

NOTES FROM DIARY.

1857-1861.

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No.36, Vol.1D.

SUBJECT.

At West Point as Instructor, U.S.M.A.

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1887-1888.

No. 26, Vol. 1D.

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At West Point on Thursday, U.S.N.A.



*As Instructor U S Ma*  
*1857 to 1861 -*

N O T E S.

Arrival at West Point September 23rd, 1857 -- went up river on Thomas Powell; wife, two children and nurse; took rooms at Roe's Hotel. Rev. Dr. French Chaplain and Prof. of Ethics wanted me for his assistant, but I went into Prof. Church's Mathematical Division. I heard the 3rd section from eight to half past nine, and the 4th from half past nine to eleven.

Was glad of the opportunity of conducting a Sabbath School at the soldiers' church, beginning Sunday, Sept. 27th. Met there Sergeant Owens, the policeman, and Mr. Morrison, the tailor. - Miss Blanche Berard special friend of the family. - Visit of Colonel Colt (Colt's revolver).

Sept. 28 - Oct. Arrived with family and Mrs. Thompson at Buttermilk Falls; visited Maj. Laidley and Capt. Benton at quarters of the latter -- Reading "The Tongue of Fire". Daily visit to young man named Haveland in the soldiers' hospital.

Oct. 2. Dr. French wanted me to be baptised hypothetically; that is rebaptised so as to accompany my wife and children in that ceremony. I did not agree to this.

Oct. 7. Constant talking in the section room trying to my lungs (soon recuperated) - afternoon took Guy to Cold Spring; he enjoyed the pigeons, hens, dogs and pigs in the street; there about two hours.

Oct. 8. Visited Haveland at hospital and read to him from Vickar's Life. Had a visit from Rev. Mr. Weston and wife from Augusta, Me.; also from Lieut. C. C. Lee.



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Oct. 4. Visited Haveland at hospital and read to him  
from Victor's Life. Had a visit from Rev. Mr. Weston and wife  
from Augusta, Me.; also from Lieut. G. C. Lee.



Oct. 11, Sunday. Mrs. Howard was baptised by Dr. French. Gave an address to the people of the little church on "The Invitation of the Master."

Oct. 14. With Mr. and Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Howard and myself visited little Episcopal church near Cozzens; took Mr. Weston to visit Haveland; enjoyed his kind talk to him. Today Lieut. Blunt and Miss Maggie Church were married at Professor Church's house.

Oct. 17. Gen. Totten, Chief of Engineers, inspected the Post and garrison; all the officers in full uniform, myself included; visited him at the Superintendent's in the evening.

Oct. 19. Read a book aloud, called "The General's Widow".

Oct. 21. Mrs. Howard and myself preparing the little cottage at the gate; making arrangements for moving in.

Oct. 22. Moving into the cottage; pretty cold house at this season. Guy homesick, begging to go back to hotel; naturally quite disordered.

Oct. 23. The little house quite retired; presents a pretty picture in the front door yard with family present; great relief from the crowded hotel.

Oct. 25. Supt. of Sunday School started bible class with good prospects.

Oct. 26. Learned today that our cottage is called "Elm Cottage"; front hall just one yard square - hardly room



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enough to turn around upstairs. Breakfast habitually about seven; have to be in recitation at eight.

Oct. 28. At Buttermilk Falls, now called Highland Falls, all the family were shopping except the baby, Grace; she stayed with the nurse all the time we were away.

Oct. 29. Shopped some at Cold Spring to finish up our furnishing.

Oct. 31. Had Lieut. and Mrs. Thompson to dine with us. They came bringing their baby and servant. Our little house was well filled. Mention a visit to Dr. Moore; his singular impoliteness; afterwards very kind to Guy when he was ill.

1857

Nov. 1. (All Saints' Day) - after sermon the children were carried forward for baptism; Lieut. Huse, Artillery, father and mother the sponsors for Guy; Miss Blanche Berard, father and mother sponsors for Grace. Grace, the baby, was baptised first; Guy rather disliked any attempt at laying on of the hands during the ceremony; after the second application and when he saw the third coming he cried out, "No more water". which amused Prof. Church and many others.

Nov. 4. Mrs. Howard's birthday; putting down carpets in the chambers; lectured at little church to the soldiers and their friends.

Nov. 6. Long ride below Highland Falls to near Ft. Montgomery and back with the family - paid a visit to Lieut.



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Absolom Bairds quarters - afterwards visited Sir Newton Alexander, a British officer, at the hotel. He was ill at the time.

Nov. 7. Had a long letter from Col. L. L. Loomis still commanding Department of Florida.

Sunday, Nov. 8. My 27th birthday - a beautiful Sabbath. 1857

Nov. 9. In the evening visited Col. William J. Hardee (then Commandant of Cadets) agreed to teach his children in private recitations.

Nov. 14. Mrs. Howard took little Mary, her nurse, and went to Newburg in the morning, taking both the children. Her shopping was completed when I joined her there in the evening; then we visited the Philipps (Miss Arville, Miss Pamela and Miss Ada); they were first cousins of my father; had a fine girls' school; missed connection at Garrisons; crossed Hudson in a small boat; strong wind, very cold; had to walk from the dock to our cottage; baby cried all the way, but smiled pleasantly as soon as we reached home.

Nov. 16. Great doubts about exercising the functions of a minister so much at the little church - still I kept on preparing and delivering lectures, ten on the Lord's Prayer and several on the ten commandments.

Nov. 20. Drummer Boy W. J. Skinner came to my quarters for instruction. He came several times after that. (Forty-five years afterward a gray headed man spoke among Mr. Wanamaker's Brotherhood and I heard him telling several hundred people of how



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Tuesday, Nov. 24. Reading Chapin's Lectures.

Nov. 27. Wrote long letter to my cousin Oliver Otis Woodman. (He settled in Natchez, Miss.)

Dec. 7. After a ride found Aunt Anne Lee at our house - came for a visit.

Dec. 16. Aunt has been telling us of her younger days, much about grandfather and grandmother. This is Guy's birthday; two years old today.

Dec. 17. Aunt Anne goes with us to Highland Falls and then to the National Cemetery, West Point.

Dec. 19. Writing to my brother Rowland; spilled my ink over the whole page; had to recopy the last two; good lesson for patience.

Dec. 20. Sunday. First record of meeting Rev. Mr. Edwards who preached an admirable sermon at the little church. He and I became strong friends, meeting often in our lives.

Dec. 24. Received a letter from a cadet, Mr. Tannatt, who wanted to know if from my experience I thought a young man could lead a Christian life in the army. I answered his letter at considerable length. This young man a little later became a teacher in the Sunday School.



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Dec. 30. With recitations in the morning and preparing for them; the cares of the household; the continuous study for Sunday and Wednesday lectures in the little church; and the teaching of Lieut. Col. Hardee's children, with an increasing correspondence, I managed to keep myself pretty busy up to the end of the year 1857.

1858

New Years Day, 1858. Conformed to custom, dressed in full uniform with sash belt, etc. and then went from house to house, eating a little cake at one and another and drinking some coffee - avoided wine though I found it at every house except the Superintendent's.

Jan. 2. Semiannual examinations commenced. Cadet Tannatt visited us in the evening Saturday, leaving me Spurgeon's sermons to read. Lieut. Robert of the Engineers helped me at the little chapel on Sunday night, paying a short visit after the meeting.

Thursday, Jan. 7. Last Monday examined my section before the Academic Board, in full uniform; also each instructor in full uniform while his classes were being examined. Prof. Church allowed me to question; complained that I did not stop to correct a cadet who made an error. Have taken now a new scholar, the daughter of our Post Trader, Mr. Clark. She took her first lesson today. It was customary for instructors to be officer of the day in their turn during the examinations.

Jan. 9. A good letter from mother.



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Thursday, Jan. 14., 1858. Schedule for the day:

Preparation of mathematical lesson for cadet section room, about an hour; three hours at academy with classes; one hour with Col. Hardee's family teaching his daughters; another hour teaching Miss Clark at home; about an hour studying the news of the day; this, with letter writing and preparation of lectures at night, keeps me pretty busy; read some aloud every day to my wife and lady friend.

Jan. 26. Invited to Mr. Stewart's (the man who furnishes carriages for the Post) to meet Presiding Elder, Dr. Martindale, an aged man full of gentleness, dignity and piety. Attended a concert by the West Point band, using stringed instruments.

Jan. 22. Sunday before this went to Highland Falls to love feast; heard Dr. Martindale with profit - heard him again in the evening. Wednesday evening gave my last lecture to the soldiers on the Lord's Prayer; had a good attendance.

Jan. 24. Sunday. Prof. Weir's little boy Julian very ill with scarlet fever. (Prof. Weir next door neighbor.) Walked to Rev. Mr. Wells' church called "Holy Innocents". Mr. Wells built this carefully facing it toward Jerusalem; Mr. Wells very high church - thinks I ought not to lecture without being ordained.

Jan. 28. Wrote P. S. Perley (my classmate in college).

Feb. 2. Paid visit to the hospital; Mr. Tannatt at cadets' hospital. Sunday evening before had a long walk with



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Col. William J. Hardee; went round by Ft. Putt, passed below Mr. Kinsley's and returned through lower gate. Col. Hardee said that he had made a profession of religion while young and was sorry to find himself so worldly. Hardee a very courteous gentleman at all times, and good officer.

Feb. 8. Best friend said today that I was eager to accomplish very much, that is very ambitious. This I deprecated, still one cannot do too much for the benefit of others unless to the detriment of his own. For some time the scarlet fever prevailing, services at the church were suspended.

Feb. 14. Anniversary of our marriage; three years today. Besides usual duties, reading aloud in my family Dr. Guthrie's Life.

Feb. 21. A little trouble in our Sunday School; Sergeant Owens withdrew his family.

Feb. 22. Went over to Cold Spring on the ice in a sleigh; unusual proceeding; object, shopping.

Feb. 25. A duel between two of our officers, Williams and Bell, gave rise to considerable discussion as to the right and wrong of duelling. Had a call from the wife of Lieut. Childs (we find him a Confederate officer at the close of the war in North Carolina.) Wrote Uncle Edward Waite, my wife's great uncle never to be forgotten.

March 3. Gave my last lecture to the soldiers, being



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March 8. Still corresponding with Mr. Rynde and Col. Loomis at Tampa, Fla. Had a long conversation with a professed infidel, Seville.

March 16. Lieut. Alexander (an officer of the Engineers who became Chief of Artillery for Longstreet, was so at the battle of Gettysburg) overtook me on my way home and walked along; gave me two good books and also \$5 to be expended in the way I thought would be best for Christian work. Alexander came into our home and I had a pleasant social talk with him. "He wants to be thought by his men to be a Christian and have their sympathy and interest during an expedition upon which he is just going." Many individuals whose hearts were troubled came about this time one by one to talk with me at my house.

March 25. The Thompsons have left. They were close personal friends.

April 1. Thursday. "Yesterday I addressed the Sapper and Miner Company, to leave on the morrow for Utah. " The little soldiers' church was filled; many of the soldiers of this company became officers during the Civil War. Lieut. Robert visited our



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home tonight and remained some time.. He is a Christian officer of marked ability.

Thursday, March 25. "I have organized a prayer meeting for the cadets and will meet them during that half hour after supper when cadets are at leisure. We had our first meeting tonight. All the Christian cadets that I know of in the corps came. There were seven cadets, all earnest and glad of the opportunity of meeting thus for social prayer and conversation."

Apr. 12. Had a good meeting with the cadets; young men interested; each has some <sup>part</sup> to perform and this helps them.

Apr. 21. My wife and I took a walk toward Crow Nest. At the end of half an hour Mary, the nurse girl, overtook us out of breath from running, near cadet's ~~quarters~~ <sup>Cemetery</sup>, and said the baby (Grace) was sick, very sick. Mrs. Howard and I ran as hard as we could, but I reached the house some time first; found Mrs. Weir holding the child; She stretched her hands to me with the baby and said, "Your dear little lamb." Grace was white as a sheet with a little blood around her mouth. Instantly I put my finger into her mouth and removed from her throat one of Guy's marbles that had remained there choking her <sup>more than</sup> for half an hour. I had turned the child with her head down, so that the marble came out readily and the baby was relieved. Mary had run to the cadet's hospital first before going for us.

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May 2. Aunt Anne Lee visited us again in great dis-



tress from a cancer. Her son Perry was with her (Col. Samuel Perry Lee; lost his arm at Gettysburg).

May 6. Besides my routine duties I have been reading "Havelock's Life." Mention Cadet Benjamin who had quite a history in the war.

May 10. Prof. Weir showed us some of his beautiful paintings at his studio; one "The Infant's Dream" a sleeping child with beautiful angels hovering around. Read aloud of from J. H. Newman's "Intermediate State."

May 19. A letter from Chas. H. Mulliken tells of his prosperity and happiness.

May 20. In the night little Guy attacked with croup; had to hurry down to the cadets' hospital for medicine; next day the croup was relieved and he was quite well again. Saw Mr. Tannatt at hospital; he had been without sleep from Tuesday till Sunday; is getting a little better; not yet out of danger.

June 16. Annual examination. Hon. Mr. McRery of Kentucky made a speech in the chapel on Friday evening. On Monday evening Mr. Wells of New Hampshire addressed the graduating class, officers, etc. on the presentation of diplomas, giving excellent advice. Major Delafield the Superintendent. Everybody attended reception at his house. Work now done for the term; shall start for Maine today; went one p.m. toward New York; family: my wife, Guy, Grace and Miss Brewster, Laura's cousin; royal passage down the river on the Albany boat; stayed over night



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at "The Brandreth House"; leaving family visited my cousins the Lees in Brooklyn; stayed with them over night; went from New York eastward by Fall River route. (While in New York we visited Governor's Island and the New York Arsenal; saw Lieut. and Mrs. Drake whom I knew in Florida; also Lieut. and Mrs. Alexander, etc. etc.) Some ladies and gentlemen entertained us on Fall River boat with selected pieces, singing. Went to Ft. Independence and visited our friends Lieut. and Mrs. Thompson, remaining with them till Monday afternoon; then we left for Portland by steamer and hastened on by rail to Leeds, finding father and mother at home to welcome us. From Leeds as a center we rode over the country to visit our friends and relatives in the neighboring towns. It was during this vacation that my brother, C. H. Howard, gave an address at Brunswick, speaking for the prize. I was marshal at commencement the day Theodore Parker spoke. He gave quite a considerable offense to old fashioned Christians; said the Saviour was the most popular god of modern times. Visited my other brother, Rowland, at Harpswell and lectured for him once or twice - gave another address in the Congregational meeting house in Brunswick, a trying occasion, speaking before the professors. 1858

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Sept. 6. Mrs. Howard went to New York alone for the first time; the little boy said with tears, "I don't want mamma to stay all night." I took him up and walked with him and he soon fell asleep.

Superintendent declined to permit our meeting in Dialectic Hall; said he must provide some other place; meetings, however, not given over.

Sept. 7. Met my old Colonel, L. L. Loomis, returned from Florida; he was introduced to my family.

Sept. 9. Opened the cadet meeting after vacation in one of the rooms of the barracks. Cadet Moses Wright, afterwards a distinguished Confederate officer, led the meeting. This meeting for conference and prayer has continued now <sup>(1903)</sup> for forty-five years. Permission was later given for Dialectic Hall.

Sketch of half hour at this meeting: 1. Reading portion 54th Isaiah; 2. Cadet Wright's supplication; 3. Reading extracts from book of sermons accompanied by a few words of explanation by myself; 4. Two cadets follow each other in prayer; 5. I ask if anybody has a word to say. A young man who had not been there before spoke, telling his peculiar trials and temptations as a cadet and asked for sympathy and prayer. He said he was only a young convert. I gave a few words of encouragement, showing that he had more for him than against him. At this instant call to quarters blew while we were all reciting our Lord's Prayer together. Such is a brief sketch of the half hour allowed



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to us on Tuesday and Friday evenings in the barrack room.

Sept. 12. Became deeply interested in the family of Sergeant Rose, a good soldier whose wife was afflicted with cancer; met him that day; he showed me card of physician who claimed that he could cure all cancers without using the knife. It was a fake.

The brother-in-law of Lieut. Fry was at this time very ill, near his death. (Lieut. Fry became Provost Marshal General during the great war.)

Sept. 13. The wife of Lieut C. C. Lee came down from Watervliet with her baby Annie to pay us a visit. Gives a good account of Lieut. C. C. Lee, my friend.

Sept. 14. Working hard on my lecture for Wednesday evening; then harvested some potatoes in my garden for exercise; visited Cadet Kingsbury sick in cadets' hospital (he had an interesting war history; killed in service); he was help to me when a cadet. Mention Cadet Torbert who became a general in the cavalry under General Merritt. Of Kingsbury I said, "He is an intelligent young man of more than ordinary ability."

Sept. 18. Lectured Wednesday evening; our new choir did admirably; yesterday, Friday went to Newberg after recitations; visited my cousins the Philippses; also Prof. Sprole who was my professor and ethical teacher when a cadet; also saw Mrs. Sprole and their daughter Rebecca. Prof. and myself took a walk to see his new church; said he had been removed from the chaplaincy at



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