peace, the dignity of the government.³ No news from home or any source received today, feel very well, have been at work as usual in the office but little to do, think I shall soon go to my regt. Mr. Moon called upon me today but did not stay long.

Sunday, February 12.

A cold blowing day. In the evening, however, cold but very pleasant, received in the morning a letter from my friend Miss H. M. Sweet, in the forenoon at work in the office, Mr. Moon called after me. Wrote to my friend Nicol F. Jones, Alexandria Va., in the afternoon to Rev. Geo. W. Northrup of Rochester. In the evening attended a missionary meeting at the Wesley Chapel, Chief Justice Chase in the Chair⁴. After returning from church wrote long letter to my betrothed, Miss Judith Underdown, war news good, accounts of the battle near Richmond, our troops successful.

Monday, February, 13.

A beautiful but cold day but little of any account to do in the office. War news good but rather dull, in the afternoon received a letters from my cousin Mrs. Phineas Millige, took a short walk and visited my friend Mr. Moon. In the evening enjoyed a few hours in the society of some lady friends who live near, returned to the hospital and wrote an answer to my cousin's letter, have felt quite well today.

Tuesday, February 14.

A truly beautiful day, sun shining brightly dispelling the gloom and chilliness of yesterday, received this morning a letter from my mother, the first for a long time, am very thankful she is well, also wrote to my classmate and friend Miss Libbie E. Hedges of Rochester.

[The following is written in a very stylised manner – assume it is Nightingale's hand]

Should things go ill, nor murmur, nor complain/ Repining at thy lot will but augment the pain/
And should thy friend prove false forgive him and agree/ If all were well with him, he would not
anger thee/ And should thy love offend, love on with eager scorn/ The presence of the rose is
witnessed by the thorn.

Norman Distich.

Wednesday, February 15.

A most dismal day, rain falling in torrents. My press arrived today, at work all the afternoon in the office. In the afternoon unpacked the press and set out one case. Feel very well and hope soon to be at work at my trade. No letters received today from any source, had no chance to write

any. A temperance meeting was assembled in the ward of convalescents preparatory to organizing a division of the Sons of Temperance, was elected Secretary pro tem.

Thursday, February 16.

Another disagreeable day but not quite as rainy as yesterday. At work setting out my cases, set out seventy today, in the afternoon having nothing to do, I and my friend, C.W. Johnson went to the Capitol, heard a very spirited debate on the national banking system. In the evening received a letter from my friend Miss Clara Clarke, also wrote two letters, one to my betrothed and another to Miss Helen M. Sweet. Feel very well.

Friday, February 17.

Another wet dreary day, could not do any time at my work because the carpenter work has to be done yet. War news very good, the enemy seem to be desponding, Genl Sherman completely puzzles them. No letters received or written today, in the evening our debating club assembled, was in the chair as vice-president, the question for debate was resolved that secret societies are prejudicial to mankind. Decided by the president in the affirmative, a very spirited debate, feel very well all day.

Saturday, February 18.

A cold day, at work in my printing establishment preparing for business. Press was put up. In the forenoon out after some cases, in the afternoon after a marble slab for ink distribution. Mud very deep, have taken a severe cold, can hardly speak out loud, no letters received or written today.

Sunday, February 19.

A cold but beautiful day, had to do a little work today for the surgeon in chief, in the forenoon received a letter from my betrothed, also a Valentine from an unknown friend, in the evening commenced a letter to my betrothed but could not write, have felt unwell today.

Monday, February 20.

A very beautiful day, worked off 115 *Diet Reports* on the new press, find it works very well. In the morning wrote a letter to Miss Judith Underdown, no letters received. Glorious news today,

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

our commander Sherman has again been victorious. He has captured the capitol of South Carolina and forced the surrender of Charleston, victory again favors our army, one more crushing blow and the rebellion is done with.

Tuesday, February 21.

A very beautiful calm day, foretaste of gentle spring. The news of the fall of Charleston confirmed, our starry banner waves victoriously over Fort Sumter, our national honor is regained in wayward Carolina.⁵ Feel quite well, worked off about 300 copies of different blanks, no letter received today.

Wednesday, February 22.

A really splendid day. Today we celebrate in honor of the birth of the immortal Washington. At work on my press and at the case, worked off 110 copies of *Endorsement* blanks. Received a good but short letter from my betrothed, cheering me, full of tenderness and love, also a good letter from my friend and schoolmate Libbie E. Hedges of Rochester. A division of the S of T instituted this evening, am a member myself & the Treasurer.

“Sustain the Weak”

Thursday, February 23.

A beautiful day overhead but very muddy below. At work as usual setting the type and printing 150 *Diet Reports*, like my work very well tis rather tiresome however. War news good, very good brining bright hopes for the future and a triumphant close of this unholy war. Received a letter today from my little friend L. Cornell of Rochester, in the morning wrote a letter to my betrothed Miss Judith Underwood, feel very well.

Friday, February 24.

Another fine day but still very muddy. At work, set type for WardMaster Report and printed 150 copies, also set up *Ward Diet Report* and printed nearly 600 copies, received a very good long letter from my betrothed, also a letter from my friend N.F. Jones at present lying unable to move from a wound in the city of Alexandria Va. Feel very well but quite tired, no letters written. War news good, continued triumph of our General Sherman. The debating club of this hospital

assembled but after appointing officers for the next month, adjourned, the principles chosen to carry on the debate not being present until March 3rd.

Saturday, February 25.

A rainy day much like the month of April, heavy showers falling continually. At work in my printing office, set up a large diet table and printed 40 copies. No letters written or received today. Glorious news from North Carolina "Wilmington Ours" another victory, surely we must be in the right as providence seems to favor all our armies, feel very well but very tired.

Sunday, February 26.

One of the most pleasant days of the year, warm and balmy breezes, lovely in the evening. War news very good. In the forenoon wrote long letter to my mother, in the evening took a walk and visited my friend Mr. Moon, had a long chat with him then returned and wrote a letter of 11 pages to my betrothed. Feel very well, no letters received today. Services in the evening in the 11 ward, Dr. Prince acting as Chaplain in Mr. Channing's absence.

Monday, February 27.

Another fine day. At work early in the morning, finished my letter to Judith and mailed the letter to mother. Set up type and printed nearly 1000 copies of blank monthly reports on one side. War news good but very meagre, no letters received today, feel very well. Meeting of Stanton Division Sons of Temperance, a good attendance, seven candidates initiated.

Tuesday, February 28.

Beautiful day, sun shining brightly, giving joy and gently enticing by its warmth the tender blades of grass and bright spring flowers from their winter repose. This is the last day of winter. Hard at work, printed nearly 1000 impressions, finishing the monthly reports also set up type for dispensary reports, feel very well. No letters received or written. Late at night an alarm of fire was given, after diligent search however no fire could be discovered. Rumored report of the evacuation of Petersburg, war news good from all quarters, Genl. Lee reported gone to meet Genl. Sherman. ⁶

Notes:

¹ In Jan. 1865, Francis Preston Blair (April 1791-Oct. 1876) with Lincoln's approval approached Jefferson Davis (June 1807/8-Dec. 1889) CSA President, with a plan to end the war. Davis appointed 3 commissioners, Alexander Stephens (Feb. 1812-March 1883) CSA Vice-president, CSA Senator Robert Mercer Taliaferro Hunter (Apr. 1809-July 1897) and John Archibald Campbell (June 1811-March 1889) CSA Ass't Secretary of War. These men under a flag of truce on Jan. 29 passed through the Union lines. The conference took place on the *River Queen* steamboat at Hampton Roads on Feb. 3, 1865. Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 1809-April 1865) and William Henry Seward (May 1801-Oct. 1872) represented the Union. The conference failed but ironically Lincoln was willing to be flexible on the 13th Amendment and its implementation if the south rejoined the Union.

² Sickel Barracks Hospital was in Alexandria Va and was named for Colonel Horatio Gates Sickel (April 1817-April 1890).

"Old Abe" was the live eagle mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

³ Soldier's Rest was a military hospital located near the Orange and Alexandria RR Depot.

Lincoln fought the war on the belief that the South could not be and was not a separate nation - an idea that Jefferson Davis would not tolerate- and return to the Union was central to Lincoln's viewpoint.

⁴ Salmon Portland Chase (Jan. 1808-May 1873) was Secretary of the Treasury in Lincoln's first term. He resigned in June 1864 and was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States on Dec. 6, 1864.

⁵ On February 17, 1865 CSA General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard (May 1818 – Feb. 1873) ordered the evacuation of Charleston of Confederate troops. On the 18th the city surrendered to Brig. Gen. Alexander Schimmelfenig (July 1824-Sept. 1865).

Fort Sumter was a federal man-made island in Charleston Harbor, the bombardment of which under orders from Beauregard initiated the war.

⁶ The "report" of Lee and Sherman and the evacuation of Petersburg are examples of the outlandish output of the rumor mills. Why would Lee wish to see Sherman, he was having enough trouble with Grant?

March 1865.

Wednesday, March 1.

Beautiful sunny day. The good Sisters of Mercy who have so long and faithfully attended to the sick and wounded inmates of this hospital, left us today. God will bless their noble efforts to alleviate pain and suffering by attending gently and kindly to the wants of the unfortunate, although of a different sect their good deeds will ever be remembered, especially Sister DeRici. Hard at work today, printed 175 copies of *Dispensary Reports* & 100 copies of guard reports. War news very meagre but good, received letter from cousin Phenie. Our division of the S of T met this evening, was installed as Treasurer, acted as Past VP, four persons initiated. Feel very well today, no news from home.

Thursday, March 2.

Rainy and disagreeable. War news of no account, deserters coming in very fast. Sisters of Charity came today to fill the place of the good Sisters of Mercy who have gone home. Don't think I shall like them or their ways. Sister M. DeRici on parting from us wrote a few words in the back part of this book, a noble true lady gone. Hard at work, printed 24 copies of blanks and 150 blank monthly passes, also printed some cards for my friend Alfred Cook, no letters received or written today, feel very well.¹

Friday, March 3.

A very rainy disagreeable day. War news good, the city of Columbia burned by order of Gen'l Sherman for the wilful murder of seventeen of our men.² Great preparations are being made for the inauguration tomorrow. Received a good long letter from my betrothed bringing joy to my heart, also wrote letter to my friend Nicol Jones in Alexandria. Visited Mr. Moon at the government printing office also took a walk to the post office. Have not felt very well, finished 25 copies of blanks, 100 visiting cards and 50 envelopes and heading 5 quires of writing paper.

Saturday, March 4.

Wet and rainy until 10 am when it cleared off and the sun shone with unwanted splendor. The Inauguration ceremonies came off in spite of the rain, a vast crowd assembled, the inaugural speech short and very pointed. All who were able to go out were provided with passes by the surgeon in charge. Grand reception at the President's house in the evening and the moon could be clearly seen when the sun was shining brightly, many take this as a good omen for the nation

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

and others as a bad one. I take it as a grand spectacle in nature. Feel unwell, no letters received or written today.

Sunday, March 5.

A beautiful sunny day, feel much better. No service in the hospital, no letters received, wrote a long epistle to Miss Judith Underdown my betrothed also short letter to my cousin in the 79th NY Vols. Some ladies from R.I. visited me today, they were much pleased & took specimens of my work. Mr. Moon called upon me in the evening.

Monday, March 6.

Fine morning but quite dismal in the afternoon and evening. In the morning wrote a post script to Judith's letter and mailed it. Set up type for and printed 100 blank pass reports for the office. Feel very well, no letters received or written today. War news good.

Tuesday, March 7.

Rainy day but pleasant in the afternoon and evening. Printed envelopes for Sergt. H.M. House and set up type for and printed 55 copies of special and full diet tables, a large job over 10,000 mils. Feel well but worn out, no letters received or written.

Wednesday, March 8.

A really splendid day but rainy in the evening, feel unwell. War news good, Fort White and the town of Georgetown captured by the navy. Printed 25 envelopes for B.B. Wilson surg. in charge and 50 visiting cards, also for Rev. Dr. Channing, 100 envelopes, also for Dr. Pearce 50 cards. No letters received, wrote one long letter to my betrothed, how my heart does yearn for her, my time will soon expire and she will be mine.

Thursday, March 9.

A fine spring day, war news good, Sheridan's victory, details of over 1300 rebel deserters during the present week. On a court martial as witness against John Jay, B, 20th NYM, the col. of my regt, president.³ Very muddy, no news from home, finished and mailed my letter to Miss Judith Underdown, printed several books of envelopes for patients. In the evening wrote a letter to Miss

[*illegible*], received a letter from Nichol F. Jones, Alexandria Va. Feel very well, no letter from my loved one, am anxious and impatient.

Friday, March 10.

A beautiful but cold day. War news good, confirmed report of Genl Sheridan's victory, 1300 men, 40 officers and 8 pieces of artillery captured.. Printed today 1000 checks for sutlers, 400 envelopes for Mrs. Channing and 51 invitation cards for Dr. Miller, feeling well, no news from home in any sense. In the evening wrote letter to my friend and classmate Miss Libbie Hedges, Rochester NY.

Saturday, March 11.

A fine day but rather chilly. War news good, raid up Rappahannock to Fredericksburg, capturing several tons of tobacco and destroying much rebel property, also good news from Genl. Sheridan. Printing envelopes for Dr. Channing and some paper for the surg. in charge, no news from my loved one or from home. Wrote letter to N.F. Jones, Alexandria Va and to J.Ransen Bishop. In the evening received letter from Mrs. E. Grey of Rochester, feel very well but anxious for my best friend's sake.

Sunday, March 12.

Another delightful day. War news good, junction of the armies under Genls Sheridan and Thomas at Lynchburg, reports of a partial defeat of one of our armies, also the news of the capture of over 1000 prisoners. Rested today, did not go out of the hospital at all. In the morning received a good loving letter from my betrothed also an enclosed note from cousin David. Wrote a letter to Mrs. E. Grey of Rochester, also read or reviewed a number of old letters from my dearest friend, feel very well but still tired.

Monday, March 13.

Another beautiful day. At work setting type for a circular of Rev. Dr. Channing, also went out with him to purchase paper. In the evening our division of the Sons of Temperance assembled in the dining room, a very interesting meeting. Our chaplain, Mr. Pearce, was granted a withdrawl card as he was about to go to NY. Two candidates initiated, no letter received today, feeling very well but tired.

Tuesday, March 14.

Fine day, showers in the evening. At work printed two pages of Dr. Channing's circular and set type for a third. No letters received. Rumored that Genl Sherman had captured Charlotte also of

another victory by Genl Sheridan. Great ball in the dining room, wrote letter to my betrothed, feel very well.⁴

Wednesday, March 15.

Another fine day. Good news from Genl Schofield, he defeats Bragg who retreats across the Neuse River. Sheridan is said causing great alarm in Richmond, rumored preparations to evacuate the city. No letters received today, feel put out and anxious as its ten days since the last letter of my loved Judith was written. Feel very well, finished the Chaplain's circular, in the evening wrote letter to Ezra Andrews of Rochester.

Thursday, March 16.

Beautiful day, war news good, no letters received or written. Printed 200 copies of blank letters of transmittal and cards for Dr. Channing & Drs Wilson and Dougherty, also went to Douglas Hospital and helped the printer there who is quite sick. War news cheering, Sherman progressing well. Feel very well but cross as the old Harry, St. Patrick's Day in the morning.

Friday, March 17.

A fine sunny day, feel well but have considerable pain in my arm. War news very cheering, Sherman all right, is at Fayetteville, news that Sheridan has joined Grant with all his cavalry, also that active movements will soon be commenced by the Army of the Potomac. Received today a real loving good letter from my betrothed dated March 12th. In the evening wrote letter to her enclosing printed envelopes. Printed today endorsements blanks and cards and envelopes for patients.⁵

Saturday, March 18.

A very beautiful sunny day. Did not do but very little today as my wound is quite painful. War news good but very meagre. Printed 200 prescription blanks for Dr. D.W. Prentiss, no letters received or ~~written~~ today. Wrote to young lady an introduction letter, Miss Jennie Vole, West Brookfield, Madison Co. NY. Also wrote to cousin Johnny and included a letter from Aunt for him.

Sunday, March 19.

A beautiful sunny day, great numbers wending their way to their different house of worship. Did not go out of the hospital today as I was feeling to unwell. War news good. Finished reading a beautiful story called Rosedale : A Story of Self-Denial.⁶ In the forenoon wrote to Prof. Northrup and in the evening a long letter to my dear and loved friend Judith U. also sent several poems of Tennyson. No letters received, have felt quite unwell, much pain in my wound, many sick and wounded brought to the city from City Point.

Monday, March 20.

Another beautiful day. No news of much real importance. Great flood in my native city Rochester destroying much property. At work part of the day but too unwell to do so steadily. Printed 850 blanks for descriptive lists, in the afternoon was unable to do anything, no letters received or written today.

Tuesday, March 21.

Another fine day but showery in the evening. War news good, General Sheridan at the Pamunkey joining Grant, rumoured resumption of activity by the Potomac army. Printed 200 copies of blank certificates for furloughs and one quire paper for Steward Jaques. Felt much better today but could not do much. In the afternoon had to lie down for two hours, had to allow my devil to do the work. No letters received or written today, my wound was painted with iodine and is rather sore.

Wednesday, March 22.

A warm very pleasant day. War news very good, Sheridan at the White House Va, Sherman at Goldsborough NC. Gold going down, down, down, today reported at \$1.54¼. Good letter from my friend and schoolmate Libbie E. Hedges, also answered the same. Felt very ill today could not do any work, felt better in the evening.

Thursday, March 23.

Beautiful morning but wind very wrathful almost a tornado, unroofing house and doing much injury to shipping. Continued success of our army. Gold down to \$1.58. Received a good cheering letter from my betrothed dated March 18th. In the evening answered the same, also sent copy of Tennyson poems in three vols. felt much better but could not work.

Friday, March 24.

A cold chilly day. This morning wrote a short script to J.U. and then went to the P.O. and sent her letter and the copies of Tennysons poems. War news good but very meagre. Gold at \$1.50³/₄. Received letter from my friend Nichol F. Jones and answered the same, no work today feel very much better but still considerable pain in my wound.

Saturday, March 25.

Cloudy and very chilly with a few dashes of rain in evening. Gold rose again to \$1.57. Great panic in clothes and dry goods dealers. War news very meagre, Sherman still reported at Goldsboro, Army of the Potomac quiet. Felt much better today but did no work, no letters received or written, reading an epic poem on the war of 1812, quite interesting.⁷

Sunday, March 26.

A beautiful sunny day. Good news from Grant, the enemy attack and capture Fort Stedman but our men rally recapture the fort with 1700 prisoners, the enemy leaving 3000 dead and wounded in our hands, our loss but 800 killed and wounded, also great cheering news from all our other great armies. Wrote two letters, one to my betrothed and a business letter to H.B. Holland, Phila, Pa. In the evening Mr. Moon called upon me, had a good social visit with him, feel quite well, some pains in the wound, no letters received.

Monday, March 27.

A very fine day, confirmed reports of the late battle, the enemy despondent. Received three letters, one from my cousin at Petersburg, one from a comrade in the 108th and one from dear Mrs. Grey, with a little gift in the shape of a housewife, filled in good order with pins, needles, threads buttons wax thimbles and a pair of scissors. Meeting of our division this evening, 7 candidates initiated and officers elected for the ensuing quarter, was appointed A.P. scribe, several distinguished visitors present, exciting time during the election, feel quite well today.

Tuesday, March 28.

A beautiful sunny day, birds began to appear and the grass is coming up deliciously green. War news, grand. Today in the forenoon visited the capitol, had dinner with some friends and then proceeded to the navy yard, went all through the monitor Montauk, two guns are large enough for me to crawl in and quietly rest in its bore. The vessel was one which subdued Fort Sumter and Fort Fisher. It shows some severe blows, also went a board the steamer Mohican, 12 guns.⁸ In the evening visited Good Samaritan Division, Sons of T, interesting exercises, feel quite well, no letters.

Wednesday, March 29.

A bright beautiful day, very warm in the evening, war news good, no more fighting in the Potomac army reported, Sherman's army fighting, no decision received yet. Did a little work today printing something for my own convenience, no letters today, none written. In the evening accompanied by a friend visited the Central Division S. of T., had a very pleasant time. On our return to the hospital stopped with a few other young men and serenaded Mrs Hutchins, were called in and enjoyed ourselves quite well. Returned to hospital at 12½ quite early in the morning. Felt very well ll day, would like a good letter from my Judith.

Thursday, March 30.

A rainy disagreeable day. War news good, Genl Sherman at Point City in consultation with Genl Grant and the President.⁹ 131 patients received today all wounded, very many severely. Printing 300 *Ward Diet Reports*. My shoulder very painful and swollen. Received latter from Miss Libbie E. Hedges and also from N.F. Jones and a real good but short letter from my most loved and best friend J.U., answered letter from J.U. in the evening. Have felt very ill all day, wound very painful.

Friday, March 31.

A rainy disagreeable day. War news stirring the entire army in motion, Sheridan defeats thge enemy at Hatcher's Run. Sloan my assistant was relieved today at my sollicitation, was too saucy, feel sorry but could not help it. Received a quite long letter from my friend Miss H. M. Sweet, her brother has been exchanged, wrote letter to cousin Johnny, shoulder quite painful. My new assistant Geo. A. Royal printed 400 copies of blank prescriptions, feel a little better, also in the evening wrote to Miss Gertrude Taylor, Orange, New Jersey.

Notes:

¹The Religious Sisters of Mercy' was and is a religious institute of Catholic women founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1831. The order arrived in the U.S. in 1843 where they continued their work with the poor, especially education for women and children. They also engaged in medical care and teaching. In the fall of 1862 the sisters were requested to take charge of Stanton Hospital. 8 Sisters were sent sometime between Nov.26 and Dec. 8, 1862 to Stanton. Sister Mary De Rici Tierny took her order name from St. Catherine De Rici (1522-90) who gave up her wealthy background to join the Dominican convent at Prato near Florence.

Alfred Cook could be a 40 yr.old private of the 52nd NY Co. H. who was CIA on May 20,1864. Perhaps he was paroled but he was mustered out in Sept 1865.

A quire is 25 sheets of paper or 1/20th of ream.

²Columbia, South Carolina was surrendered at 11AM Feb,17, 1865 but the burning of the city was not a reprisal for 17 deaths. According to Sherman the city caught fire when CSA Gen. Wade Hampton ordered that all cotton, public and private, should be moved into the streets and fired. The prevailing tempest winds took the fire out of control. The Union army along with the people of Columbia fought the fire all night (O.R. 47, i, p.98).

³ The name of Henry M. House appears on the roster of the 2nd NYHA as a private in Co.C. The 37 yr.old enlisted in Feb, 1864 was appointed sergeant and discharged for disability in July 1865.

John Joy was a 36 yr. old private from Co. B of the 20th NY Militia. He was discharged in Oct.1862 but re-enlisted in Dec. 1863 in the 80th NY which was originally the 20th NY Militia. AKA John Jay. The Colonel of the 108th NY was Charles J. Powers (see earlier notes).

⁴ The war news mentioned in these entries is threefold. The first was a raid from Fort Monroe to Fredericksburg Va. from March 5-8, led by Colonel Samuel Roberts (Sept.1828-Oct.1890) 139th NY. The second is Phil Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign against Jubal Early. The battle of Waynesborough was fought on March 2,1865 when Sheridan's cavalry, specifically George A. Custer's Division, routed Early's force and captured most of the men (O.R. 46, ii, p.793). On March 12-13 Sherman was in the area of Fayetteville NC but initially feinted as if he were headed to Charlotte. The 'Thomas' referred to is probably Brig. Gen. Stephen Thomas (Dec. 1809-Dec.1903) and the 29th Corps of the Army of the Shenandoah. However no such 'link up' at Lynchburg Va. could be found in the Official Records, also about two weeks after this entry the 19th Corps was disbanded, approximately 2 weeks before Lee's surrender.

⁵Maj. Gen .John McAllister Scholfield (Sept.1831-March 1906) commander of the Army of the Ohio occupied Wilmington on Feb. 25, 1865 but was ordered to move his force and join Sherman at Goldsboro NC. On March 7, CSA Gen. Braxton Bragg (March 1817-Sept.1876) , retreating from Wilmington, attacked Scholfield at Southwest Creek, east of Kinston NC and after two days, with the Union troops reinforced to 2 Corps, Bragg withdrew to link up with Joe Johnston's Army.

On the 17th Sheridan had not yet crossed the Pamunkey, but completed his march from Winchester on March 25,1865 and linked up with Grant.

The doctors:

Wilson and Channing have already been cited. Surgeon Alexander N. Dougherty (Jan.1822- Nov. 1882) was Medical Director of the 2nd Corps.
Daniel Webster Prentiss (1843-1899)

⁶ *Rosedale: A Story of Self-Denial*, by Mrs. H. C. Gardner, Cincinnati, 1864.

⁷ The poem referred to is *The Freedomiad or Independence Preserved A Epick Poem on the Late War of 1812*, 4 volumes by Richard Emmons, M.D. (1788-1834), published 1827.

⁸ On March 25, 1865, Robert E. Lee launched what would be his last offensive of the war against Fort Stedman outside of Petersburg Va. After initial success the attack was beaten back when the Union stopped the penetration and almost encircled the rebel troops. It started at approximately 4 AM and was all over before 8 AM and the fort recaptured.

The U.S.S. Montauk, a single turret monitor was built by John Ericsson in 1862 and launched on Oct 9 and commissioned on Dec. 9, 1862. She had one 15" and an 11" smoothbore. In the following month, she would be the prison for the Lincoln conspirators and a coffin for John Wilkes Booth.

U.S.S. Mohican was a steam driven sloop, launched on Feb. 15, 1859 and was involved in both attacks on Fort Fisher.

⁹ On March 28, 1865, Lincoln, Sherman, Grant and Admiral David Dixon Porter gathered on *The River Queen*, anchored at City Point to discuss the end of the war and what policy should be adopted for the defeated south.

April 1865.

Saturday, April 1.

A really beautiful day. Glorious news from the front, Victory again smiles upon us, capture of many prisoners and driving of the enemy from their works. Arm very painful today, no letters received or written.

Sunday, April 2.

Another splendid day. More good news, the campaign opening with victory, our boys driving the enemy in confusion. Remained in the hospital all day, no letter received, wrote three letters, one to H. Smith of the 108th, one to Mrs. E. Grey and long letter to her whom my soul loves with true unflinching affection Miss Judith Underdown, also sent two papers to same, felt much better today, no letters received.

Monday, April 3.

A beautiful day. Glorious welcome news, the long wished for tidings, Richmond and Petersburg are fallen, all honor to our noble boys, 12,000 prisoners and 50 pieces of artillery, the greatest excitement ever witnessed. Received a good letter full of love from my Judith. In the evening went out and heard speeches from the Vice-President, Genl. Butler and many others, feel joyful and very well also letter enclosed from Aunt in Judith's letter.¹

Tuesday, April 4.

Another fine day. Continual good news the enemy retreating in confusion to the mountains, 5000 wounded Rebels and 1000 in all, and 500 pieces of Arty and 5000 muskets captured. Grand Illumination of the city, was out till 12 pm, heard many good speeches, no letters written or received today.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 5, 6, 7, and 8: *These entries are physically missing from the diary.*

Sunday, April 9.

A fine sunny day, did not go out of hospital all day. But in the evening went to E. St. Baptist Church and heard a good sermon by Rev. Mr. Kennard from the text 'The lord of hosts mighty to

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

save'. In the evening commenced a letter to Judi, received one from my mother also one from my betrothed Judie Underdown. Rainy in the evening, 11 persons baptised in the Baptist Church, a very interesting ceremony.²

Monday, April 10.

Beautiful day but very rainy in the evening. Glorious news, Lee surrenders his whole army to General Grant, all honor to our brave boys. Finished letter to Judie, none received or others written, feel very well. Feel glorious, can not express how I feel, our country still lives and God defends the right.

Tuesday, April 11.

Rainy day, coming down in torrents and accompanied by thunder and lighting. Sent Judie three papers, received two letters, one from new found friend Miss Gertie Taylor of Orange, N.J. & another from Chas.U. Hyde, Philadelphia, no letter written, feel well and jubilant over our successes.

Wednesday, April 12.

A wet day. Another grand illumination, in company with some friends, made our way to the President's House and heard a good speech from him and Senator Harlan of Iowa.³ The President looked care worn and feeble yet a consciousness of the justice of his position made him appear grand. Received a good letter from Miss H.O. Flint of Rochester, also wrote a long letter to Miss Gertrude Taylor, Orange, New Jersey. Feel very well.

Thursday, April 13.

One of the pleasantest days of the season, a grand majestic illumination of the entire city. Received letters from Miss Libbie E. Hedges, none written, feel well. War news meagre.

Friday, April 14.

A beautiful April day, remained all day in the hospital. In the evening attended Ford's Theater and in the last act a most astounding crime was committed. The President, Mr. Lincoln, was shot through the heart. The assassin then leaped out of the box, on the stage and drew a large dagger

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

and exclaimed 'I have done it, Virginia is avenged, *Sic Semper Tyrannis*' and made his escape. The president was conveyed to a neighbouring house in a dying condition. A fearful night is this, other monstrous crimes, the Secretary of State, his sons & his servants stabbed feared fatally. God pity the Rebellion now for men will show no mercy, death to every confederate, every rebel sympathiser, intense excitement all over the city, it's under martial law. [*The entry for the 14th continues onto the next diary entry space for the 15th*] Our worst fears are realized, our just and good President died this morning. His death the blow of a cowardly assassin. The country will long mourn his loss. Many citizens known to be sympathisers are being arrested, three men shot, mob law prevailing. Gen. Grant is safe, thank God, Andrew Johnson inaugurated President, Secty Seward lying very low also his sons. The murderers still at large, a terrible time is this. For our President's blood the whole southern soil shall be deluged. Death, death to every traitor, let the black flag be raised. No letters received or written today. ⁴

Sunday, April 16.

A peaceful and quiet Sabbath but a dread gloom pervading all, the people still exceedingly excited, many instances of mob law prevailing. Took a walk with some friends but could not enjoy the beautiful day. Returned to the hospital sad, found two letters from my betrothed, answered mother's letter and also wrote to my betrothed, sent two papers to her and two to Miss Libbie E. Hedges, did not feel [*blacked out*]. Felt well but a spirit of awe and grief is upon me.

Monday, April 17.

Another beautiful day. Sadness and frenzy reign over all, the whole nation mourns the loss of our noble gentle hearted president. Received several letters, one from my cousin Johnny, one from Miss Clara Clark and several communications from the Grand Division. Sons of Temperance meeting in the dining area of the division turned into a public meeting and decided to attend the funeral in a body, also sent J's letter to Judith, wrote letter to Prof. Northrup.

Tuesday, April 18.

Another fine day. At work. The assassin of Secretary of State captured and the mysterious writer to Booth arrested, made a full confession. The same universal gloom prevailing. Mobile captured & rumor of Johnston's surrender. No letters written, the funeral takes place tomorrow. In the evening visited Mr. Moon my friend.⁵

Wednesday, April 19.

A clear beautiful day, quite warm. Today the last rites to our beloved President were celebrated, an immense procession, the services eminently good and impressing, but oh how sad tis to think that he who only a week ago I listened to, that he is dead. Died for nation, a martyr to his Christ like principles. Was absent from the hospital all day attending the procession, God bless the family of our martyred one, although he is dead yet still his soul walks and lives. Received letters from my betrothed, true unfailing love, showing a noble spirit of sympathy for our great loss. Felt quite well.

Thursday, April 20.

A rainy day in the morning. Hurried to the Capitol & looked for the last time on the face of he who it will be said 'Too good to err, Too gentle to suspect or inflict injury.' Noble in his life, he looked nobler in his narrow home. Truly the poet says truly 'The Good man never dies.' An immense concourse of people waiting to see the remains. In the evening, wrote a long letter to my betrothed. No letter received, feel very well. Mobile has fallen and Mosby surrendered his whole command, the end is near. God grant us a speedy peace.

Friday, April 21.

Wet day, nothing of importance transpiring. No letter received or answered, feel well but dull, nothing to do, shiftless kind of living, am tired of it.

Saturday, April 22.

Beautiful day but a shower of rain in the afternoon. Writing in my commonplace book. Feel well. War news dull, hope soon to see the end. 9th Corps coming to the city, 19th already here, many drunk.⁶ No letter received or written.

Sunday, April 23.

A fine cool day, almost too cool for comfort. Nothing of importance transpiring. Sherman acting foolish, hope he will improve, Grant gone to North Carolina. Wrote one long but rather poor letter to my betrothed poor girl. I hope the times will be a little more brisk so that I can write better letters, no letters received, forsaken child, services in the 10th ward.

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

Monday, April 24.

Beautiful day but far worsen than love. Nothing to do, shall soon be worthless, for my friends think so now, none seem to care enough to write me. Sat still and did nothing all day. Letter from W.H. Pitcher received but not answered, no letters written.

Tuesday, April 25.

A warm fine day, feel well. Strange conduct of General Sherman, he gives the enemy too good terms to surrender on, hope he will reconsider. A short pithy letter from my betrothed, she has been hard at work for our suffering boys, no letters written, worked until 11 pm.

Wednesday, April 26.

A very warm day, severe toothache, assuredly it is a pleasant thing to have a throbbing tooth. No letters or war news. Feel first rate except aforesaid tooth. Shoddy Powers, the A.A. Surgeon made me get out of bed when I could hardly move from pain in my tooth to salute him, good for him, poor Shoddy, he don't think the pen is more powerful than the sword. Wrote two letters, one to Mrs. E. Grey & Miss Libbie Hedges.

Thursday, April 27.

Murderer of the President captured. He kills himself. War news of but little account.⁷ Toothache very pleasant, received two letters, one from my betrothed and one from Paul Goutert, wrote one letter to Miss Judith Underdown.

Friday, April 28.

A beautiful day, feel gay and happy, free and easy. At work printing paper and envelopes for surg. in charge and 480 monthly reports. No letter received or written, received a good will packet box of lint bandages and rags for the use of the wounded in the hospital from the young ladies of Tomkins County NY. Wrote letter to Aunt Mercy. Surrender of Johnston's army to Sherman. The war virtually over. Hurrah for Home!

Saturday, April 29.

A fine day with showers of rain in the evening. My friend Mr. Moon called upon me. Printed outside impressions of 480 M. Reports. Johnston's surrender verified. Orders from the War Dept. for discharge of all men in the hospitals. Our country redeemed and safe, soon the welcome order home again will be formally had.

Sunday, April 30.

A very fine day but winds cool. Up bright and early, feel first rate, bells chiming and the birds singing, all seem joyful. Received a good letter from my Unknown Friend, Miss Gertie Taylor, answered the same, ~~also wrote to my Judith~~ whom I hope soon to meet.

Notes:

¹ The war news in these early days of April was as follows:

- a. Grant kept extending his siege lines westward in order to overextend Lee and acquire the Southside RR., Lee's last direct link to the lower south. On April 1st Sheridan attacked Maj. Gen. George Pickett's force at Five Forks and decisively defeated the confederate troops.
- b. The success at Five Forks was followed the next day by the breakthrough of Wright's 6th Corps at Petersburg when Grant ordered a general assault along the entire Union line..
- c. Petersburg was surrendered on April 3, 1865 and later that morning Richmond fell. Lee had pulled his troops out of Petersburg and Richmond on April 2.

His reference to H. Smith 108th NY could be:

Harlbert B. Smith Co.D or Harrison Smith, Co. C or Henry B. Smith of Co. H. The first and third were discharged for disability in 1864; the second one was still active with the regiment – so who knows?

²Reverend Joseph Spencer Kennard(Sept.1833 – 1899) was pastor of the E street Baptist Church from 1859-1862. In 1865 he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington DC.

The text of Kennard's sermon is from the OT Book of Zephaniah written by the poet Sophonias in the 7th century BC. The main thrust of the book is the denunciation of pride and the praise of humility. The poet espoused a philosophy of a return to simplicity and the rejection of corruption and pride.

³ Hyde could be Charles U. Hyde, age 35 Co. F. 76th NY.

James Harlan (Aug. 1820-Oct.1899) U.S. Senator from 1855-65, 1867-73, then became secretary of the Interior under Andrew Johnson.

⁴ His description of the Lincoln assassination is quite accurate, except the wound was to the head not the heart. The best available modern source for this event is Edward Steers' *Blood on the Moon*. The automatic response was to suspect the act as a Confederate reprisal and there was such a scheme at the time to capture Lincoln. Confederate involvement in Booth's senseless murder of Lincoln is still debated to this day.

⁵The attack on Secretary Seward and his family was carried out by Lewis Thornton Powell (AKA Payne)(April 1844-July 1865) who attacked Seward with a large knife. V.P. Johnson and U.S. Grant were also marked targets but the plan fell apart (again see Steers).

On April 17, 1865, General J.E. Johnston CSA proposed to Sherman to meet and make arrangements to end the war politically and militarily something not within the purview of military officers. Stanton almost went ballistic and rejected Sherman's offer and Grant was sent to take charge.

⁶ The "poet" mentioned was James Montgomery (Nov.1771-April 1854) a British editor and poet.

The 9th Army Corps was attached as almost an independent command to the Army of the Potomac. It was commanded by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Everett Burnside (May 1824-Sept.1881) but the unit answered to Grant as the overall commander not to Meade the commander of the Army of the Potomac. As a Son of Temperance, Nightingale's comment re: the drinking is understandable.

Grant being sent to NC has been dealt with earlier.

⁷ John Wilkes Booth (May 1838-April 1865), Lincoln's assassin was tracked down and cornered on the Garrett farm on April 26, 1865 but was shot and killed before he could be taken. The suicide report was one of number of accounts (again see Steers).

Dr. Cyrus Powers (July 1814-March 1880) was Ass't Surgeon of the 75th NY, then mustered into the 160th NY as Surgeon and was discharged in Aug. 1864 but also did hospital work in Washington DC. According to his obituary, he was "endearing to his patients" both in and out of the army. Obviously his endearing qualities did not impress Nightingale.

May, 1865.

Monday, May 1.

Fine day, feel well. War news meagre, reported surrender of Kirby Smith. No letters received or written. Orders received for all patients to be discharged nit under medical treatment. At work as usual, received a box of lint and bandages from same ladies of Tomkins Co., very welcome.

Tuesday, May 2.

Sweet spring day, war news very dull, the greater part of the army coming to this city, 4 corps already here, hope soon to go home. Received letter from my friend Libbie Hedges, wrote one letter to Judith my betrothed. How I long to see her.

Wednesday, May 3.

A beautiful day, took an early walk of a few miles enjoying the beauties of nature much. No war news , feel very well at work. President Johnson's proclamation offering a reward of 100,000 dollars for Jeff Davis. No letters received or written. At work.

Thursday, May 4.

Another fine day, very refreshing showering in the morning. War news good, surrender of General Thompson (Rebel) to a union Captain, interesting account of Wilson's great raid.¹ In the afternoon took a ramble in the woods surrounding the city, enjoyed it much, received advertised letter from N.F. Jones and answered same, sent paper to Judith, wrote letter to Clara C. & also cousin Jonny, feel very well, hope soon to be homeward bound.

Friday, May 5.

Pleasant showers, very refreshing. War news meagre, no letters received or written. Took another ramble in the woods, feel very well. One year ago today the army started in its campaign which has resulted so well. All glory to the brave boys who have suffered that our country might live.

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

Saturday, May 6.

Rainy in the morning but very warm in the afternoon and evening, thunder storm in the morning. Took the afternoon to my self rambling in the woods. Printed 150 reports of Stimulants for Dispensary. Feel very well but am tired, no letters received or written.

Sunday, May 7.

Anniversary of the day I received my wound in the battle of the Wilderness. Times have altered much since, the war over, one year ago it seems all dark now our cause has finally triumphed and our country safe. A very beautiful warm, had a very pleasant ramble in the bright green woods where nature points everywhere to nature's god and his omnipotence. Received two good letters, one from dear Murkin and one from her whom I love, Best of all worlds. No letters written, feel very well.

Monday, May 8.

Showers in the morning, warm and pleasant, at work. Surrender of Dick Taylor & his army, other news meagre. Received a letter from Mrs. E. Grey and wrote one to my mother, feel very well but quite tired.

Tuesday, May 9.

Wet showery dismal day. War news meagre, surrender of portions of Price's army.² Interesting account of the feeling in Europe over our successes and the death of President Lincoln. No letter received, wrote one to Benton and Andrews of Rochester also one to my friend Miss Libbie E. Hedges. No work done today, feel very well also wrote a long letter to my betrothed.

Wednesday, May 10.

A rainy day, war news of no account. No work done today, received a letter from my friend Miss Helen M. Sweet, in the evening answered the same.

Thursday, May 11.

A very rainy day. War news very meagre. Trial of the conspirators against the government, they all plead 'not guilty'. My hopes of being discharged dashed, another disappointment not discouraged yet. In the morning finished letter to my dear friend Miss Helen Sweet. At work printed envelopes and 300 copies of a report for the linen room. In the evening received a short letter from my cousin Johnathon, have felt quite well, spirits good notwithstanding being disappointed. Today is one year from my admission to this hospital, how events have changed the aspect of affairs.

Friday, May 12.

A beautiful sunny day. Surrender of Lt. Gen. Dick Taylor and his whole army. Very interesting news from England, showing the feeling and sympathy in that and other nations for President's loss. Received good though short letter from my friend Miss Gertie t. Orange NJ. Procured a pass to get to Alexandria and train for Seminary. Printed 2 boxes of cards & 150 orders for ice also set its type for a larger inventory of hospital for July. In the evening commenced a letter in answer to Miss Gertie T., Orange NJ. Feel very well.

Saturday, May 13.

Another beautiful day. In the morning before breakfast finished letter to Gertie T, after breakfast printed 50 large inventories for wards. In the afternoon visited with some friends the Navy yard, went aboard three monitors and gave each a thorough inspection, was surprised at the immense force with which some missiles were sent against the monitor Montauk. She is very much scarred, procured some filings from her turret as mementoes. Have felt quite well all day, no letters received. Capture of Jeff Davis in women's clothes by the 4th Michigan Calvary.³

Sunday, May 14.

Early this morning started for Alexandria, took passage on board of the steamer Thomas Colyer and arrived at Alexandria by 10 a.m. Visited a few moments with a friend N F,J. And then started on a laborious search search to find the 179th NY. At 12½ arrived, visit my cousin, spent the day and night with him. I'm surprised to find him looking so well. Visited many places of interest, assayed there a picture of the old battlefield of Bull Run, procured several mementoes. No letter received or written. *[In a different writing ink or pencil the following is added]* I threw Journal NY, thanks for saint. [??????????]

Monday, May 15.

A beautiful warm day, after breakfast with my cousin, I started on my return to the city. Took passage board of the Keysten⁴, arrived in Washington at 11, at the hospital by 12 AM, completely tired out. Before I returned from Alexandria visited my friend Miss Cody found her well, had a pleasant visit reminding me of old times in R. Received two letters, one from my betrothed and one from friend a friend N.F.J. No letters written feel well but tired out.

Tuesday, May 16.

A very sultry day in the morning, wrote a very short letter to Judith, did a little work, played a few games of euchre and then lay down to rest as I felt quite tired and unwell. In the evening felt better, walked out with my friend R.S. Freeland, interesting accounts of the trial of the assassins.

Wednesday, May 17.

Very warm, some what like August North, nothing to do, received my papers from the A.G.O, received a good letter of advice and kind offer from my friend and former guardian Mr. Ezra R. Andrews of R. NY, in the evening answered same.

Thursday, May 18.

A very warm day, at work. Called upon Dr. Munson, no letter received, the trial of the assassins very interesting, no war news, wrote a long letter to Miss Judith U. Feel right well.

Friday, May 19.

Rainy and cool, quite a pleasant change from yesterday, news meagre, received a letter from my friend Miss Libbie Hedges of Rochester, in the evening answered same.

Saturday, May 20.

Very dreary day. Capture of Governor Brown of Georgia.⁵ Nothing to do. Feel quite well. In the evening helped on the muster out rolls of 18 men, received a good letter from my unknown

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

friend Gertie T. In the evening commenced answer to the same. No news from home or from Judith "Oh Dear What can the matter be"

Sunday, May 21.

A pleasant Sabbath with a tremendous thunder storm in the evening. Walked out in company with my friends, Tom Edwards, Horus Rightings and Sergt. Brown. Services in the evening in the wards by Dr. Channing, finished my letter to Gertie T., no letters received.

Monday, May 22.

A beautiful day, showers in the evening. Have made up my mind to do no more work for the surgeon in charge, have never shown a spirit of insubordination before but now I will have my rights or nothing. Received a good letter from my sister Helen M. Sweet, a good truly kind letter. In the evening commenced answer to the same. No word from Judith, feel curious and put out, can think of no reason why no letter came, must search in my own heart and think if I have written aught that was not right. Feel well but unhappy.

Tuesday, May 23.

A beautiful warm day. Early in the morning started out to secure a good place to witness the review of the Army of the Potomac. At nine A.M. the columns started, Maj. Gen. Meade at the head, after him in front Genl Merritt commdg Cavalry Corps, then Genl Custer, then 15,000 Cavalry. Next appeared the Pro. Martial and his brigade, next the Engineer Brigade with all their officers. Next the 9th Army Corps and one div. of the 19th, next appeared the 5th Corps with its musicians and artillery, after this the gallant 2nd Corps comded by Genl Humphreys. After the 1st division had passed my division and regt officers and only 75 men left of the 1200 who marched through this city three years ago. I joined in the regt. was greeted by old comrades, all happy soon to return home. All hail to the noble heroes. Total no. Troops reviewed nearly 100,000 men.

Wednesday, May 24.

Started out again early this beautiful morn to see the noble army commanded by Sherman. His army is much larger than the Potomac Army. Sherman appeared at the head, happy proud of his gallant band. 1st came the old 15th Corps commanded by the young hero Logan, then the 17th commanded by Frank P. Blair. After this corps came a number of Sherman's famous bummers led by a little old negro on a very small donkey, this part of the army causes much fun. After the

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

17th appeared the old 20th commanded by General Slocum then the 14th commanded by Genl Jeff C. Davis. A noble army, well deserved have been its laurels. Welcome the heroes home. Total No. Reviewed nearly 110,000 men.⁶

Thursday, May 25.

A fine day showering & damp in the evening. Had some trouble with one of the stewards, was put in the guard house. My discharge made out, will pray is correct, was released by order of the surgeon in charge. Received a letter from my betrothed, short but good. No letter written, hope soon to be homeward bound.

Friday, May 26.

A cold rainy day. At work in the office, nothing of much account occurred, asked the surgeon in charge for my discharge, no satisfaction received. In the afternoon however he ordered my papers to be made out which was done at once. Hope soon to leave this hospital, am perfectly sick of it, wrote letter to my betrothed, none received.

Saturday, May 27.

Another rainy day. The doctor striving to vent his malice upon myself and friend Fred Robinson by cutting down our diet to a level to patients. He can never bend me by his ill usage, hope to be able to defy him & shall hear & forbear but never submit to his tyranny. Hope soon to bid adieu to Washington and meet true friend at home.

Sunday, May 28.

A beautiful day with showers in the evening. Received two letters, one from mother and one from my friend Miss Libbie H, wrote answer to mother's letter. Surrender of Kirby Smith and army. Was arrested for exciting the men to insubordination by the ward master and one of the stewards who both stooped to lie in doing so. Am innocent of the charge. Nothing made by telling a lie, actions will vindicate my innocence. Services in the 6th ward.

Monday, May 29.

A beautiful but extremely warm day, thermometer 80° above zero. No war news of especial consequence, feel very well, hope to receive my papers soon, good bye to old Stanton, its joys and sorrows.

Tuesday, May 30.

Another very warm day, nothing of any moment occurring worth record, the same dull monotonous life. Wrote one letter to Libbie H, none received, should like very much for a letter from Judith.

Wednesday, May 31.

Extremely warm, making one feel languid and causes a longing for the refreshing cool breeze of the north, 88 degrees above zero, no letters written or received. At work in the office on muster rolls.

Notes:

¹ Lt. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith (May 1824-March 1893) surrendered the last of the confederate armies on May 26, 1865 (officially June 2) in Galveston Texas.

On May 2, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued Proclamation 131 which offered rewards for the capture of Jefferson Davis (\$100,000) and smaller amounts for other prominent confederates for their part in the assassination of Lincoln and attempted murder of Seward.

Meriwether "Swamp Fox" Jefferson Thompson (Jan. 1826- Sept. 1876), Brig. Gen. Missouri State Guard surrendered himself and his command on May 11, 1865.

Wilson's raid was a cavalry raid through Alabama and Georgia in March- April 1865, led by James Harrison Wilson (Sept. 1837-Feb. 1925) to destroy southern manufacturing and to get rid of Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest (June 1821-Oct. 1877) and his southern cavalry.

² Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor (Jan. 1826-April 1879) surrendered the last of the Confederate forces east of the Mississippi on May 4, 1865.

Sterling "Old Pap" Price (Sept. 1809-Sept. 1867) never surrendered his command as an entity but instead he took off to Mexico to enter the service of the puppet emperor Maximilian (July 1832-June 1867).

³ Since the fall of Richmond in early April, Jefferson Finis Davis and his government were on the move. However the surrender of Lee and the murder of Lincoln and assumed compliance in the crime, turned Davis into a hunted fugitive. He was taken on May 10, 1865 wearing his wife's shawl which led to the erroneous report that he was captured in women's clothing (See James Swanson, *Bloody Crimes: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Chase for Jefferson Davis*).

⁴ U.S.S. Keystone State was decommissioned in March 1865 and was sold later in September.

⁵ Joseph Emerson Brown (April 1821-Nov.1894) was held briefly in Washington as a political prisoner.

⁶ Army of the Potomac:

Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade (Dec.1815- Nov.1872) Commander of the Army of the Potomac.

Brevet Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt (June 1836-Dec.1910) Commander 1st Division Cavalry Corps.

Brig. Gen. George Armstrong Custer (Dec. 1839- June 1876), Commander 3rd Div. Cavalry.

Maj. Gen. Andrew Atkinson Humphreys (Nov.1810-Dec.1883) Commander of the Second Corps.

Western Army:

Maj. Gen. John Alexander ('Black Jack') Logan (Feb. 1826-Dec. 1886), Commander 15th Corps , Army of the Tennessee.

Maj. Gen. Francis Preston Blair Jr. (Feb.1821- July 1875), Commander 17th Corps, Army of the Tennessee.

Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (Sept.1827-April 1894), Commander 20th Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

Brig. Gen. Jefferson Columbus Davis (March 1828-Nov.1879) Commander 14th Corps , Army of the Cumberland. This general is the general who got away with murder when he shot and killed his superior officer Maj. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson (Sept.1824-Sept 1862) in September of 1862 in a private argument and was never prosecuted.

Final Entries – June, July, August 1865

June 1865.

Thursday, June 1.

Another very warm day, thermometer nearly 90 degrees above zero. This day has been set forth as a universal fast day, no business being transacted. In the evening wrote letter to Judith, none received from any source, 35 men discharged. Received a commission as 2nd Lieut. from Gov. Fenton.

Friday, June 2.

Quite sultry, too warm to be pleasant. Received and answered a real good letter from my gentle friend Gertie T., accompanying it some beautiful poetry on our late president, Mr. Lincoln, composed by her and published by her under the cognomen “Phebe Cary”, such a letter from an unknown friend carry with them a pleasing resolution and a longing to see the fair writer. Feel quite well but oh so warm.¹

Saturday, June 3.

A citizen again, my soldier days all over, no more orders from officers. This afternoon received my discharge in compliance with the telegram from A.G.O. May 30,65. Also received a letter from Judith, feel well and happy, soon to meet the object of my love.

July 1865.

Monday, July 3.

Length of crutch 4½ ft. Length of reach 1-9 in. A beautiful day in Newfield. My darling re-mains at home today and all the week.

Tuesday, July 4.

At Ithica all day, very beautiful weather. Am feeling extremely happy, anticipating the day when my darling becomes my wife. Mrs. Bishop kindly took J and myself to the village of Ithica [*sic*]. The 4th celebrated with much éclat. A good procession, arrive home at 4 pm.

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

Wednesday, July 5.

At Newfield in the afternoon, plowing in the forenoon, tomorrow Judith becomes my bride.
Happy day.

Thursday. July 6. Jefferson NY.

A beautiful day, awoke bright and early full of pleasant hopes and wishes for the future. At home in the forenoon, at 12 began to look for Mr. Woodworth but he did not come, could not wait but started to Havana with Johnny & Mr. Williams, arriving at Odessa, Judith and I were married by the Rev. M. B. Ransom. Started immediately after for Havana, arrived there in time for the train for Jefferson, took passage and arrived there at 6.50. put up at the Jefferson House after supper with my bride took a sail on the Seneca Lake, Am joyfully happy.

Mrs. J. Millage, Cara A Seely Bruceport, North Chenning Co, Inquire for books and bowls.
Elmira Krommouborus Elmira.

Friday, July 7.

At Jefferson.

Saturday, July 29.

Symbolic meaning of colors:

White was the emblem of light purity innocence, faith joy & life. In the judge it indicates integrity, in the sick man humility, in the woman chastity

Red the ruby signifies fire, divine life, the holy spirit, heat of the creative fires & royalty. White and red roses express love and innocence or love and wisdom. In another sense red signifies blood war, hatred and punishment.

Blue or the sapphire expresses heaven truth consistency fidelity.

Yellow signifies inconstancy, jealousy & deceit.

Sunday, July 30.

Green the emerald is the order of spring, of hope, of victory.

Violet the amethyst signifies love and truth or passion & suffering

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

Black expresses the end, darkness, mourning, wickedness, death White and black signify purity of life and meaning.

August 1865.

Thursday, August 3.

Stopped at the Minot house, Corning for the night. In the morning took train as I supposed for Rochester but arriving at Addison discovered I was on the wrong train. A freight train coming through I took passage on it and went back to Corning, had to stay there till 1 pm.

Thursday, August 17.

Today my term of service expires, a long eventful 3 years. Have been in the following engagements: Antietam, Sept 17, 1862, Fredericksburgh Dec. 13, '62, Chancellorsville May 2,3, 4, '63, Gettysburgh, July 2-4 '63, Auburn and Bristoe Oct 14, '63, Kelly's Ford, Cedar Mountain, Mine Run '63, Morton's Ford and 3 day fight in the Wilderness, May 5,6,7, 1864, and now a married man, a pleasant little wife on whose love and society I hope ever long to be happy. Received a letter from Judith this morn, noon. In the morning wrote long letter to J.

Friday, August 18.

Very warm, nothing of any importance occurring, oh how I long to have my darling here.

4lb.....[repeated 12 times, effectively the diary ends here. From August 19-23 the entries are names and/or addresses or various what appear to be accounts owing etc.]

Notes:

¹ Reuben Eaton Fenton (July 1819-Aug. 1885) was Governor of New York from 1865-1868. There is no record in Nightingale's Service record file of such a promotion.

Phebe Cary (Sept.1824-July 1871) was not Gertie Taylor so why Taylor chose to publish under that nickname is unknown, never mind the legality of publishing under the name of another published author.