

CAROLINE HARRISON'S WHITE HOUSE DIARY

On the front fly leaf: This Diary is in the handwriting of Mrs. Benj Harrison while in the White House - Washington /JRM 1931

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Tuesday (March 26th) afternoon received calls - quite a number here - . by appointment . Mrs. Blaine + friends. W. W. Phelps + daughter (who is as fat as Miss Loving)

Friday evening. (March 29th)

Whitelaw Reed + wife Mr. Plummer of New York took dinner with us Friday morning was unable to get up. My cold had gotten me clear down, so Thursday. Friday, did not get up but Saturday noon feeling so much better. I dressed myself + was able in the evening to go down to dinner.

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Sabbath March 31st.

A wintry day. early in the morning rain + blowing all day so disagreeable that none went to church, March is making her reputate good for going out like a lion.

Monday. (*April 1st*)

Benjamin was taken sick. but at eleven ocl we were to meet the Japanese Prince + Princess for a formal introduction (Takiyonote) Benjamin was quite sick all day. Dr. afraid of pneumonia.

Tuesday. April 2nd.

Benjamin better today. Dr. thinks he can break the disease - we were very busy all day nursing him. In the evening a reception was given to the Prince + Princess, consisting of the judges diplomatic members of Congress now here. + Army + Navy. It was a very pretty + comfortable reception, as it was a card reception. There was not such a crowd as generally there has been. It was therefore more satisfactory than any for some there

Wednesday. (*April 3rd*)

Benjamin decidedly better. We are all very cheerful + happy. Mamie left with Senator Davis for the South, expecting to go as far as St. Augustine. She needed rest badly + we hope the trip will do her good. I shall take care of the children - Mary is a jolly little girl. She is always smiling -

Thursday. (*April 4th*)

Benjamin still continues to improve. I was out more than I've been since I came to the White House. This evening went out with my husband. to ride. he drove the beautiful horse John - we went to the Soldiers Home + returned. Mr. Eliotte Shepard

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took dinner with us. Miss Murphy also is with us. Lizzie /Mrs. Lord/ was taken sick this evening and went to bed feeling pretty badly. She thinks it a severe cold.

Friday. (April 5th)

Dr. pronounces Benjamin almost well - he was very restless during the night + his grandfather was up several times + walked him to sleep. Mame + Robert left for home this afternoon: our family quite small, consisting of the President, Miss Murphy May /Russell is in New York/ + myself - my mail still quite larger consisting of requests to use my influence for some office asking for money. to my ----- some pieces of my dress -. + one from some woman asking that I would use my influence to get her betrothed husband out of jail.. He was a deserter. but goes under an assumed name

Saturday. (April 6th)

The worst day of the year snowed hard all day. partly melting + making a slush no one went out.

Sunday. (April 7th)

A very pretty day. we went to church

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communion sabbath (*April 7th*) - the first communion taken in the new Church of the Covenant

Monday. (*April 8th*)

An uneventful day. heard from Mamie. she was having a very delightful trip. expected to start home Tuesday by the way of Atlanta.

Tuesday. (*April 9th*)

Received calls in the afternoon. by appointment Miss Murphy still with us - . She went riding this evening with the President behind John, our beautiful horse.

Robert Lincoln called.

Monday.

Took Benjamin out for a ride. his first ride since he was sick. + he enjoyed it very much. Spent part of the morning at the dress makers.

Tuesday.

Mamie returned this morning bringing a young Aligator, Mrs. Davis sent me a bag of oranges.. + a beautiful fan -. She is much improved by her trip Kate Brown came home with her and spent the day with us. Lizzie + John Parker returned from

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Penna. Mrs Lord went home. has been sick all week with a cold.

Friday 12th.

Went out riding with Benjamin + Mrs Lord. to do some shopping for for Lizzie Parker - who started to New York with John. who is attached to the Samoan Commision. Mrs L went to New York - with -. them.

Saturday.

A rainy bad day - The President expected to have taken - a trip down the Potomac. on one of the . boats. but it rained all day + the trip had to be given up - . Cora Standard Tilton + Husband Lester also Col Jackson. of San Francisco Mr + Mrs Carter. from Montana took dinner with us. . Senater Merrill birth day sent him a basket of flowers .. white pansies with 79 in dark purple. The President felt quite unwell. so we did nothing. Mamie May, Miss Murphy + Senater Saunders represented the household. sent a pillow of flowers. to Springfield, Ill. to the decoration of Lincoln, grave, requested by some womans Association

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Sabbath.

A very pretty day. Mamie - Miss Murphy + myself attended Church - . The President felt badly + did not go out. Father came home to lunch - . wrote some letters to friends -. Mame + her father went to take a drive. he feels the confinement that the bad weather -

/// - has produced.. Russell in New York - expected back to night - Mrs Lord also will return to morrow

Monday.

The day was a cold + disagreeable one with the appearance of rain. but as the President had been disappointed in going down the Potomac on Saturday they concluded to try it any way Mr Windom had detained the light House boat in hopes the weather would be pleasant. + enable them to take the trip. In spite of Gen. **Grubys** prediction of rain. We left the House about eleven o clock + took the boat at the .. foot of seventh street It is commanded by Capt. Casey.. We found Capt. Casey + Leut **Coffin** waiting for us. The party consisted of . The President Mr Blaine. Sec. Windom . Sec. Rusk and

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daughter Miss Ada Murphy + myself. We went thirty miles down the river. Stopped at the - Fort + took on some elegant. Hard. which were served for lunch.

Tuesday.

The bad weather still continued. This was emancipation day. The colored people had made great preparations for a grand display. which the rain spoiled. It was Cabinet meeting day. + about half past one our usual lunch hour. The President came out + asked if he could invite the Cabinet to stay. They were to review the procession + as they were expected at any time there was no chance of their getting any thing to eat unless we furnished it. After a hasty interview with our Steward Mr. Ziemam they were invited

down to the dining room. They had to make a hasty lunch-. but before they got through. the procession appeared. It was raining hard, . but the spirits of the crowd was not dampened. The President + Cabinet stood in the Porch. The bands were dreadful to hear. the instruments did not **cord** ... + the appearance of the

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whole procession was uninspiring. Their feathers were draggled. + their trimmings on the horses and wagons were faded by the rain. Benjamin + Mary were at the front windows. Benjamin enjoyed it very much especially as nearly every band played Marching through Georgia. Mamie had gone over to Baltimore to spend the day with Kate. Miss Leidman + Major Geo. Grubbs also took dinner here May baby + nurse left for Virginia Beach.

Wednesday.

It still rains, but to day I got some personal letters answered. . Ive been too busy with my general letters.. + have had to. let my friends suffer - Went over to see Father + Lizzie in the afternoon - Lizzie returned from New York last night. Found Senater H.G. Davis here. . he took a walk with the President + returned to dinner. They are working in the bath rooms. to partition. the bath arrangements off. + that will give us another room.

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Saturday.

Miss Murphy returned to Mrs. Williams

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Easter Sabbath was a beautiful day. went to church.

Easter Monday. was bright + beautiful. about **six** ocl the children began pouring in the grounds for the egg rolling, went out to do some errands ..+ returned about twelve ocl after lunch. The President took the family and went out on the balcony to see + show himself to the crowd.. Benjamin walked by his side + when taken up in his Grandfathers arms waved his handkerchief to the cheering crowds,. The Marine Band. was. ordered up + played from two until four.. The first time the band ever was present on this occasion. Mr. George Bancroft + wife called + the day was a busy one. for there were many persons here..-

This week has been employed in getting in the new bath rooms. or rather making a partition off the dressing room.. It is a very substantial improvement + gives me another bed room. I had the west window thrown into the bath room + there will be good ventilation I think.

Monday evening the Yale Glee club came to serenade us. or. give us some of their

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music in the East room. Mamie had invited some young ladies to meet them. Miss Blaine + Miss Rusk represented the cabinet. The Blaines were as peculiar as usual refused to be introduced to the young men + formed a party by themselves.

Vice President Morton + wife were down this week. took dinner with us on **Wednesday evening..**

Friday.

Friday was occupied in writing letters + preparing for our New York trip our trunks have to go up to morrow.

La

Saturday.

Prepared to leave for New York. also settled in the room that was just finished I had a partition done across. the dressing room. throwing. the window into the bath room the room was spoiled for a sitting room by only being separated from the closet + bath by a curtain. of course no one could sit in it without the danger from sewer gas. I had a tile flooring put in about the bath tub + wash basin + it now makes a good light bath room. + I can use the dressing room for a bed room. I also had a wood floor, of a foot in width. put all

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around the room. I shall now take a great deal of comfort in the room.

Sabbath.

Went to church in the morning. The President too tired to go.... We went to the Depot about.. half past **one** ocl. The commuter that came for us consisted of Mr. Cooper. Mr. Robertson. Mr King. Mr. John Jay.. Mr. Wittaker They brought. a. gold. badge for the President. The car was beautifully decorated. festoons of green. + bunches of magnificent roses were draped all over. the parlor.. + in the passage to the dining part of the car the windows were curtained with smilax Large bunches of Roses were placed in different part of the car. also. large clusters of roses. were placed on the table. for each of the ladies.. + which were to be used the next day. We were very punctual in arriving at Elizabethport.. + we found the town alive with people. The town was also. handsomely decorated with flags. arches. The church steeple. which was the old church that stood in Washington's **time** was festooned with

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flags like the ships are decorated. The bells + guns .. + the shouting + running of the people made it a gay scene. We were driven to the residence of Gov Green, where we were to take breakfast after a little delay. Vice Pres. + Mrs. Morton arrived.. It was then found that the Chief Justice + two judges were not there. . It gave the Governor. a great deal of embarrassment.. + he seemed annoyed but it was evidently the fault of the committee who. should have seen to their getting there.. but they came in after we. had

gotten through the first course. Mrs. Fuller remained in the car. The breakfast table consisted of Mr + Mrs Morton, Senator + Mrs Sewall (of (New Jersey.) Gen Fitzhugh Lee, Chief Justice Fuller + Judge Field, Gov + Mrs. Green the President + myself. + Mrs McKee. The rest of our party consisting of Mrs. Kate Davis Brown, Mr Halford, Miss Murphy. Col Wilson + the committee took breakfast on the car. Josephine. (my maid) said they had a delightful breakfast.. After. breakfast at Gov Greens we went out upon a large platform built just back of their house., to see the President service the troops. . It got so late by the ----- that he could not wait for all to pass. + was at last

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hurried into the carriage.. + driven to the Despatch (boat). We were driven in a carriage to the Depot. after waiting some hours for the Chief Justice (who was again lost).. it was found that he had gone on the Despatch that our train started for. the landing. where The “*(Lenius)*” (the boat that the committee had furnished for the rest of the party) was to meet us. The President had sent a request that his wife + the ladies of his party might go with us on. the Despatch. but the committee + officers in charge would not permit us . neither would would they .. permit us to accept the invitations of Mrs Green who had a Yacht, and plenty of room for our comfort. It seemed rather arbitrary to say the least of it. that I could not go. where I wished. but of course, being in the hands of a committee I had to do as they said. So we went on this crowded boat I was. taken up to the end of the boat + pushed through the crowd. + the people who had seats there had to give them up.. It was just as the President. had feared that the crowd was so great that..there was no

comfort for us.. The display on the bay was beautiful. the ships were all elegantly decorated with flags. + colors.. but I was somewhat uneasy. for fear of a collision

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but although this was a great deal of steaming about + much crossing of each others' tracks all passed off without any accident. The men of war looked beautiful in their bright flag's. + the arms **manned** but the noise of the guns as we passed was very disagreeable, Russell + May were also on the boat with us.. The officers and committee. would not permit him to go with his Father. They also put Walker Blaine off the Despatch, but Lee Tracy + Mr Halford insisted on his being permitted to go on. . Russell had tickets sent to him to go on the Lyman. a boat that had over a thousand passengers aboard + dreadfully over. crowded.. he insisted on. being with the rest of us. + would not have gone at all if it had been otherwise.. We were fastened to the warf + thought we were in good position to see the landing. but just as the President was getting ready to leave the Despatch. to go ashore. The **Lenius** steamed off. + we were taken up the river pretty rapidly. We were landed at the 23rd street warf. but the carriages to carry the Cabinet ladies + other guests were not there. Col Wilson whom my husband. had. asked to accompany us. saw to our leaving the boat. Mrs. Morton's carriage was waiting. + Mrs.

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Morton. daughters + myself.. were very comfortably fixed. but the others fared badly. as here were no one to look for their comfort Mrs. Windom + daughters Mrs Rusk +

daughters + Mrs. Noble managed to get into carriages but Mrs. Fuller wife of the Chief Justice had to find her way the best she could on the street cars. Miss Murphy. Mrs McKee.. Russell + wife were taken to the Fifth Avenue Hotel. where good front rooms were. arranged for them. . + they had a splendid. place to see the parades of the next two days.

In the evening were invited to Hamilton Fish for dinner. Elbridge Gerry + wife Lieut Gov Jones + wife Miss Livingston , Mrs Fish Sr, Mr + Mrs Morton and several others composed the party The table decorations were fine. At our end of the table was George + the Cherry tree. + at the other the Arch which had been erected for the Centennial Commemoration. We went from there to the Ball about nine ocl. The ball was a jam accomodations of the Hall was. seven thousand. + ten thousand tickets were sold, so it was such a crowd. that a guard of soldiers were required to make way for our passing in + also to the supper room. The ----- ... so talked of. was. a travesty on dancing. the space was so small which they could get for dancing it in. that it was far

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from imposing. The decendants of the signers were composed mostly of the wealth of N.Y. + such as they chose to take. Instead of selecting Russell + Mamie whose ancestor was one of the original signers. they took young Judson + Mrs Astor Judson was quite young . + just out of the West Point. + it was said he let Mrs Astor find her own way back to her Box. The supper room was a scene of revelry. Champagne flowed freely. + in leaving the room. I had to lift my dress. + walk on tip toe. to get over what was spilt upon the floor.. We had a place on an elevated. platform. where a table was set for us.

The party at the table consisted of Mr + Mrs Morton. Mrs Grant. + General Hill Mrs Payne M + M Tracy, Gen + Mrs Jones, Mamie - and the President + myself. immediately after supper we returned to Mrs Mortons. We were delightfully entertained by Mr + Mrs Morton. all during our stay.

(Tuesday)

On Tuesday morning we arose early as we wished to go to Trinity Church to the prayer meeting + we drove down there behind the Carriage that took the President + Vice President. The streets were not much crowded as we went down but as we came back. they were literally jamed. Bishop Potter read the service + then read a lecture. to the present generation. of sinners!! There was nothing good.

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or true since Washington lived. + all goodness in the government had. departed. I went away quite crushed in the view of the dreadful state the country had come to. All day we looked at the military parade. It took seven hours + a half for it to pass. Mrs Morton had quite a number of ladies there to see the parade from her veranda. . Mrs Noble Windom + Rusk... were among the number. In the evening we went to the Banquet. about nine ocl. . As Mrs Morton + I entered the box. at the signal from the band. The company all rose to receive us. it was quite embarrassing. . We heard all the speeches. The President was not informed of the subject of his toast until. he sat down at the table. + picked up the Program + read it himself. . he made a better speech all said than any one

there. It was thought by many that it was intended to keep him in ignorance. in order to mark him down.

(Wednesday)

Wednesday was the Civil Parade + we got tired enough. of looking at that although it was not as long as the one the preceding day. In the evening we took dinner at Mr Reade's. about eighteen persons were The next two days were spent shopping.

(Thursday)

On Thursday

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evening we took dinner at Elliott Shepards there were about twenty-five persons present among them the Ex-Pres + Mrs Hayes.,

(Friday)

On Friday evening we went over to Mr Leonards + took dinner with Mrs Fran **Hosteand**

(Saturday)

On Saturday I returned home Mamie remained. . She had gone with Mrs. Elkins on. Thursday. I expected to stay until the end of the next week. . The President of the board. put me - on board his private car. + sent me to Washington. I had a very pleasant trip. Mr + Mrs Leonard. + Mrs. Sullivan. (Mrs L mother) + Col Bridgland were on the

train. + I invited them in. A good dinner was provided + we arrived in Washington in good time. I was very tired after my week of sight seeing + festivities. but I was anxious to get the House ready for the hot weather.

(Tuesday)

+ the weather was getting hot so on Tuesday morning I began to have the carpets taken up + put away. In the Halls. the matting had to be renewed. I had women sent them. I dont suppose the floors had been scrubbed for many years. . All the cleaning + taking up of the carpets. had always before been done in the absence of the family - . + I presume the servants. made the cleaning as easy as possible.... It was a good

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thing for some one to look after the cleaning + arranging of things. We looked quite clean and it seemed healthier to get their carpets taken up. that had been tramped over by hundreds + thousands of people. . Mamie staid in New York. until. the ----- 11th, . + I had all the house ready for the summer before she got back.

(Saturday)

On Saturday the 12th. the president took the Despatch .. + in company with Lee Windom + Rusk. Senator Hawley + myself started down to Fortress Monroe I took Emma + Benjamin. along. The child enjoyed his boat trip very much. although....at first he wanted to go "home" . + seemed to miss his little sister. We arrived at Fortress Monroe about day light... Senator Hawley. the President Benjamin. nurse + myself went ashore at

church time. The President + Senator went to church. I went to the Hotel + while I sat in the Pavillion. Benjamin had his first play in the sand. which he enjoyed exceedingly.

(Sabbath)

We started home about six ocl. sabbath evening.

(Monday)

Monday when we got near Mt. Vernon. Senator Hawley proposed to go ashore. which we did. The Regents were in session + much pleased at the attention. Mrs Washington said it was the first President who had ever visited Mt. Vernon uninvited. So

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I presume the President is solid with the Regents. .

(Tuesday)

I guess I took a little cold as my eye tooth began to trouble me on Tuesday. + I had to have the filling taken out. Gunthr Holiday had arrived the Friday before. and was still with us The. Father + Lizzie. went over to New York. to attend the General Assembly. I had such a pleasant visit from Gunthr. + she has promised to make me another visit before her return to Persia. The Marine Band began their concert on the grounds on the 25th. They played the three airs. which have been dedicated to the children. I expected to have gone down to Cape May this week. Mr Wanamaker kindly offered me his cottage.. + as. Benjamin has not been very well lately. I thought I would take them both

down, for a week or two before I went to Deer Park. Robert came on here the 25th - + Mamie will return with him on Sabbath or Monday. to get things ready for Deer Park. - .

On Tuesday. We went out to Arlington to the decoration of the soldiers. graves. Mr Alexander was to make the address. A very hard rain + blow broke up the exercises. I went with the procession. to the graves or monuments of the unknown but did not go further

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The weather was hot. + I was afraid of head ache Sheridans monument was enveiled.

(Friday, May 31st)

On Friday.. we decided to have Mary Christened. We did not dare on account of the press + the reporters to make much of an affair. but in the morning we sent up a note to Gen + Mrs Williams + Rebeckah **Etrickle** and also invited Col Wilson. to bring Mrs. Wilson. After the Cabinet meeting. The President invited them all down. + Father went through the ceremony. + baptised Mary Lodge some water from Jordan-. which

May 31st

Lizzie Parker had brought over. We had had Mr. Pfreshi. decorate the blue room with plants. and it looked quite pretty. There were present Lee, Blaine, Windom, Tracy Wanamakers, Noble + Miller. (.Mr Rusk + Proctor were out of town), Kate Brown + Lizzie were also here. I guess she was the first baby baptized in the Blue room.

Mamie + Robert expected to leave for Indianapolis in the afternoon. but the heavy rains + other things prevented.

(Saturday, June 1st)

on Saturday morning. the paper was filled with the account of Johnstown Penn. being completely destroyed by the bursting of a section

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+ dam. As Mrs Halford + daughter had started on. Mr Halford felt quite uneasy all day. communication beyond Harrisburg was cut off. so. all day. no news could be had- .

(Sabbath, June 2nd)

On Sabbath morning Mr Halford came in pale + breathless + said I am afraid they are lost." The Potomac had risen. so all the Fish Houses- were covered + we had watched the night before to see. the Long Bridge swept off. . It was a sabbath of much anxiety. . the President sent for a telegraph operator. + kept him there all day + late in the day. word was received that they were safe having escaped from the train + fled to the hills. I had been intending. to go. this week to Cape May Point. . Mr Wanamaker had kindly offered his cottage which was not occupied yet. but the wet + cool weather kept us from starting.

(Thursday, June 6)

Mrs. Halford + ----- arrived on Thursday. .

(Sunday, June 7)

+ Mr. Brown - whom Kate was expecting by the B + O road came. Sunday

(Monday, June 8)

Monday. Robert took Mr Wanamakers Yacht + we went down the Potomac. to Marshall Hall Col + Mrs Williams. the **Pontrew** family + Mr + Mrs. Light -. Mr + Mrs J. Halford. + Mrs Maude Gouveneur + ourselves comprised the party. we had a very pleasant trip.

(Tuesday, June 9)

Mamie + Robert got off Tuesday after noon by the B + O. road - which had

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not suffered so by the **flood**. They stopped at Deer Park. to look at the cottage. see what extras were needed. The weather continuing so bad! I did not wish to go to the Sea Shore. so we did not get off. until. Thursday. .

(Thursday, June 11)

Mr. Wanamaker was very kind + got the B + O. Road to send over Mr. **Ganell's** car so we started at about half past nine in the morning. Mr. McKensie met us at Baltimore + road over to Philadelphia with us, he was very pleasant. The car was very fine + they had flowers all over the table for us. At Philadelphia we were met by Mr Brown Mr Wanamakers mother in law. + took us to. and given a beautiful lunch in a private room + gave us lunch Mrs Wanamakers two daughters in laws + daughter were with us. We left the Hotel at three + drove to the Depot. where Mr Boyd met us. and provided a car for us. we had a pleasant ride down. to Cape May. and to the Point. where the cottage is. . I was much surprised to find Mrs Wanamaker here to greet us. the house was very nicely decorated with flowers + grasses. + was very inviting in the dining room. the letters welcome was made with daisies. Mrs Wanamaker had a friend with her a Mrs **Souvie** . who proved to be the wife of an old friend. Rev Sam **Sonni** we had a very enjoyable evening - Mr Brown

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Mrs Wanamaker + Mrs Souvi returned to the city. early in the morning + left us to ourselves. We are having a very up-----time here. I have had a number of calls but on the whole it has been very restful. I look after the children. + read the papers. answer my letters + drive in the afternoon.

(Saturday, June 21st)

Saturday night the 21st. The President + Mr Wanamaker came down to spend the Sabbath.

It was very pleasant weather + they had a restful + enjoyable time.

(Sabbath, June 22nd)

On Sabbath - we attended the Presbyterian Church here. after church went up to Cape May City + took dinner with Gen Sewall's. I spent

25 June

the Friday before then with the children, both visits were very delightful. The first Sabbath I was here I went to the Episcopal Church with Gen Sewalls family. This place has done the children. much good. Mary has gotten through three teeth. + they both look brown from being out so much.

We left Cape May. the ----- of June . having had a delightful quiet stay at the Point. I attended the opening of the Sea Side Home. a few days before we left met Mary of the Charitable christian callers of Philadelphia. who were engaged in the establishment of this benevolence Gen Sewall accompanied me from. Cape May to Washington in his private car. We found the weather

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quite hot as we got in Saturday noon we soon began our preparations for going to Deer Park

(Wednesday)

we started Wednesday afternoon in the private car Baltimore. Mr. Halford accompanying us our party consisted of. Father. myself. the four nurses. my maid Josie. a cook + Rufus. We did not know until we arrived at Manchester that we had on the same train. The prize

fighter Kilrain. who was on his way to the encounter with Sullivan. but the -rough- set that gathered around the car. soon made the fact prominent. At Cumberland we expected to get our supper.(the car was not stocked). the rush for the dining room was so great. . that we could not get near the dining room. to get our supper until too late. we returned to the car. indignant at the crowd. but the worst of it all was. the conductor telegraphed that - I had invited Kilrain's physician into the car + drank a glass of wine with him the facts were this. Benjamin had struck Mary over the head in the morning. but she showed no evidence of being hurt. at the time. but after we got on the car. she became so sick, that I became alarmed + asked for if a physician was on board. After while a dapper looking young man made his appearance, I thought his appearance strange. his dimmels + light clothes were. rather puzzling to me, but as I had never seen a sporting man. to know him

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I was not prepared to know who he was he examined Mary + said there was no evidence of any serious trouble from the blow + left the car. I suppose he reported to Kilrain who we were. and when we got off at Deer Park. Kilrain came into the Depot + asked the nurses to see Baby McKee I am disgusted with newspapers + reporters. truth is an characteristic entirely unknown to them. but the paper proprietors + Editors are alone responsible for. these things as they encourage all misrepresentations. + no lies they may tell are ever contradicted It took us some time to get settled at Deer Park- being very little furniture in the house - we had to send for many things to make ourselves comfortable

Father was quite sick for a few weeks from trying to sleep in the lower room which was very damp- + it was practically useless to us during the summer.

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(Aug 6th)

I was called to Nantucket by the illness of my sister. I started from Deer Park Aug 6th. At ten o cl. in the evening on the private car.. of Robert Garrett. Col Wilson met us in Washington. + took us through We arrived in New York about twelve o cl + took the Fall River steamer. **Pun----** at five in the evening. It was the finest steamer on the sound + we enjoyed the sail very much - we took the car. at Fall River. + went down to. New Bedford (which takes an hour.) where we took the Nantucket Steamer. Martha's Vineyard arriving at Nantucket at twelve ocl I enjoyed the stay at Nantucket very much. It is a quaint old town. + still keeps some of its old customs. The town crier. is still around. And it is a great place for old furniture. and dishes. The old mill is still a curiosity. built in 1646. I visited the old graveyard but found nothing of great age. the weather effects the stone some + they fall to pieces. there were the graves of two sailors. who perished in -- snow after being shipwrecked. One day I went up to Somsert- stopping at **Laukety** light House on the way walking by the homes. Somsert is a queer place built by old sea. captains + fishermen

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no one could appreciate but one who would see it themselves. The houses that are put up new are built on the old place. + they are all named in old English style. + lettering

Caroline wrote old English examples here see page 37

+ other names. The surf is fine + bathing is the great occasion of the day.

The last day I was in Nantucket. I went to see the Smugglers house. opposite the Hotel. There is a curious place leading from the attic. down - a pair of stairs into a closet where it is thought goods, have been stored. As all records were burned nothing is known of who built it or of the original owners. The family who now occupy it has owned it for the last eighty years. It is said to be one of the oldest houses in Nantucket. They showed we an immense black bottle which was found in a cabinet in the house - proving that the people had good liquor in quantity *

**(this was written along the left margin)*

she showed us an old spoon which was made in 1668. with the family names engraved in it for several generations-

In the afternoon. we went to see Mrs McCleare museum. + hear the lecture. It was very amusing. She said she was over seventy. + was a relative or descendant of the Folger family. She had a large collection of curiosities. . but her manner of procedure was very funny. She had an old tortoise

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shell. comb. She said that it belonged to her sister Polly. that the Mother had given them each four dollars. to buy the comb with but Polly wanted a seven dollar comb. + by the time she earned the rest of the money. + had the comb made. They were all out of fashion + she had lost her hair. so she never had any good of it. She read an obituary ----
- of her Grandmother. the Grandmother gave each one of her grandchildren + Greatgrandchildren a spoon. My trip from Nantucket was very pleasant. Mr Ransdell member of Congress from New Bedford came over + met me + escorted me to the train at Bedford. At Martha's Vineyard I met Dr. McLeod + family.. who went as far as. New York with us. John Parker came with us. to New York to meet Mamie Dimmick. who was expected from Europe on the - German Steamer. The President met me at the Depot in Washington. I should have met him in New York the day before. but he made a mistake in saying what day he would be at Fall River.

In about six days after my return to Deer Park. We went to the -Celebration- of the Old Log Cottage near Philadelphia. It was a very enjoyable time. Our

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visits to Mr Wanamakers. was delightful. . This Anniversary was a great thing. for that part of the Country. + the inhabitants gathered for miles + miles around. We had about six miles to ride + as there had been no rain for a week or two the roads were deep with dust. . The fences on the side of the roads were decorated with flags. Some had their every ----- on six posts. + or two large handsome arches. were erected. one. was

principally covered with sun flowers. I think it must have taken a good acre to have raised them all. . The day was hot + the dirt heavier unbearable. so the ladies were forced to return. before the ceremonies had progressed very far.

(Monday)

I remained at Mr Wanamakers. until Monday. when I returned to Deer Park the President joining me at Washington... Father enjoyed his trip to this Anniversary and he an opportunity to visit the Old graveyard at Hartsville which contain the graves of his ancestors John Scott. (----- - **from Laird of Amas**) . Our stay at Deer Park was not much longer.

(Sept. 21st)

Mamie + the children returned to Indianapolis - on the **21st of Sept.** + we left for Washington the **27th.** It got so cold that

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we were glad to get away. . We also had to entertain. the Congress of Americans which met in Washington on the - **2nd (Oct.)** - First it was thought - that we would give them a reception in the evening then it was changed until afternoon - + finally settled down to a brunch. at which the females were not expected. Grace Davis was with me - + we went down into the Blue room + were introduced + received the gentlemen - but when they moved through the hall to the elevator we stepped into it + returned.

The table was very handsome I had half a globe. made. with the three America's on it for the Center piece. There was a very good joke connected with it. The disk was made with red white + pink carnations. representing the Continents. + the water was formed by . . olive leaves. . In representing. some islands that there is a controversey or difficulty over between France + Chili. The Island had the same color as Chile. One of the representatives congratulated Mr Blaine. that we. were with them in the difficulty. The next week. was the Conclave of the Knights Templars. + it was almost equal to the Inauguration in numbers. It was estimated

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that there were thirty thousand people in town Brass bands. were. stand out ...

(Tuesday, Oct. 8th)

On Tuesday (8th) was the day of the grand parade-. A stand was erected in front. of the House. similiar to to the one on Inauguration day. only smaller. for the President to receive from-. Ms Butterworth Mrs. Parker. Mrs Dr Gardner Jessie Miller + myself went over with the President + Cabinet-. I remained about two hours but it was so cold that we returned to the House.

(Wednesday, Oct 9th)

Wednesday evening we gave them a reception here. I had five floral designs made - two Maltese Crosses. one Cresent + Star. one square . + ----- which were placed on the four mantles. they were about three feet square. I also had a helmet + swords. made. the same size. + placed on the Center piece in the middle of the Room. Flags were draped

over the East window + over the ----- in were in ----- were the words “----- **Sir Knights.**” plants were placed around the room + every thing looked very bright + pretty The Knights took. charge of the Outside decorations + made the grounds look like a fairy scene. . The ----- of the bushes were encircled with rows of various colored lights + the portico draped with flags with Knights emblems. on the the wall behind + all was illuminated with electricity. The Ushers who had been here twenty-five years. said the never saw

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place so beautiful. About ten thousand passed through. . I did not attempt to shake hands. It is physically impossible for me to do so with my hand that I caught in a car door a year or two ago.

Grace Davis staid with me until Saturday. the 13th Saturday). Mr + Mrs Halford came to stay a few days. but was taken sick + the doctor performed an operation on him. which required him to remain in bed for two weeks. so they have been here - ever since the eighth. The rats have nearly taken the building so it has become necessary. to get a man with Ferrets. to drive them out. They have become so numerous + bold. that they get up on the table in the Upper Hall + one got up in Mr Halfords bed. It is getting quite late but I have not put down the carpets yet. I have waited to keep them up as long as possible + Mr Halfords illness here has also delayed me. They went yesterday to Fortress Monroe. + to morrow I will begin by having the room that was used for nursery - repapered.

A German by the name of **Statral** came this evening + played for me on the Zither. He was a very fine performer-..+ the music was very fine. While Grace Davis was with me a Professor of Music. from Chicago. brought

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a boy about 14 years old to sing for us. He had a wonderful voice. His name was Kavanaugh.

I have been unable to write any in my journal for some time. These past two months have been varied. . My sister. continued to be ill. was taken from Stanford to New York. where. she was six or eight weeks. at the **Hah-----** Hospital. The last of November. I went over to Philadelphia with Mr Wanamaker. Father went with me. to make a visit to Eddie Lord at Rosemont. I went over Saturday + remained until. Monday. when Mrs Wanamaker. Mrs **Mamie** + myself. went on to New York. I had some shopping to do. On arriving in New York I found Mrs Lord - very much worse. which quite changed my plans. on preparation for the winter. I merely ordered one dress + a jacket. I had a very pleasant time with Mrs Wanamaker. Mr + Mrs Brown + Mr **Ha** came up from Trenton. and spent a day or two with us. at the Windsor Hotel we were beautifully treated. by the **Proprietor**.

(Thursday)

On. Thursday afternoon we returned to **Lindenhurst**.

(Friday)

Mamie. --. had a tea on Friday-. It was her. debut. . not withstanding that the rain poured all day + evening there were quite a number of People there.

(Saturday)

Notwithstanding the continued hard rain. we went into Philadelphia on Saturday. to an

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during the month of Nov I went to the Opera ----- + ----- to the Theater. nice to hear the Opera **Mansfield** treated us quite royally- sent me a box to the Play + had a bunch of eloquent roses for me when I got there.

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exhibition of China. .

(Sunday)

I was sick Sunday + was not out of bed.

(Tuesday)

Tuesday we returned to Washington. . They concluded to bring my sister over to Washington. which they did on the 26th of November. She seemed to grown worse. night along. . I had intended to go out to the opening of the **Auchtman** in Chicago. but when the time came for us to start she was so ill that I gave it up-. + it was well I did for she died. the day before they returned.(the 10th of Dec). . She suffered much + we could not but feel relieved when she was released from her suffering. I was. back + forth for. two weeks but could not do much to relieve them. they had a most excellent nurse (A Miss. Averell.!) whom they brought from New York. . a perfect nurse. + could take the same charge of the sick as a physician.

(Thursday, December 12th)

Mrs Lord was buried on Thursday (12th) **from** the Church of the Incarnation. + buried at Rock Creek Cemetery. where John Parker bought a lot. . The time after the funeral + Christmas was taken up with arrangements for Christmas. . The children are back. with us. + we enjoy so having them here, they seem to bring so much life to the House. The Christmas Tree was in the - large - room. on the north side of the House (Arthur's old room) which I had

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repapered + prepared for a guest room - They children had a good time, + went to bed tired out. Lizzie + John Parker + Mamie Dimmick. also John Anderson. took dinner with us I had some very handsome presents. a pair diamond ear rings. an opera glass a silver

martin spoon cup + saucer. two fine Handkerchiefs pair gold combs + many other things.

Year 1890

New Years' day begins the season. but on account of my sisters recent death. I thought it better not to appear at the reception. . So I proposed that Mamie should take my place. It was very peculiar. how quickly some of the Democratic newspapers took up the arrangement + tried to make it appear . that my daughter's taking the head of the receiving line. was an indignity to the other ladies of the Cabinet. They also tried to make it appear. that there was bad feeling between Mrs Blaine + myself also Mrs Morton + myself. . we are on the best of terms. in fact I am exceedingly fond of Mrs Morton. I invited Mrs Elkins + Miss Sallie Elkins to come down + be with us. also Miss **Louise** Shepard. Col Elliott Shepards. daughter of New York. Miss Shepard could not

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come. But Mrs Elkins + Sallie came-. Also Mrs Mary Finley from Baltimore came over.

(Tuesday)

Mrs Elkins + Sallie came Tuesday afternoon +

Mrs Finley.

(Wednesday)

Wednesday morning. Mrs Elkins went down stairs with Secretary Blaine. Mrs Blaine was not here - on account of the sudden death of her sister - a few days before Mr Blaines mother also died within a day or two of the other death. I shall have to take my place - in the official duties of the White House we give the Cabinet dinner.

(Tuesday, Jan 17th)

On Tuesday 17th **which** I shall go to. + also appear at the Diplomatic Reception on the 14th (*Jan*). It is absurd + also an impossibility to attempt to go into mourning + keep up official duties. So I have concluded to appear at the Diplomatic Reception on the 14th.

The New Years reception was a great success. those who have had good opportunities to know say it was the most brilliant reception ever held here- I suppose it will quiet the ---- + the prophecies of those - who were so disappointed. at the Clevelands going out. who said. "there would be nothing going on at the White House Under the Harrisons. they can dry up their mourning for we will do all we can to have the White House. all it ever was. before the Cleveland regime.

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The week ending on the eleventh was the beginning of the Society gaiety of the season.

(Tuesday, Jan)

On Tuesday evening we gave - the first state dinner. which is said to be one of the handsomest ever given in the White House The decorations in the East room. were - very fine. (Mrs. Ex Secretary) Chandler said they were finer + more beautiful then she has ever seen there not excepting Millie Grants wedding. The newspapers -give a very good account which I passed on. . There was one feature in the entertainment which I was very much pleased with. that was the lack of stiffness which have generally characterized all such dinners. + I believe all felt at ease + at home **Damonet** served. the dinner. also furnished the waiters. which were white. . it caused some comment in the papers. as being the first for many years which white waiters had served. The Colored servants have had a particular claim on the attendance here.

(Jan 9th)

Mrs Morton - gave- a dinner. on. the -9th- It was a very beautiful dinner. after the dinner - a number of people were worked in + were well represented by the Diplomats.

(Thursday)

On Thursday had Mrs Wanamaker. + guest consisting of Mrs **Hamm**. Mrs Wilson + Mrs Morgan to lunch informally. . On Saturday was invited to Mrs Wanamakers to lunch... . The Grippe has taken Washington this week. It is a very peculiar disease. + the Physicians cannot account for it

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*(the following was scratched out by Caroline) The week of Jan. 14th was the week of the Diplomatic dinner. what I dreaded very much. ----- that it would be the **gralish** task to entertain so many persons who spoke - different languages.*

(Tuesday, Jan 14th)

Tuesday. Jan 14th. I attended a lunch given to Mrs Grant at . Mrs **Fr** McLeans - . I had invitations. out for. a. lunch- for Mrs Grant for Thursday. I expected to have - 35 guests

(Wednesday, Jan 15th)

but on Wednesday evening. Walter Blaine died very suddenly. from. Pnuemonia. produced by the Grip.

(Thursday, Jan 16th)

so early Thursday. morning I had to with-draw my invitations. I was quite disappointed. for I had a desire to entertain. Mrs G. .

(Saturday, Jan 18th)

He was buried. on. Saturday. in the Cemetery at Georgetown. It is a hard blow to the family + all think. that his Father will hardly know how to get along without him

(Tuesday, Jan 21st)

Mrs Allen + Mary. came to to make us a visit arriving on Tuesday.

The 14th was the Diplomatic. reception which was a very brilliant. + a beautiful affair. .

will have to ----- a description to the correspondents. who generally give the matter great attention. The East room was more beautifully decorated then before. .

(Jan 21st)

On the 21st we gave the Diplomatic dinner. this dinner I dreaded

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very much. knowing how hard it would be to entertain so many different nationalities.

but I think every thing passes off. smoothly + pleasantly. Col Ernest had the East room over elaborately. decorated than at the Cabinet dinner + **Walker** served a good dinner.

Mrs Hale told me that a diplomate said it was the finest state dinner he ever. ate at the White House. Mamie who was taken sick at the reception the -night before- was not able to be present Mrs Allen. who was still here took her place.

(Saturday)

Saturday. was my first public reception. this season being short there will be but one more. Mrs. **Faye** Mrs **Lodge** + Mrs Clarkson. assisted me. Mr **Dubors** who has been here a long time. said It was the worst appearing crowd he ever saw at an afternoon reception This was the last reception of the season.

(The following section was marked out by Caroline)

*Walker Blaine was sick with the Grippe + died the next week. + . Mrs Coppinger who came from New York. was also taken sick. + died. + last of all. the sad disaster of fire + death of Mrs + Mrs Tracey. it was thought best that all entertainments should cease until after lent. . The bodies of Mrs Tracey + daughter were brought here Monday- + the **Secretary** was also brought here on Tuesday*

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The President. has been suffering from it + Mary Lodge (baby) + Benjamin came down with it on Saturday evening. . This is a **queer** season up to this date. there has not been cold enough weather to produce any ice. This (Sabbath morning) the President + myself walked around the south grounds- + found several. shrubs. were in blossom. the yellow Jasmine a little white flower + the burning bush - /Japonica/ were all in blossom the Dandelions. were - also in flower - + in many placed. gone to seed. . The Physicians think this disease - is produced by the weather-. + some look with anxiety to the coming summer. Unless we do have some cold weather. I am afraid of severe sickness. I wanted Miss Sewell (daughter of Ex Senator Sewell) to make us a visit + be here to the Diplomatic Reception. but she was unable to come. Mrs + Miss Mary Allen from Indianapolis will be here - The Diplomatic dinner was a success. Mrs Allen + Mary were with us. . We were glad that they had the opportunity of seeing it. I think extra effort was made to decorate the East room and all said it was more beautiful than ever before. . Mrs Allen + Mary left Thursday + Mrs Batio + Martindale came Friday.

(Tuesday)

Tuesday night was the reception for the Judges + Congress. It was a very beautiful reception. but I will **have a description** to the papers- as they can do it much better

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This was the last entertainment given. another dinner + reception to the Army + Navy was intended + on the official program.

(Sabbath, Feb 2nd)

but on Sabbath morning Mr Blaine's daughter Mrs Carpenter died.

(Monday, Feb 3rd)

And on Monday morning the fire and disaster to the Tracy family occurred. so all entertainments were closed until after Lent. The invitations to the Judges dinner were out. + all arrangements were made but we recalled them at once This fire I presume will be always shrouded in Mystery. about quarter past seven in the morning. Josephine (my maid) called us to tell us that Secretary Tracys house was on fire. The President immediately dressed + ordered the carriage. + Robert (Mr McKee) + he went over to see if they could be any assistance. before they had been gone many minutes. rumors of the character of the calamity began to come in the news of Miss Tracy's death + of one of the servants, + of Mr Tracys - being carried down the -ladders- (insensible) reached us about. half past eight Mr McKee returned + told us that Mrs Tracy has breathed her last.

before he left. That the President was with the Secretary. who was screaming The President remained all morning with him, helping + comforting him as well

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as he could. he broke the news of Mrs Tracy's death to the Secretary when it could no longer be concealed. . It was thought best in consolation with the President that the bodies be brought to the White House for burial . . as the Tracys belonged to the official family. + having no roof for their heads. it seemed as if the White House was the proper place.

(Monday, Feb 3rd)

The bodies were brought here on Monday evening +

(Tuesday, Feb 4th)

Mr Tracy-. followed on Tuesday he had recovered. so as to be about he had no burn. or hurt. was merely overcome with the -smoke- + gas -

(Monday, Feb 3rd)

His son. came at one ocl. Monday night.

(Wednesday, Feb 5th)

The funeral was held in the East room. on Wednesday morning it was a very impressive. ceremony the newspaper account is very good.Of course after all this. the question of

holding any receptions. was settled + it was decided to withdraw all invitations. which the Cabinet + The President did. . . So we entered Lent two weeks sooner then was expected. Mr Tracy + son spent a week with us. . . I had expected to give the young people an entertainment-. but will do that early in April.

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(Tuesday, Feb 11th)

On Tuesday 11th of the following week. Mr **Balionau.** sent his Yacht down. for Mr Tracy + the President to take a trip to Fortress Monroe. . As. neither could go Robert, Mame & Mame Dimmick - with- Mr + Mrs Thompson took it + spent the week returning Saturday afternoon