

Lizzie Alcott's Hillside Diary

Alcott, Elizabeth Sewell, A.MS. diary 19 Apr-4 Oct 1846, Amos Bronson Alcott papers, MS Am 1130.9 (24)
Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

April 1846 (ten years old)

Sunday 19 (1) [April]

Father walked in the woods with us. We saw some pretty trees to set out in the yard at home, I read in the “White Rose,” and cleared out my trunk. We went on the hill to see the rainbow, it was very beautiful. Abba and I went to the brook. I sewed a little in Louisa’s room.

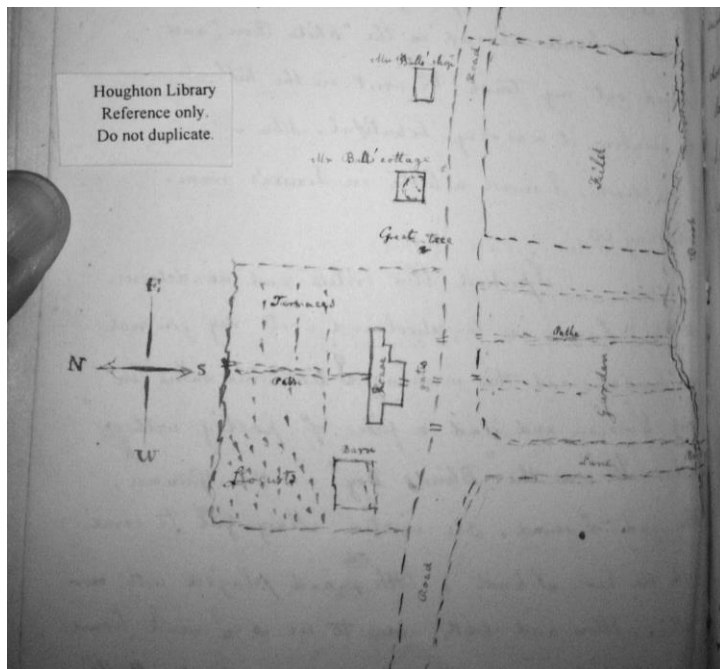
Loved beauty, a chip off the old block. 😊

I picked blue violets and dandelions. **Loved flowers and knew many by name.** At ten I came in to school and wrote my journal for Sunday, and this morning I did some sums in long Division, and read a piece of poetry with father. It was the "Blind Boy." **See file.** In the afternoon, Abba and I sewed. I invited Mary Gill to come and see her. I knit a little, and played with our dollies. Ellen and Edith came to see us. I went home with them. When I got back, I walked by Mr. Bulls'

(2) with Abba to Mrs. Richardson's and drew her baby in the little wagon. The air was very cool.

Tuesday 21 (2) [April]

It was a beautiful morning. I made my bed and cleared mothers' room. After breakfast some Shaker women came over and talked with father. I sewed some before I came into school and drew this little map of our place, but could not do it very well so father helped some about it.



(3)

In the afternoon, I sewed for my doll, and Mother read to us while we sewed. Enjoyed sewing for her doll and being read to by her mother. I spent a pleasant afternoon. In the evening Miss Foord and Mr. Bradford came here.

Wednesday 22 (3) [April]

I sewed a little, then went to the village to carry some books. When I got back, I carried my doll to the hill to the little school house. **See Matteson's Annotated Little Women for picture of doll.** I picked violets. At ten, **I came into studies and did a few sums in Division, I like to do them very much, It does me some good to do them. Mathematical mind.** I finished the White Rose, and thought it was a good book. Abba and I played go to Boston. I went to the field to get some cranberries. I got a few, and some pretty leaves. Mother and Anna went to the lecture in

the evening. I washed the dishes, and sat in mother's chamber to sew a little before bedtime. I slept quite soundly.

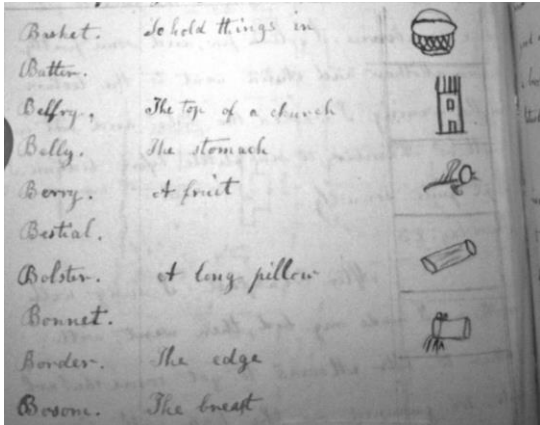
Thursday 23 (3) [April]

After breakfast I sung with mother. I made my bed, then went with father to Mr. Moore's to get some rhubarb roots. We jumped on the hay with Cary

(4) Moore. I came into school later than I meant to. I did some sums in Division. Father helped me about them. The Division had two figures. Father showed me how to put the cyphens (?). After dinner I sewed and knit in Mother's chamber. Abba and I picked some dandelion roots for greens. Went to the brook and got some flagroot.

Friday 24 (4) [April]

Abba went with Mr. Gowan to ride. **After making my bed, I and Anna dressed our dollies and sewed together.** I had a spelling and defining lesson.



Basket. To hold things in
Butter.
Belfry. The top of a church
Belly. The stomach
Berry. A fruit
Bestial.
Bolster. A long pillow
Bonnet.
Border. The edge
Bosom. The breast

(5) I had these lines for a reading lesson –

*'Tis merry, 'tis merry, in smiling spring,
To gather the fragrant May* (* - May-apple)
When the blithe young birds on green boughs sing,
And the lambs in the pastures play,
And flowers look look out from their inching leaves,
To allure the wandering bee;--
Oh! Happy then is the hand that weaves,*

Sweet mother, a wreath for thee! pg. 146 Russell's Sequel to the Primary Reader

These lines make me think of spring. I read them from "Mr. Russells' Primary Reader." I washed the dinner dishes, then sat in Mothers' chamber and knit a good while. Louisa and I washed our feet in the brook.

Saturday 25 (5) [April]

This morning I cleaned the knives. Louisa and I went to Mr. Leighton's garden to get some violets. When we got back, I went into school and did a few sums. After dinner Mother read from *Undine*, about a fisherman. I thought it was a pretty story. Louisa and I brought in some chives. Sarah Hosmer came here. Before I went to bed

(6) I read a little, **I slept with Anna, and had a dream.** I wish I could remember it.

Sunday 26(6) [April]

We played with our dollies, then I wrote my journal for Saturday afternoon, and this morning, Father read it. I will write a little poem Miss Foord taught me.

God smiles in flowers

*And in soft summer showers,
He sends his love;*

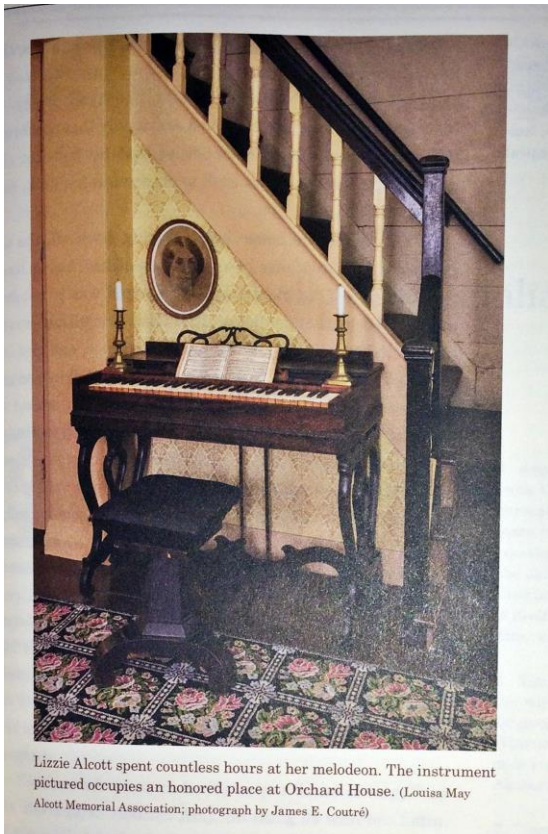
*Each dew drop speaks his praise,
And bubbling fount displays
In all their lucid nays,
Light from above.*

*The tiny waves that creep
Along the ravines steep
Obey his nod;
The golden orb of day
The ocean crested spray
To him due homage pay,
Creations' God.*

*(7) Thus friendship wears its bloom
And smiles beyond the tomb,
In its own light:
Oh! May that love be ours,
Which guides life's darkest hours
Cheering like smiling flowers
Hope's deepest night.*

Lovely poem of God and nature; I can see see Lizzie liked Miss Foord and why Miss Foord loved Thoreau.

I sat on the hill, and read my letters from mother a good while, and had a very quiet time. Enjoyed quiet time by herself. She enjoyed reflecting like Mary: "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) After supper Louisa and Mother went to the lecture. Anna read and I lay on the rug.. At nine I went to bed, and slept with Anna. Lizzie lets her deeds tell the story—she and Anna were close.



Lizzie Alcott spent countless hours at her melodeon. The instrument pictured occupies an honored place at Orchard House. (Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association; photograph by James E. Coutre)

Monday 27 (7) [April]

It was a sunny morning. I carried my dollies on the hills, then went to the village. **I sat in the cherry tree and wrote my journal.** I read to Abba about Oliver Twist. She cried because he was so poor. We walked to Mr. Gowan's, and saw the pigs and cows. **I played on the serephine.** I slept alone.

Sunday 28 (7) [April]

I went to village and saw Mrs. Houghton's little squirrel. I wished I had one. **No wishes? Not!** I went up stairs and sat before school. I did a

(8) sum in Division, but could not get it right for some time. It was a long one. **Conscientious, didn't give up until she solved the problem. Really took her father's maxim of trying hard to heart.** I spelt and defined this lesson.

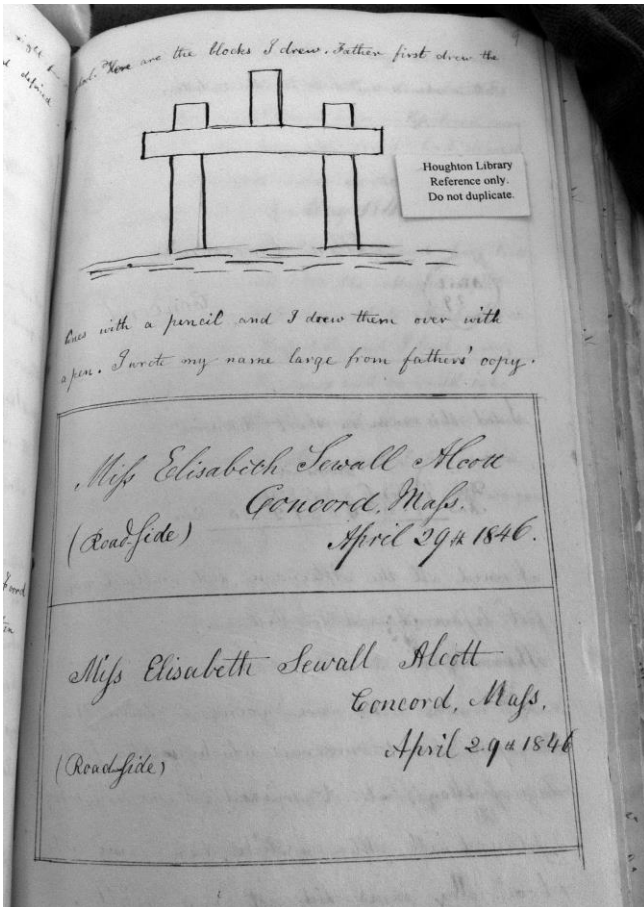
Buskin

Butcher. A man who kills cattle.

Butler. One who takes care of the wine.

Butter. Food

Buttock



Buxom

Capton

Carat

Caret. A point for something left out

Cargo. A load of barrels

Carnel

Carol. To sing

I sewed some with Abba and Mother. Miss Foord ate supper [with] us. We all talked a little while, then Abba and I went to bed.

Wednesday 29 (8) [April]

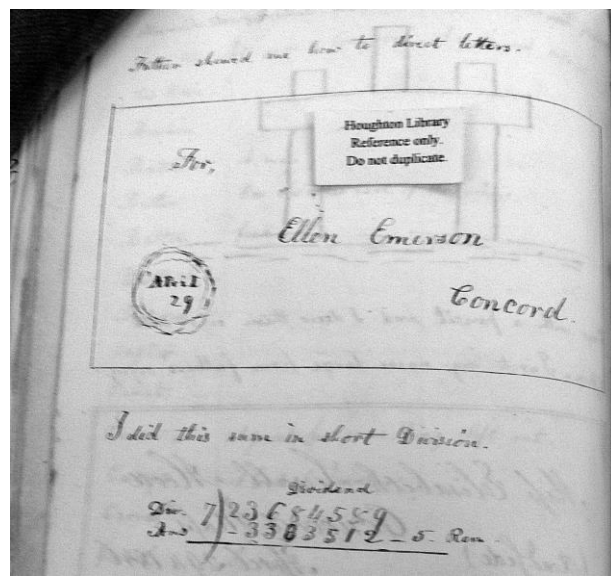
I helped Anna make the beds. Abba and I played in the school room. I drew and wrote my journal. I piled up some blocks and drew them. I ironed before I came in to

(9) the school. Here are the blocks I drew. Father first drew the lines with a pencil and I drew them over with a pen. **She may have drawn with abandon when she was 3 but now she needed her father's help. See page 97, Saxton** [see picture in journal]. I wrote my name large from father's copy.

(10)

Father showed me how to direct letters. **Drawing of envelope addressed to Ellen Emerson. Concord**

I did this sum in short Division.



(23,684,589 divided by 7 = 33,83512 **Rounded off—wow!**)

I sewed all the afternoon and washed my feet before I went to bed.

Thursday 30 (10) [April]

We were going to trim the May pole for tomorrow which is the first day of May, but it rained. I was very sorry. **No**

longings? Not! She was disappointed. I played with Abba a while, then came into school. My sums did not come right.

(11) Wrote the Multiplication Table on my slate from memory, and found I knew it all, and could think of quick. Abba and I played house. Miss Foord came with Ellen to trim the May Pole, for it had cleared off. Ellen and I picked violets on the hill.

May 1846

Friday 1 (10) [May]

After breakfast Miss Foord and Cary Pratt and Ellen came to march with the May Pole but Father took us in Mr. Watts' hay-cart to Mr. Emerson's. We danced round the May Pole, and I had a very pleasant time. Enjoyed the ritual. Mr. Emerson said he would take us to ride in the woods. It rained, so we came back home. Notice here she did not express disappointment—proves she did have favorite things. After the shower, Abba and I played in the barn. We made dirt-cakes, and a little wagon to draw our dollies in. Great variety of games, good imagination.

Saturday 2 (10) [May]

I made my bed, and red in "Fireside Stories" till school-time. I wrote my journal, and did two sums with two big figures. Pride of accomplishment. Anna helped me before Father came into the school room. He asked me to write the order of a day's doings, and I put it on the next page.

(11) A Day's Order

Rise at half past five/Dress and bathe/Breakfast at half past six/Sing, and make my bed/Play till ten/Study in the school-room till twelve/Dinner/Wash the dishes, and sweep the kitchen/Play till three/Sew till five/Supper./Read or play with Abba—I write my journal first when I come in to school. Like her father and Anna, liked order. The lack of that order in her life later on was very disruptive. It makes me wonder how she would have turned out had her life not been so chaotic.



Lizzie Alcott made this doll herself.
Younger sister May painted its face.
(Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association;
photograph by James E. Coutr )

Afternoon

I washed the dishes, and cleaned the knives. I made a little swing for my dolly, Very sweet how much she loved that doll then I went to see Eliza Hosmer. She showed me the little chickens and kittens. We went in the woods and got blue and white violets, and snow drops. They were very handsome, and were like stars. We had a very nice walk. After supper I came home and went to bed early.

Sunday 3 (12) [May]

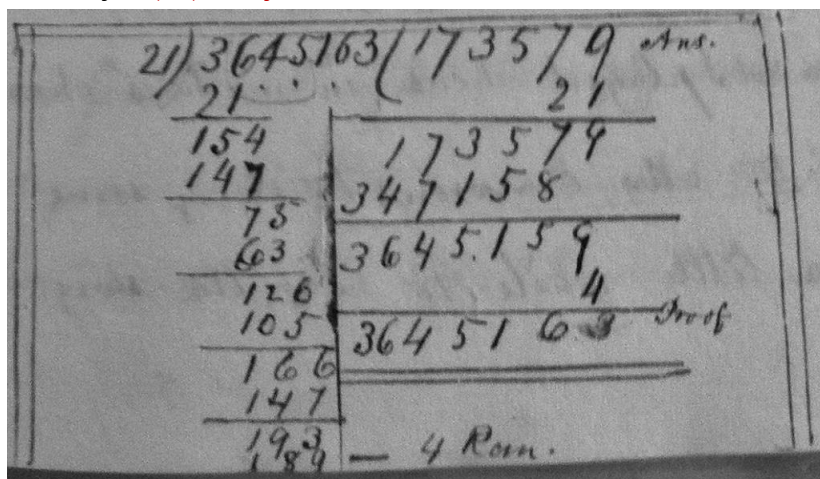
At breakfast Father read about Jesus. Some wicked men wished to kill him. We sang a little. I then wrote my journal for [a while?]

(13) while Father went to walk with Mr. Emerson. I read more in "Fireside Stories" about the little ... We walked to the brook for some flags.

Monday 4 (13) [May]

Father took us in the woods with him to get some trees. **These things are so reminiscent of our epic “June Pink” expedition.** ☺ **The dog went with us.** It was very pleasant. **A favorite activity and I can see why, remembering how much I enjoyed it with Mommy and our friends.** While Father was digging the pretty Lark and Spruce trees, I picked some handsome green mosses for my attic chamber. Father got me some little Pines and Larches to put in my garden. Father and I walked up the hill coming home to lighten the load for the horse. After dinner I washed the dishes. We thought of going to Walden water for some Hemlocks, but did not. I read in “Undine” a while, then went to the brook and got white violets and snow drops.

Tuesday 5 (13) [May]



I ironed a while after breakfast, then wrote my journal on my slate in my little chamber and did this sum in Division. **Amazing!**

(14) And begun a lesson in Geography about Massachusetts. I found some of the towns on the map, and Boston, the Capital. I wrote my journal in my book. Father gave me some lines to help me remember the number of days in the months.

“Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November. February hath twenty eight alone. And all the rest have thirty-one.”

I sat in my little chamber and read “Undine.” Mr. Emerson took us to ride. We went to the place where he going to build a lodge to study in. **He drove us to Waldon Pond and took Cary Pratt, Ellen, and me in a boat. It was very pleasant on the water.** We played, and picked flower in the woods.

Wednesday 6 (14) [May]

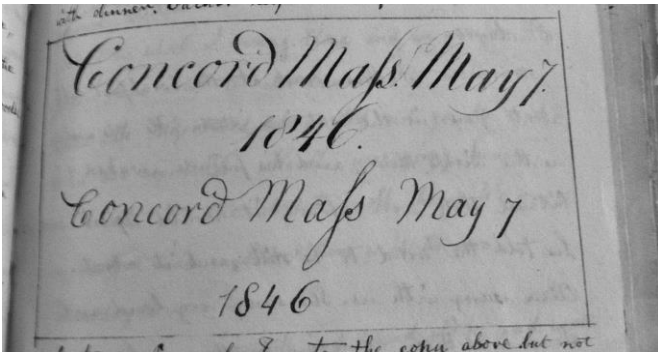
Abba and I played house. **Imagining having her own house and family someday – again letting the deed declare a wish.** I read a little in the Geography about seas and rivers. Father talked with me about the State of Massachusetts. I learned a little about it. After dinner Abba and I played house in mother’s chamber. I went to Mr. Emerson’s to carry some books. I sat a little while to hear the story. Miss

(15) Foord was reading to Cary Pratt. I thought I should like to go to school there, it seemed so pleasant. **She liked Miss Foord. Perhaps the presence of other children too.**

Thursday 7 (15) [May]

Louisa and I went to Mr. Hosmer’s meadow to get some flowers. When we got back it was so late. **I was unwell, so I could not come in to school.** I read in “Popular Tales,” the story called Blue Bird. Mother went to Boston in the evening.

Friday 8 (15) [May]



Abba and I carried our dolls on the hill to school. We picked dandelions. I did a few sums but did not make them prove. The girls were late with dinner. Father helped me after dinner some about my journal. I wrote the copy above but not as nicely as I wished to. **Perfectionist – this is beautiful work for a ten-year-old and I bet Bronson was proud.** I washed the dinner dishes, then read in my little chamber, some of the
(16) “Swiss Family Robinson. “ I found it very pretty. I was with Louisa in the paths father had made up and down

the hillside under the locust trees.

Saturday 9 **(16) [May]**

I put up a little shelf for my books. Abba and I played go to Boston. Abba and Eliza Hosmer came to see us: we played “Hide and Whoop,” and swung some. Mother came home, and brought cousin Eliza Wells to spend a few days with us. She swung with us, and ran about the paths. We ran down the hill swiftly. I mean to have written about Louisa’s and my walk this forenoon. We picked violets in Mr. Moore’s woods.

Sunday 10 **(16) [May]**

Father read, at the breakfast table, about Jesus in the boat in a storm. He was asleep as the winds blew, and his friends awaked him because they were afraid it would upset, and he told the wind to be still and it ceased. Eliza sung with us. She sung very loud and clear. I then came in to the school-room and wrote my journal a little while. It rained last night and made everything look fresh.

(note from Bronson: “Can you tell me what you are?”)

(17) Father read us a hymn about the rain. I read more in Swiss Family Robinson about the ship wreck. We went on the hill and Eliza picked violets to give mother.

After breakfast Father took us to Walden Pond because Eliza had not seen it. Father got some very pretty trees to set out. When we got back, Dr. Alcott was here and his boy and girl. We painted. In the evening we all played blind man’s bluff.

Tuesday 12 **(17) [May]**

Eliza was not well so I read her a story called “Lazy Lawrence.” **Page 27 in Maria Edgeworth book – same title as chapter in Little Women and same theme. See PDF.** I read a little, then wrote my journal. Father went with Dr. Alcott to the Pond, so we had no school. I swung Eliza and we ran in the garden, then went to Mr. Emerson’s to walk in the woods with Miss Foord, but we did not go. She read to us in her room. Dr. Alcott was going home. We went to the depot with them. We ran on the rail road and saw them go in the cars.

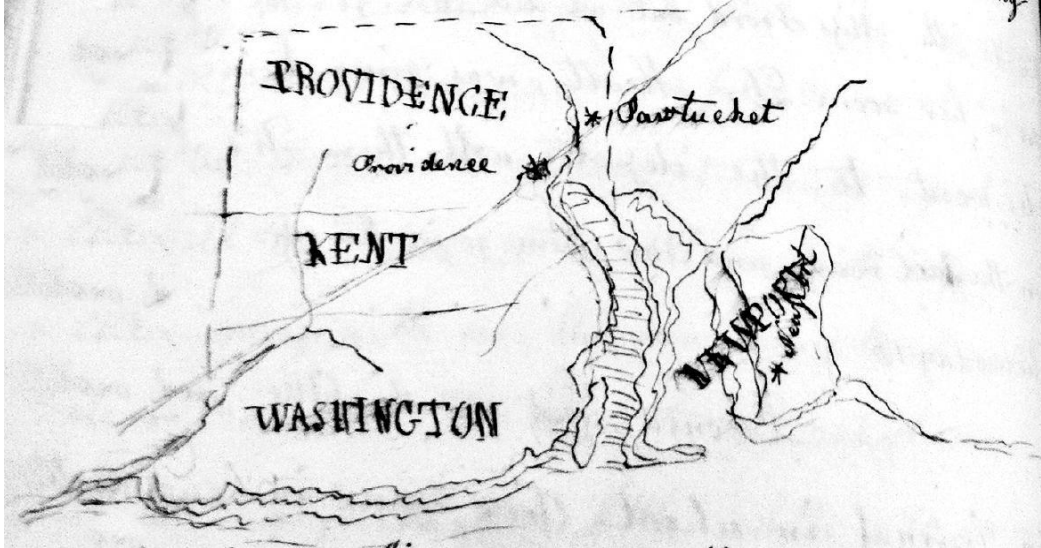
Wednesday 13 **(17) [May]**

I ironed and sewed a little, and wrote my journal in school. Eliza came in and wrote some with a pen. Abba read her Primer lesson

(18) with Father. The day was pleasant. I talked with Father about Rhode Island. **It was near the Atlantic Ocean. I thought I should like to live there.** I went to the village with mother and stopped at Mr. Emerson’s to walk with Miss Foord in the woods. We went in Mr. Moore’s grove, and pick some Pirola. I sat in my little chamber and read a little.

Thursday 14 **(18) [May]**

It was very windy. I ran about and picked violets on the hill. I heard the birds sing and pressed some flowers, then sewed for mother at ten. I wrote my journal on my slate, and when father came in to the school room, I copied it with my pen, and then we talked about Rhode Island. Father drew the outline in my journal.



Rhode Island lies about South from Concord where I live. I did some sums in Division. Mary (19) and Sarah Hosmer came here. We sewed a little. Miss ... went with Ellen and I to Mr. Bulls' garden. We saw his beautiful tulips.

Friday 15 (19) [May]

I sewed till school time. We went to the cliffs with Mary and Sarah. We sat under a tree and ate some apples for our dinner. I climbed up the rocks and read a little in "Miss Sedgewick's Stories" about a little Deformed Boy. I had a very pleasant time. After we came home I ran about. We saw father put in the pump in the garden.

Saturday 16 (19) [May]

I cleaned out my little trunk. Eliza and I strung some lilacs. We sat in Mother's chamber and wrote. I wrote my journals for yesterday afternoon. We all sat on the hill and played with our dollies. I picked some blue flowers to press.

Sunday 17 (19) [May]

Eliza, Abba and I played school in the garret. I washed the dishes then wrote my journal. We had a fine shower here. It made mother's flowers look very fresh.

Monday 18 (20) [May]

I helped Anna make the beds and cleaned the knives. In the afternoon we went to see the soldiers train. They looked very handsome. It rained very hard. We played in the ... House.

Tuesday 19 (20) [May]

Abba and I went in the village. I worked some on a little cross, and sewed. I swung Eliza and we ran about.

Wednesday 20 [May]

I sewed a little then went to see Eliza Hosmer. We played "I spy" and saw the kittens and calves. When I came home I swung Eliza and Abba.

Thursday 21 (20) [May]

I went into the village with mother. It was a very pleasant morning. I wrote my journal. We all went into the woods to spend the day. I read and sewed. We played “be Indians,” and braided rushes. Miss Foord came with Ellen and Cary Pratt. We dressed our dollies and picked (21) ladies slippers. She told me a Fairy Story.

Friday 22 (21) [May]

I went into the woods again, but came back. Abba and I played in Mother’s chair -- ... “go to Boston.” I sat in my little chamber a little.

Saturday 23 (21) [May]

Eliza went home this morning.

Sunday 24 (21) [May]

I read in the morning and again in the afternoon in “Swiss Family Robinson,” a great deal. Abba and I walked among the locusts.

Monday 25 (21) [May]

I went into the village this morning. After dinner I planted some corn with Father. I laid down and read more in “Robinson.” **I was not very well.**

Tuesday 26 (21) [May]

I read more today.

Wednesday 27 (21) [May]

Eliza Hosmer came to see me. We played checkers and with my dolly.

Thursday 28 (22) [May]

I played with Abba in Mother’s chamber, I sewed in the afternoon. I have not written in my journal while I was ill. Sick for several days

Friday 29 (22) [May]

I went again to the village with Mother. I sewed some. Abba and I played “House.” I wrote my journal, and we walked on the hill, and picked some pinks.

Saturday 30 (22) [May]

I went to the village. I sewed some. Louisa and I ran on the hill. Abba and I played with our dollies a while.

Sunday 31 (22) [May]

I read in “The Generous Planter.” It was a very pretty story. In the afternoon I wrote my Journal in my book, and Father helped about it. It has been rainy for some time. I told Abba some stories and learned a piece of poetry called “Little children.” Abba and I walked in the garden.

(23) June 1846

Monday 1 (23) [June] (see June 1, 1846, picture P1090108, where he writes about he and Lizzie gardening together)

Abba and I played together. I wrote my journal, and sewed with mother till dinner time. Father went with us to the village. We went to Mr. Belknap's pretty garden and saw some beautiful peonys, and the walks were very strait and clean. We rode home with Mr. Gowan.

Tuesday 2 (23) [June]

I worked more in the garden. Louisa and I went to Mr. Bull's garden to see his flowers. I sewed and read in the afternoon.

Wednesday 3 (23) [June]

This morning I swept the paths, then wrote in my journal. Some of my friends came to see me. We played "School" and "Cards." We went on the hill and made some wreaths. I walked through the lane with Eliza Hosmer.

Thursday 4 (24) [June]

I sewed some, then went to the village. I read, and wrote my journal. I had a bath, After dinner I washed the dishes, and read more. Abba and I played on the hill with our dollies. We ate our supper there. It was very cool. *She was a book worm – noticed this in May's 1852 diary too.*

Friday 5 (24) [June]

I sewed. Abba and I played in the kitchen. We made cakes. I wrote my journal in my book. I washed the dishes and read more in "Swiss Family Robinson." Mary Gill came to see Abba and we played in the garret, and played school.

Saturday 6 (24) [June]

Louisa and I raked the flowerbeds. I weeded in the garden. I spent the afternoon with Eliza Hosmer. We walked in the woods and made wreaths.

" Spring Morning, by Miss Emily Taylor.

" There's Life abroad;—from each green tree

A busy murmur swells;

The bee is up at early dawn

Stirring the cowslip bells.

There's motion in the lightest leaf

That trembles on the stream ;

The insect scarce an instant rests,

Light dancing in the beam.

There's Life abroad—the silvery threads

That float about in air,

Where'er their wanton flight they take

Proclaim that Life is there.

And bubbles on the quiet lake,

And yonder music sweet,

And stirrings in the rustling leaves,

The self-same tale repeat.

All speak of Life—and louder still

The spirit speaks within,

O'erpowering, with its strong, deep, voice

The world's incessant din :

There's Life without—and better far,

Within there's life and power,

And liberty of heart and mind

To love, believe, adore."

Sunday 7 (24) [June]

At breakfast, Father read about Jesus riding the colt into Jerusalem.

(25) He read a hymn. There were some lines in it I liked. They were these –

"The bee is up at early dawn.

Stirring the cowslip-bells."

It is now so pleasant out of doors that I write but little, and Father has but little time to help me think or write. He is so busy in his garden. He walked with us in the woods. We picked a great many flowers, and brought home some pretty little trees. When we got home Abba and I set out our trees, and played in Mother's chamber. I sat under the locust trees and read in "Swiss Family Robinson."

(Lizzie was an extension of her father – she did not think her own thoughts were justified without his approval.)

Monday 8 (25) [June]

Abby and I went to school this morning at Mr. Emerson's. I wrote a copy, then wrote five vegetable, mineral, and animal [can't read word]. I drew two benches. We played about and found some birds' nests. I went on the hill. I read to Cary Pratt and Ellen from Swiss Family Robinson. I walked with her to the depot.

Tuesday 9 (25) [June]

I went to school at nine, I wrote

(26) a copy and drew. I sewed and Cary read to me. We learned a Geography lesson. After I came home I plastered some rows of beans in the garden. *She spent time with her father by working in the garden – she didn't wait for him to come to her; she went to him.*

Wednesday 10 (26) [June]

Before school I dropped beans in the garden with father. It was very cool and pleasant. I like to work in the garden. Expressing a preference. At school I learned in Colburn's Arithmetic. *Colburn's Common-School Arithmetic – see PDF.* Miss Foord walked home with me. I went to see Eliza Hosmer. She went with Abba and me into the woods. I swung Abba home.

(Lizzie was Daddy's little girl, his little shadow. It's amazing to me that Madelon Bedell could not see beyond the "straight, upright handwriting, complete with stiff little drawings." She writes, "One might seek forever in those childish pages for a word or even an intimation of a wish, a dream, a longing, a reaction or a feeling and never find it." Pg. 248 The Alcotts Biography of a Family.

Reactions are shown through her actions. Her devotion for her father is shown in her faithful attention to her journal and her schoolwork, and especially with her work in the garden. Each successive action magnifies the feeling of tender love she had for her father and her unshakeable belief in him.

As far as longings, there were none because she had exactly what she wanted – harmony, security, calm, and her father and mother as much as she wanted them. *She wanted* a quiet home and she had it. *She wanted* the outdoors and she had it. She enjoyed gardening with her father and she had it. She loved beauty and she had it. She loved being with people and she had friends coming and going all day long. She had freedom. She didn't dream because she was living her dream.

The reactions, the feelings, the dreams are not only front and center but between the lines as well – she wanted this life to continue.

Thursday 11 (26) [June]

I worked in the garden a little while and dropped a row of corn, then went to school. Miss Foord walked in the woods with us. We picked some strawberries and roses. When I came home I planted another row of corn. Louisa and I ran about the garden.

Friday 12 (26) [June]

I wrote a copy, then we sewed and Miss Foord read to us from Father's "Record of a School." She walked again in

(27) the woods and read a story called a "Fine (?) Story." I liked it very much. Abba and I went to the woods to get some strawberries.

Saturday 13 (27) [June]

I read to Miss Foord and spelt a little. She gave me a piece of poetry called The Chickadee.

(Elizabeth – in Bronson's handwriting)

 "Pretty bird, pray come to me,

 I've a little home for thee.

(Bird)

 No I can't, I am free,

 Chickadee dee, dee

When the earth from snow is free

And the tender plant you see,
Then you'll hear right merrily,
Chickadee dee, dee.

(Elizabeth)

When the summer shall flee,
And the little busy bee,
Stays at home, where will be
Chickadee dee dee?

(Bird)

Far a way beyond the sea.
Singing in the orange tree,
You will hear so cherrily,
Chickadee dee dee.

(28) There I am don't you see,
High up in this cherry tree;
So good-bye dear Lizzy,
Don't forget the Chickadee.

(flies away)

Chickadee, Chickadee
I am happy, I am free;
While cherrily and merrily
Sings the little Chickadee!

Did Miss Foord write the poem especially for Lizzie? Very sweet!

After dinner I washed the dishes, then wrote my journal. I did not go to school. Anna, Clara, Louisa and I went in the woods to pick Pirolla. I had a very pleasant walk.

Sunday 14 (28) [June]

We had a meeting at Mr. Emerson's. Father read to us about a Boy. He read a Hymn, and we talked about it. I spent a very pleasant morning. I studied a little French with Anna. Then read in a book called "Hoary Head." I went in the garden to see Father draw the House. I learnt "The Miss Rose."

Monday 15 (29) [June]

It was a very beautiful morning. I wrote my journal, then cleaned the knives, and then went to school. We all drew. Miss Foord told us about Grammer. After I came home I read till supper time.

Tuesday 16 (29) [June]

Louisa and I weeded the potatos [sic] in the garden. We all went in the woods to spend the day. We played "Jack of all Trades" and "Hurly Burly." Miss Foord made a little bower for us and we made wreaths. When I came home, I made more. Llewellyn came to see us.

Wednesday 17 (29) [June]

I cleaned the knives, then went to school. I wrote a copy, After dinner Cary and I played in the school room. We drew in the afternoon, I read a little in "Hoary Head." Abba and I walked to the brook and picked some flowers.

Thursday 18 (30) [June]

Miss Foord told us about the parts of flowers and of strawberries. I told her one of my thoughts, which was, “I thought it was very shady at Sleepy Hollow.” **Very unusual for her to write this in this journal. Even though this doesn't seem like much of a thought, it does show that Lizzie liked Miss Foord very much to share a thought with her, and visa verse as shown by the poem.** I wrote a copy. We read a little to her. I walked a little way with Cary Pratt. After I came home from school, I wrote my journal and read a little while.

Saturday 20 (30) [June]

Abba and I did not go to school this morning. We dressed our dollies and made the beds. After breakfast I cleaned some Pirolla, then wrote my journal. We buried a bird. Abba and I played school and made a little garden. We planted some corn and beans in it. It rained very hard this afternoon.

Sunday 21 (30) [June]

We all went again to Mr. Emerson's. Father read to us about “Maho and Zalmi.” **[The People of Nature – see PDF]** I liked it very much. He talked with us about “Contentment” and asked (31) us if we were more contented, and we all told. Mother, Louisa and Llewellyn were there and told. I said “I was last winter in school.” I read a little more in “Hoary Head” and wrote my journal. Mother wishes me to write “The Moss Rose,” which I learnt the other day on this page. –

The Moss Rose

The Angel of the flowers, one day,
Beneath a rose-tree sleeping lay –
That spirit to whose change is given,
To bathe young birds in dew from Heaven.
Waking from his slight repose,
The Angel whispered to the rose,
“Oh! Fondest object of my care,
Still fairest found where all is fair,
For the sweet shade thou gavest me,
Ask what thou wilt – it's granted thee.”
Then said the rose, with deepened glow,
“On me, another grace bestow,”
The angel paused, in silent thought,
What grace was there the flower had not?
‘Twas but a moment; -- o'er the rose,
A veil of Moss, the angel throws,
(32) And robed in Nature's simplest weed,
Could there a flower that rose exceed?

I learnt “The Gentle Flower,” and wrote a little note to Louisa, in answer to hers.

Monday 22 (32) [June]

We had a lesson in drawing Cubes (?) and one about the stamens of Flowers, and looked at them through a microscope. I sewed a little. It rained; so we had school in Miss Foord's room. At noon, Ellen and I looked at some pretty pictures, and played. We came home under Miss Foord's umbrella. The roads are very wet. I wrote my journal in the evening in the school room, with Father, by candle light. **She still did receive instruction from Bronson even though he was caught up with the garden.**

Tuesday 23 (32) [June]

I wrote a copy then read. I walked in to the village with Cary. After we had eaten dinner, we picked some cherries, and sat in the tree. I studied a little arithmetic, and read to Miss Foord. When I came home, I picked some peas for dinner, then read a little while in “Hoary Head.”

Wednesday 24 (32) [June]

To day was my Birth-day. After school, Miss Foord, Ellen, & Cary, walked home with me. We ate our dinner, then I looked at my presents – mother gave me a work basket: I thought it would be very useful – Father, a new journal with a picture of the House in it – Cary, a little Flower Basket, filled with flowers and Miss Foord gave me a pretty wreath. We played on the hill and sat in the locust trees. I had a very pleasant afternoon. I helped Father put up the swing then, wrote my journal.

Thursday 25 (32) [June]

I read a little while. We had a lesson in Botany. At noon we sat in the little grove and made wreaths. After school I studied some Arithmetic, then sat in the Horse chestnut tree. I walked home with Eliza Hosmer. We found a few strawberries in the meadow.

Friday 26 (32) [June] I helped Louisa make the beds, then cleared out my drawers, and my little (33) trunk. I went to school I wrote my journal, I sat in the trees and made a wreath of yellow leaves. I wrote a copy, and we learnt a piece of poetry, called “the Arathusa.” I thought it was very pretty. After school I read a little while.

Saturday 27 (33) [June]

I cleaned the knives, then went to school. Miss Foord showed us more about the Flowers. I sewed a little. When we came home, I read in “Hoary Head.” Abba and I picked some peas, I picked a few currants. Louisa and I ran in the garden.

MY MOTHER'S SIGH.

I've felt it oft in childhood's hour—
The magic of a mother's sigh.
I've yielded to its gentle power,
With heart subdued and drooping eye.

When full of glee, a wayward child,
I've stolen from my task away,
That sound amid the frolic wild
Would rise and check my careless play.

I've read with rapt and earnest look
O'er pages filled with wild romance,—
My mother sighed!—I closed the book
And broke at once the idle trance.

If passion flushed my youthful cheek,
And pride and gloom were on my brow,
When other's frowns were vain and weak,
Her sigh could bid my spirit bow.

If, checked in Folly's radiant dream,
I've turned away with laughing eyes,—
My mother's sigh that smile could dim
And tears, repentant tears would rise—

My dream has fled—and wearying care
Has silenced Folly's childish strain,
The thoughtless mirth that revelled there
May never, never come again!

But still I feel that holy power,
It thrills my heart and fills my eye
With tears, as when, in “childhood's hour,”
I yielded to my mother's sigh.

FLORENCE.

Sunday 28 (33) [June]

We went to Mr. Emerson's. Father read us a Hymn and a Story. After I came home, I learned a piece of poetry, called “My Mother's Sigh,” and read some more in “Hoary Head.” It was a very pleasant day. I sat on the hill and read a good while.

Monday 29 (33) [June]

Abba and I shelled some peas then went to school. I wrote a copy, and studied some Arithmetic, and sewed a little. At noon (34) we had a little feast in the Grove of strawberries and cream. I read in “Child's Friend” about Grace ...” I cleared (?) the table, then wrote my journal.

Tuesday 30 (34) [June]

I made the beds and cleaned the knives. We walked to Sleepy Hollow. Miss Foord read to us from “Child's Friend” about a loveless girl. Cary and I made little pine chains and wreaths. We walked to the Monument with her. I washed the dishes. Abba and I swung.

(35) July 1846

GO WHERE GLORY WAITS THEE.

 O where glory waits thee ;
But, while fame elates thee,
O, still remember me !

When the praise thou meetest
To thine ear is sweetest,
O, then remember me !
Other arms may press thee,
Dearer friends caress thee,
All the joys that bless thee
Sweeter far may be ;
But when friends are nearest,
And when joys are dearest,
O, then remember me !

When, at eve, thou rovest
By the star thou lovest,
O, then remember me !
Think, when home returning,
Bright we've seen it burning,
O, thus remember me !
Oft as summer closes,
When thine eye reposes
On its ling'ring roses,
Once so loved by thee,
Think of her who wove them,
Her who made thee love them,
O, then remember me !

When, around thee dying,
Autumn leaves are lying,
O, then remember me !
And, at night, when gazing
On the gay hearth blazing,
O, still remember me !
Then should music, stealing
All the soul of feeling,
To thy heart appealing,
Draw one tear from thee ;
Then let memory bring thee
Strains I used to sing thee, —
O, then remember me !

Thomas Moore

Wednesday 1 (35) [July]

Father asked me to put a Day's Order in my journal.

Sat., July 4 (35) [July]

I went with Mother and my sisters to Boston and stayed several days at Cousin Elisabeth's. I went to the Floral Procession and saw the Animals. We went to the Picnic in Dedham in a grove. Abba and I have been in school since we came home. Cary Pratt and Ellen and Edith and LeBaron Goodwin come to school. In the morning we write and sometimes Miss Foord reads Botany to us. In the afternoon we read to her and study Arithmetic, and walk in the woods. I spent very pleasant days.

(36) August 1846

Saturday 22 (36) [August]

Miss Foord went away so Abba and I did not go to school. I cleaned the knives and read a little in "Two Sisters" which Cary Pratt lent me. We played with our dollies. I learnt a tune on the piano. In the afternoon I sewed with Mother and Louisa and Anna, I made a little wreath for my dollies hat. Abba and I played checkers and went to the brook.

Sunday 23 (36) [August]

I played with Abba. We set a table for our dolls and dressed them to play "Go to meeting." I finished "the Two Sisters" and learnt a piece of poetry called "Go where Glory waits thee." I wrote a copy and began my journal. It is a good while since I have written any in it/ It was left awhile in Boston, so I could not write in it. Abba and I took a walk to the brook and I got some grasses.

Monday 24 (37) [August]

This morning, Abba and I played in Mother's chamber a little while. Father took us to Waldron [sic] Pond. We picked evergreens and mosses and made wreathes. I spent a very pleasant time. Soon after we came home, Uncle Sam came. Abba and I played with the top he brought. I went to the post office. When I got home Lydia Hosmer was here. I taught her a tune on the piano. We walked in the path through the locusts and swung awhile.

Abba and I looked at some pictures a while. I ironed some. Then we played "make dirt cakes" till dinner time. I set the table. Louisa and I ran in the garden and played "sell vegetables and fruit."

Uncle went away this morning, and Anna kept a school for us. I studied some French, and learnt a spelling (38) lesson. Anna read a story to us, called "The Lamb," and I knit. We dressed our dollies to go to a party. In the afternoon, I wrote my Journal and sewed with mother and the girls.

Thursday 27 (38) [August]

I cleaned the knives, and swept the sitting room, and washed the hearth. I swung Abba and we painted some pictures. I read her a story of the “Suspected Boy,” which she liked very much. **See chapter 20 of *Little Men* for a summary -- copied into a text file.** I went to Mrs. Chenies. She gave me some pears. I sewed a while with Mother.

Friday 28 (38) [August]

We sewed, then I set a little table for our dollies. After dinner I washed the dishes, and then read and sewed the rest of the afternoon. I made a needle book for mother. Abba and I went to Mrs. Gills’ and played “Button, Button” with Mary and Marie. We went into the barn and swang.

Saturday 29 (39) [August]

After washing the dishes and cleaning the knives, I picked some beans and shelled them then went to the Post Office. When I came home, Abba and I played in Mother’s chamber. **We played have a ball and danced.** **After dinner Louisa and Anna played with me “Travel.”** We sewed. Clara sat with me. We walked through the lane to meet Abba.

Sunday 30 (39) [August]

After breakfast, Father and Mother went with Abba and I to Mr. Lightons’ and saw a beautiful Grape Vine and sweet Briars, flowers and trees. I had a very pleasant walk. I read Abba a story of a Fairy and a Golden Tree. We painted a good while, and after writing my journal, I read some.

(40) September 1846

Monday 31 (40) [August]

I picked some beans to give to Mr. Bull, and washed the napkins and towels. After dinner I ironed and made a little bonnet for my doll.

Abba and I played cards and checkers.

Tuesday 1 (40) [September]

After working, I went to the village. I met Cary Pratt, she came home with me. We played cards and swung. **In the afternoon we dressed up as fine Ladies, and played travel.** We had a bath. I spent a very pleasant afternoon.

Notice the games Lizzie plays, pretending to be a teacher, student, mother, a fine lady who traveled and danced at balls, etc. One does not play such games if one doesn’t aspire to such things, or at least want them. In the safety and security of Hillside, unaware of the mounting financial troubles, she had her little dreams. What would have happened to Lizzie had that security of a normal life continued into adulthood? She had a strong maternal tendency in that she cared for Abba and Eliza Stearns.

Wednesday 2 (40) [September]

Thursday 3 (40) [September]

Abba and I went to the village; when we came home, Amy Goodwin was here. She invited us to go home with her. We got ready and went, and played nine pins and Jack (41) straws. She showed us her play things. We went to the river and swung. I saw Henry's little rabbit with pink eyes. We went in the river to bathe, and went in the fields. I picked Cardinal flowers. Pretty soon we came home, and Amy came with me.

Friday 4 (41) [September]

Abba and I picked up the apples under the trees in the garden. We played in Mother's chamber. We went to Mrs. Gills' and I swung and played Tag.

Saturday 5 (41) [September]

I picked up the apples and sewed some of my dollies clothes. We walked about with them. Abba and I went to Mrs. Gills.

Sunday 6 (41) [September]

I studied a little French with Anna. Miss Foord came to see us. I sewed, and Mother read to us. I read Abba some stories.

Monday 7 (41) [September]

This morning we bathed in the brook. After we picked up the apples, I shelled some beans and did some French (42) with Anna, I read her a story of little Anna and the Canary Bird, and read to myself from Corrina (?). I wrote my journal and cut some apples (?)

Tuesday 8 (42) [September]

This morning, I went to the village. I studied some French and washed the dinner dishes. I wrote my journal on my slate, and ... Abba. It rained, we had a bath in it. We played with our dollies in mother's chamber.

Wednesday 9 (42) [September]

I shelled some beans, and then I sewed some and washed the dishes. I went to the village with Clara and Louisa.

Thursday 10 (42) [September]

I picked some beans for dinner, and studied a little French with Anna. We played go to Boston, and sewed. I ran in the garden with Louisa, then went to bed.

Friday 11 (42) [September]

This morning, I cleaned the knives. Warren and Mary Jane were here. We played ride in the steamboat (43) I made a little apron for my dollies, and read (?) in "Holidays at Home."

Saturday 12 (43) [September]

I washed a little crop, then went to the village, and when I came back, I studied a little French. After dinner, I played with Abba and Catherine Farrell, who came to see us (?). We swung and played with our dollies. I showed her my playthings.

Sunday 13 (43) [September]

I read and carried my dolly to meeting. Abba and I played go to Boston. I washed the dishes and learnt a piece of Poetry, called “the Holiday.” Mrs. Goodin came to see the pretty Bower which Father is working on. **This is in reference to the summer house Bronson was building on top the hill.**



Monday 14 (43) [September]

I cleaned the knives, and picked up the apples, then went to the village and stopped at the school room. La Banon came to play with us. I dressed my dolly to go to school, and made two little carpet bags.

(44) Miss Foord came home. We went to school, and wrote in our writing books. Ellen and I played: We made a little bower. Miss Foord walked with us.

Wednesday 16 (44) [September]



I did my work and then went to school. After working and sewing we went to walk to Flint’s Pond, in Lincoln, to get some wild Grapes. **[8 mile walk taking 53 minutes, via Google Maps]** I met Elvira Hosmer, we walked along through the woods together. We stopped at Mrs. Smiths, she gave us some peaches, I had a very pleasant afternoon.

Note the places where she says she had a very pleasant afternoon – this is what she really likes.

Thursday 17 (44) [September]

I cleaned the knives and then we went to school. I sewed, and Miss Foord read some Botany to us, and we studied Arithmetic with Cary and Ellen. We read aloud to Miss Foord. After school, we played in the sand bank and swung.

Friday 18 (45) [September]

Mother walked to school with us. I read about Pines in the Woods, and a Good Scholar. In the afternoon, I studied Arithmetic and sewed on a dollies’ dress.

Saturday 19 (45) [September]



After I had done my work, I went with the girls to the Examination of the District School, and heard the children read and spell, and road home with Mr. Gowan. After dinner, I sewed; Catherine sat with me. Fanny Rice, Ellen Fairbanks and Ellen Emerson, and Elisabeth Goodwin, came to the Bower. **The Bower became a gathering place – you don’t get that sense from Bronson’s journal as he merely describes how he made it and how he felt about it. Lizzie obviously thought it was all very cool. 😊**

Sunday 20 (45) [September]

I picked some beans and shelled them for dinner; then read in a book called the Flower Basket, which I liked very much. [See the PDF, copyright 1839, translated from German.] I picked apples from the tree with Abba. I washed the dishes and wrote my Journal and my slate.

Monday 21 (46) [September]

This morning, I played with Abba in Mother's chamber, and sewed a little; then we went to school. I read to Miss Foord about an Ill Natured Boy, and wrote a copy. Abba and I went to the village, and saw the soldiers. When I came back I sewed. Father came with Mr. Watts' horse, and took us to ride. I picked some cranberries. It rained very hard. When I came home, I played with Abba, be two little girls riding in a coach.

Tuesday 22 (46) [September]

I was unwell this morning. We did not go to school. I sewed all the morning. Abba and Louisa went with Father to ride. I studied a little French with my dolly. I washed a little frock. I washed the dishes, then wrote my Journal.

Wednesday 23 (46) [September]

I wrote a copy at school and sewed. I studied some Arithmetic. When (47) I came home, I sewed on my little dollies clothes, and played with Abba. We picked some seeds.

Thursday 24 (47) [September]

I picked some beans with Warren and John Bull, and shelled them. At nine we went to school. Miss Foord went to walk out with us to Mr. Barnett's hill. We swung on the great oak tree, and played "Children go, to and fro." Miss Foord walked to the grove; Cary and I stayed behind and sewed. We went to the river and played, and paddled in the water. We went to Lydia Hosmer's and saw the ...

Friday 25 (47) [September]

I cleaned the knives, and then went to school. I wrote a copy in my writing book, and changed some sentences. I liked to do it. [enjoyed editing] At noon we sat in the horse chestnut trees, and played with the horse chestnuts, and cracked the burrs. See Chapter 42 in *Little Women*, "All Alone," where Meg makes the reference to burrs with regards to Jo coming out of her shell. In the evening, Mother came home from Boston.

Saturday 26 (48) [September]

It rained, so we did not go to school. Abba and I dressed our dollies. I sewed and worked a little. I sewed in the Bower. Warren and Jonny came to play with us. I wrote my Journal on my slate.

Sunday 27 (48) [September]

Father went with us to meeting at Mr. Emerson's. Elisabeth Goodwin brought in to the school room, a little dead squirrel in a paper coffin, and this gave us something to talk about. When I came home, I played with Abba in Mothers' chamber, and we went to the brook and picked some cranberries. I wrote my journal on my slate.

I sorted some apples in the cellar. Abba and I are not going to Miss Foord's school anymore, so Anna kept school for us at home. I wrote my Journal in my book and studied

(49) a Geography lesson in Peter Parley's Geography [see PDF] about South America. It is a very large country and Gold and Silver are brought from it. They are dug from the earth, and diamonds are washed from the mountains. At ... Louisa wheeled us in the wheelbarrow down the hill. When we came in, I drew two pictures. I had a very pleasant morning. After dinner I washed the dishes and read a little in "Arabian Nights," about a Prince. Miss ... came in and played on the piano, and sung very beautifully. I read to Abba a story in the evening.

Tuesday 29 (49) [September]

This morning I went into school and wrote a copy, and learnt a spelling lesson. We did some sums on our slates. I could not do them very well; then we studied some French. After dinner, I washed the dishes and Catherine, and Abba, and I played in Mothers' chamber. **I was a sick lady and Abba was a doctor.** Elvira Barrett came to see us. At two o'clock we all sewed.

Wednesday 30 (50) [September]

Louisa and I picked some beans and shelled them for dinner. I picked over some potatoes, and then came in to school, and wrote my Journal, and learnt a Geography lesson about Europe and the people there; then drew a picture from the drawing book. In the afternoon I sewed and we played on the hill till suppertime.

October 1846



Thursday 1(50) [October]

I went to the village, and when I came back, I went into school, and wrote my Diary first: then did some sums in Multiplication. I got some of them right. I washed the dishes after dinner and sewed with Louisa and Catharine: they told me some stories. After school, I went to Mr. Hosmer's with Catharine, and we picked some pretty red and yellow leaves.

Friday 2 (51) [October]

It was an unpleasant morning. [The first complaint! – But she doesn't say what made the morning unpleasant.] I cleaned the knives. Abba and I played cards till school time. I wrote some, and read in Mr. Russell's Primary Reader, about the Wind (page 30 in the sequel), and we spelt. My next lesson was drawing, I drew a flower, and two Angel-kisses with long hair and wings, and robes. After dinner I played cards with Abba, and sewed till four. We roasted some apples.

Saturday 3 (52) [October]

After doing my work, I went to Mrs. Hosmers', and walked home with Abba Hosmer. In school, I read and did some sums on my slate, and studied some French. Louisa helped me do my dishes, and then we played in Mothers' chamber. **I was a sick lady and went to ride.** Why did she keep playing the sick lady? It's spooky! Louisa and I ran in the meadow down by the brook.

Sunday 4 (52) [October]

After breakfast Abba and I sat in the school room and drew. I wrote my Journal and read Abba some stories from our little books and I made a little ??. Elisabeth Goodwin and Ellen Emerson came. I washed the dinner dishes and played with Abba. Mary and Abba Hosmer came. We played school with her. In the evening I drew some.

I now have finished my journal and am going to give it to Mother.