

1770 - Oct.-

1.

The Journal of Samuel Kirkland, Missionary to the Onondaga & other adjacent Tribes of Indians - formerly Missionary from Rev'd Dr. Wheelock— since October last, from The Honourable London Board of Correspondents in Boston, & written by order of ye same.

To the Honourable Andrew Oliver, Esqr., Secretary of Bd. Board.

Sir- Perhaps I here send you, in some respects a more particular Acct of my deportment, than you desired; & in others, fall short.

It may however meet your approbation, & afford you some satisfaction to see how my time is employed, with my manner of life.

My house remaining unfinished upon my return last fall, & not comfortable for ye winter, has cost me unexpected Labour with some additional Charge.

The uncommon winter, in these parts no snow falling sufficient for sledding till Feby, has put us to some difficulty for firewood, tho' we live in ye woods— especially, while ye men were hunting, several widows & sick families had nigh perished w/out my assistance.

October 7th, 1770. Set out from Boston on my return to Onondaga.

16. Arrived at Kanajoharry, where I left my little family when I went to N. England. Proceeded to the Mohawks 'till I proceeded wth my family to Onondaga.

20. Returned to Onondaga wth my family— blessed be

God yet. I am once more bro't to the peace of my desire, & have the additional Joy to find some of my In. ppl walking in the Truth.

30. Tues'y. visited several Families, & visited at my own house my (sic) many more. In ye Evg spent about 4 hours wh two of ye Deacons of ye Chh, w(h)o gave me a general Acct of ye state & conduct of ye ppl during my absence.

31. still visited by many, to congratulate my return & ye addition to my family.

November, 1770

1. laboured from morn'g to 10 o'clock at night in fixing up my house for ye winter.

2. Went to Fort Stanwix to fetch some provisions, accompanied by Mr. Dodge ye Schoolmaster & 13 Indians— reached the place a little before Night— made up packs for ye Indians till late.

3. Saturdy. rose this morn'g at two o'clock— at sunrise set out wh my Company, returned to the Village, where I met a crowd of Indians.

4. L.D./^{1.} preached both parts of ye day to a considerable assembly. In ye evg. expounded at Prayers. Then met wh a number of ye head men by ye desire, & gave them an acct of my journey to Boston, & putting myself under ye Care of the Board of Correspondents there— set till midnight, concluded wh singing & prayer.

5. Mond: came to my house several of ye chiefs wh ye

3.
following, speech wh they desired me to communicate to ye Board of Correspts in Boston.

"Father: We wish you good mornng & thank God yt we see the light of this mornng. We are come in to return some answer to your speech ye last eveng". — &c &c

N. B. I have already transcribed this speech, & forwarded to the Honbl. Board.

5. towards Evng. came in one of their Chiefs to acquaint me wh ye resolutions of 7 or 8 families, wh respect to the government of their childn in ye school.— also their determination, henceforward to observe a strict discipline in their several families.

6. Tues. laboured all day in ye woods, hewing Boards for my study floor.

7. Visited by a number of Indians, from a distant Village of Tuscarorers— they appeared very friendly to Relign.

8. Most of the day worked upon my house— in ye evg visited & prayed wh some of my ppl.

9. visited by more Indians- spent some time wh ym. in ye afternoon & evg work'd upon my house.

Nov. 10, 1770.

10. Saturdy. wrote & studied most of ye day. In ye evg came Capt Nikkish (so called, my interpreter for ye Tuscarorers) with an answer from ye Tuscarorer Village, Kanadesko, to a message I sent them the beginning of ye week, respecting ye Government & instruction of their Childn.

They have returned a favourable Answer, beyond my

highest expectations— are much engaged & very earnest for ye instruction of their children, & are willing to have them governed as I shall judge necessary & proper. All desire & conclude to have their children taught in their own language.

N. B. I am informed, the whole Village spent half a day, wh ye best part of ye eveng in fasting & prayer.

11. L.D. before the time of divine Service came to my house 10 or 12 Tuscarorers to converse wh me upon the Things of Relign & ye state of their Souls. Capt. Nikkish tarried wh me the last night in order to interpret for these Tuscarorers.

N. B. most of these from ye place called Kanadesko, two from Kanahsawahton, 36 miles from this place.

Spent some time wh them before meeting— preached from Joh: 14.- If ye love me keep my Command'ts. The divine Power seem'd to attend ye word. many wept affectionately.

P.M.— out of the Psalms.

The afternoon Service was almost three hours. I was so weary yt I cd not preach the eveng Lecture. Dr. Thomas Catechised in prayer & singing.

12. Mondy- Wrote letters most of the day- towards evg necessarily called off by ye indisposition of some of my family. Wrote again until 2 in ye mornng.

17. Saturdy- I have wro't wh my hands since last Monday- the season of ye year being far advanced- cold weather at hand, my house unfinished, necessity called for my help,— in which time have been visited by a number of Indians, also

visited several sick.

18. L.D. preach'd from Gal: 3- '0 foolish galations &c— was two hours in sermon- many stood without ye door & round ye windows- the power of God seemed to accompany ye word- have understood yt numbers were awakened to a serious concern for their souls this day— blessed be God.

P. M. from Heb: Let us hold fast our Professn &c.— a very considerable assembly— between 2 & 300 souls. There were Indians from five different Villages, viz. Kanawarchara, Kanandakeyat, Skawas'reh, Kanadesko, Kanigadarge. a solemn meeting again this afternoon, many were seen to weep abundantly.

In ye Ev— attended a Lecture wh a sing'g meeting— N. B. Two public confess'ns this day.— spoke 8 hours in ye space of 11 this day. sent for to pray wh a sick man. Baptised two children.

19. called up this morn'g about 4 o'clock to bleed the sick Man, with whom I was called to pray yesterday.

In ye after noon my house was crowded wh Indians, some strangers tarried over ye sabbath, to enquire more particularly of ye way of Salvation by Jesus X.

In ye evg, sent for again to visit ye sick man who was tho't to be dying.

20. Wro't upon my house in-ye ev, a religious conference.

21. Wro't again upon my house.

22. spent some time this Morn'g wh a number of Indians-

about 10- set out for old Onoide to preach ye Lecture appointed ye last Sab.

23. Wro't all day laying a floor in my house from 4 in ye morning till 7 in ye Evg.

24. Saturday- visited by two Tuscarorers from some distance-- ye woman under great concern for her soul-- ye man petitioned for baptism- Spent some time wn(?)-- ye manner of yir first awakening is too tedious to give any Relation.

L. D. 25. In ye forenoon preached from Heb.:4, 2 P. M. from Micah 6, 8. Some Souls appeared to be awakened to a deep concern for their souls ys this. My house was crowded with Tuscarorers & others from a distance, from mornng to evg, eager for instruction.

attended the Evg lecture, then set wh ye head men till near Midnight, to consider ye case of a Tuscarorer, whose wife had left him for ten years & taken another husband. The man is hopefully become a true Christian.

26. Mond: set wh ye chiefs upon the same subject, from Mornng till Evg. The(y) considered ye matter wh great deliberation & determined wh. no less judgement- gave the man a dismissal as they called it- my hurry & fatigue forbids my writing several speeches made upon ye subject.

27. Spent some time in ye mornng in catechising & instructg several strangers-- in ye evg met again wh ye head men.

28, 29. Spent most of these two days in getting fire-wood wh ye schoolmaster.

30. Frid: visited by an Indian wo lives about 28 miles from thence— he had a long story to tell of his first awakening & concern for his soul. In ye afternoon several others.

Decem'r 1. Saturd: applied closely to my studies, preparatory to ye Sab: till interrupted by the Tuscarorers, who flocked in one after another, untill my house was full— discoursed wh them till midnight. I then cd scarcely get away from them.

2. S. D. "Thou" blind Pharysee, cleanse first ye inside of ye cup &c— were ye words of my Text. A divine Influence evidently accompanied ye word, especially towards ye last of my discourse. The assembly appeared very solemn— tears flowed in grt plenty.

I heard some at noon crying for new hearts— praying that God wⁱl take away their old ugly, wicked hearts.

N. B. 16 Indians at my house from Saturday to Monday— near 60 in ye Town, all from a distance, 8-12 - & 22 miles.

3. Mond: employed in manuel exercise all day. In ye evg, conversed wh several Indians.

4. Tuesd'y— visited by an Indian wo for some past has been greatly concerned for ye salvation of his soul.— desired baptism for his Childn— his wife desires to join to ye Chh.— their relations are so tedious I know not where to begin, nor cd I write the whole unless ye better half of my time was constantly devoted to that service. I shall collect as many as I can possibly write, of them in a proper place.

this ev: another came upon ye same errand, wh a long

story, enough to fill a sheet.

5. Wed: chopped wood all day. In ye Ev: visited by another stranger-

6 & 7 hewing boards in ye woods after my fashion.

8, Saturday, in ye afternoon, the Tuscarorers came again in crowds— spent so much time wh them yt I cant commit any thing to paper.

9 L. D. In ye forenoon Sabbath Sanctification— a very crowded assembly.

P. M. upon ye Nature & Design of Baptism, & administered the Ordinance to a child. Blessed be God for this Day— tho' my strength is so eshausted (having spoke more than 9 hours wh the eveng Lecture) that I am unable to give a particular acct. of ye success & blessing the Lord vouch-safed to his gospel.

10. The head men came into my house early this mornig to acknowledge the present of £ 10 ster: from ye Society in Scotland, in consideration of a belt of wampum, the Onoide Chiefs sent them some years ago.

13. Thurs'y— attended a lecture— at a singing meeting in ye eveng.

15. Saturdy— again crowded with Indians. N. B. I have been obliged for want of help to labour more or less every day this week. Necessity has no law.

16. L. D. "This is my Commandment that ye love one another", were ye words upon wh I discoursed.

The whole assembly seemed to be melted wh ye Considera-

tion of Christ's great love to us- scores might be seen weeping.

17. attended a religious Conference wh a Number.

19. a singing meeting, wh a word of eshort'n.

20- Thurs: in ye mornng came a message from Kanadesko (a Tuscarorer Village about 5 miles from here) desiring I wd come & baptize a child yt was sick & like to die-- went immediately wh ye messenger-- found ye Child at ye point of Death. The parents having made a public profess'n of their faith in X, the Sabbath before, tho't proper to baptize ye child, accordingly did, to their great satisfaction-- bystanders were much affected wh ye eshortation I gave.

In ye evg attended a Conference Meeting wh ye Communicants, in order to examine & instruct them more fully into ye Nature, Design & Ends of the Lords Supper. Opened the meeting wh Prayer, & I trust the blessed Jesus vouchsafed to fulfil his kind promise that where two or three are met together, there am I in ye midst of them. I was constrained to say, how dreadful is this place- verily God is here! their hearts seem'd to melt- & knit together in love. Several yt had been guilty of some misconduct made their confessions, with brokenness of heart-- exaggerated rather than diminished their faults.

After I hd spoken some time upon ye nature & design of the Ordinance- the qualifications requisite to a due approach to ye Lord's Table- ye necessity of ye strictest examination into ye State of ye Soul-- ye disposition & inclination of ye heart, as well as ye Knowledge, of ye ordinance, &c. one of ye

Deacons addressed himself to ye members present.

"Brethren & sisters,

"You have heard, wt our Father has said upon ye Nature & design of ye Sacrament- ye Lord's Supper- a feast- a feast of love. Altho' these things have been inculcated before, they must be repeated- we, above all, stand in need of line upon line. You have also heard how dangerous a thing it is to approach ye holy Table, not having our hearts right with God - & as it were not knowing any thing what we are about- but on ye other hand, how happy, if God brings us there wh broken hearts for sin- no matter if broken to pieces & very sick. Jesus has ye best kind of physick. If we have a lively faith in X, then we may expect to find food for our souls.

Breth'n, let us in ye first place, wh humility & great caution, as in ye sight of God & at ye same time wh all freedom open & tell our Father is present, yt he may see something of the footsteps of our souls, tho' he cant daily follow ye motions of our Bodies.

"Breth'n if you will hear how my mind is disposed- wt it longs for most, open your ears down into your hearts. You dont see perhaps anything very blameworthy in my conduct & life before man. But God sees my heart. In all things I seem to come short when I look up towards the great & holy God- but Jesus X holds me up, & will pardon all my heart sins every day. -- Ye great thing my heart desires, is to be growing more holy & more holy every day, & I do pray to God daily that for Jesus X' sake he wou'd make my heart all holy- yt all Sin may die then (")

&c &c- he spoke for some (time) wh great judgment & pathos- ye main drift of his discourse was upon holiness & ye love of X.

After him every member spoke, more or less — all which, I intended to have wrote, & cd have done it, verbatim, ye next day, had I not been crowded wh company— & never since cd I get a moment's leisure for this purpose.

Frid: Most of ye forenoon wh several Indians under spiritual concern. In ye afternoon preached a lecture preparatory to ye Sacrament. In ye evg again wh a number of ye Communicants, till near Midnight & a precious season it was!

22. Satur: a Number of the Tuscarorers came— attended another Lecture. The spirit of God was evidently with us.

23. L. D. Much Company in ye Morn'g & some time necessarily employed in preparing ye Communion Table- began divine service between eleven & twelve o'clock— discoursed upon ye first part of ye 22d chap: of Genesis, Abraham's offering up his son Isaac. I humbly hope God has been graciously pleased to bless his word this day.

I understand since meeting yt some of ye Communicants & several others were almost overwhelmed wh ye sense of ye matchless love of God in ye giving his only Son & yt to be a sacrifice for Sinners, who of us all can part wh a son, with even one, supposing we have many, but are only son, who? What has God done for us — who can tell how great love? we never tho't the like before, & such like espress'ns numbers have uttered. One said- "I tho't- my heart woud have broken & fell in pieces, when

I tho't of God's giving his only son J. X. for us — & even for us poor Indians.

I cd not comprehend it — I could not think half ways round this great love. The more I tho't the less it seemed to (me) I did think— my heart was all gon(e).

Several strangers from the Tuscarorers were much awakened.

I have reason to believe ye blessed Sacrament of ye Lord's supper was this day made a feast of fat things to many hungry Souls— they were fed wh the Bread of life!

how glorious was the King of Israel at his own Table in the wilderness.

Admitted three Persons into ye Chh this day who witnessed a good profess'n before many witnesses.— their admission, wh ye eshortation at ye Commission lengthened out the service till sunset.

24. Mond: unable to preach ye Lecture I appointed today- yesterday's exercise was too much for my strength, however spent most of ys'day in private instruction.

25. being Christmas day, preached from these words. Glory be to God in the highest &c — a solemn & numerous found many earnestly enquiring after the Saviour.

26. Wed: by desire attended a meeting wh ye head Mn wh respect to some new Regulations in ye Town.

27. Went to Fort Stanwix for provis'n returned about midnight.

28. Frid- rec'd a Message from The Tuscarorers at

Kanadesko, desiring me in ye most earnest manner to provide them a School Master, to reside more constantly with them, who shd teach them to read in ye Indian Language & particularly instruct them as a catechist, in ye Rudiments of ye Christian Relig'n.

29. Spent some time both yesterday & today in translating several Chaprs of St. Math. gosp. &c into ye Onoide language.

30. L. D. In ye Morn'g, preached from Acts 8 -- "if thou believest wh all thy heart" &c. Several Tuscarorers attended today who never came before-- they appeared to be much affected wh ye Doctrine & our manner of worship-- said it was all new, they never heard nor tho't of such things in ye whole lives.

P. M. the Power of God most evidently accompanied ye word dispensed -- tears flowed in abundance from many eyes- one in particular cried out aloud for mercy, seemed to be almost overwhelmed wh ye sense of guilt & Misery - "Brethren oh hear me, I am miserable beyond all - I beseech you pray to God for me -- all my former life rises up, I hate it, I hate it, but much arrows stick fast in my Soul, oh my B'n pray for me, pray for me, I am miserable beyond all".

attended a Conference meeting in ye Ev'g wh ye Communicants-- sweet harmony & love.

31. Spent some time wh a number of Tuscarorers, lately awakened to a concern for their Sins-- also a meeting wh ye Head Men who desired me to write their petition for them to ye Gov'n'r of N. York.

Tues: Jan'y 1, 1771. Discoursed from these words: "behold all things are become new" &c. a numerous Assembly. spent ye remain of ye day in catechizing a number of Tuscarorers from Kanadesko. They desired me to come as often as I can & publish this great Salvation thro' J. X.

2. Wed: Much Company — the ppl in ye place & several adjacent Villages appear much engaged to begin this year wh God.

3. Thursd'y. at 3 o'clock in ye morn'g w(en)t wh two Indians to Fort Stanwix for provissns, hav'g neither bread nor flour - returned about 10 in ye Evg, waery enough. it rained hail'd most of ye Day, & violently in ye Evg.

4 Frid: visited by a number of Indians, but unable to converse much wh them by reason of yesterday's fatigue.

6. L. D. discoursed both parts of the day from Jeh: 3, 5. — a crowded Assembly, many ppl stood out round ye door & ye windows. Towards Evg came in to my house an Indian woman nigh 50 yrs of age, to enquire farther wh respect to this being born again. She appeared to be a broken-hearted creature indeed — a meet object for ye Redeemer's grace.

In ye Evg discoursed from ye parable of ye Sower — the whole assembly appeared to be melted in tears — some afterwards told me their hearts were ready to brake yt they cou'd not love & praise God more for his great power & grace, esercised in forming their hearts for his holy word, making them like ye good ground & yet they had brot forth little or no fruit, God (said they) has dug out many great Roots out (of) our heats; with many briars & Thorns — & yet we don't bring forth but little fruit,

&c &c.

7 & 8. To Fort Stanwis again for provisions.

9. Wed: went old Oroide, preached in the Evg, & catechized till near Midnight.

10. Thursd'y- in ye Morn: ye People assembled a little after sunrise, preached again & baptized a child. In ye afternoon returned- in ye Evg spent some time wh an Indian, anxiously concerned for his Soul.

11. Friday- most of ye day in getting firewood. In ye Evg, visitors plenty, one in particular, who desired to join to ye Chh in full Comm'n-- who gave a satisfactory Acct. of a real change of heart wrought by the Spt of God. A Message from the Tuscarorers.

12. Saturday. Much Company this day call'd to a meeting of the Head Men-- & cumbered about many things- the Lord grant I may partake largely of the grace of patience. The company I constantly have, wh ye daily instructions I am obliged to give, wh ye cares of this life are much more fatiguing than bearily preaching ten Sermons a week. I can't possibly provide for my family in this wilderness without great trouble & espence -- the ignorance of these pagans is such, wh some papistical notions they have conceived adds greatly to my ministerial Labours & care. Every little petty difference in family, or between Relations, must be brot to me, in order to reconciliation.

17. Thursdy -- this day thro' divine mercy begin to recover from a light turn of the dysentery, with which I was taken ill last Saturday about midnight. I attended a Conference

Meeting with some of my ppl this afternoon— quite a little.

18 & 19 - Constantly thronged with Company from morn'g to eveng.

20. L. D. finished my subject of ye Sabbath before last- P. M. discoursed from Math. 7, 7. A divine influence without doubt accompanied ye word this afternoon— it produced tears, sighs & groans. One man was so affected & overwhelmed wh a sense of guilt yt cd not refrain crying out for mercy. Baptised a child. In ye Eveng, married a couple.

21, 22, spent most of my time in read'g & writing.

24. A catechized Lecture— & a sweet season it was.

25. Frid. visited the School in this place. 56 scholars — gave a w'd of eshortation & concluded wh Prayer.

26. towards Evg, came in a Number of the Tuscarorers from Kanadesko.

27. L.D. discoursed from these words, "he that hath ye Son hath life" etc. P.M. from Prov: 6. 8— "give instruction to a wise man", &c. A very crowded & serious Assembly, numbers stood out around during ye whole service.

Six persons this day publicly renounced all their pagan Notions & professed obedience to the Gospel of Christ- & several of them were much affected & cried to God for mercy.

Baptized a child this Day. Not able to preach ye Eveng Lecture, my strength was too far exhausted.

Janry 28, 1771.

Mond: attended a funeral- discoursed from Joh: 11- I am the Resurrection &c. In ye Evg, attended a Conference meeting

with ye Communicants & some others-- I trust the Lord was with us.

Wednesd.- a catechized Lecture.

30- last Eveng, a small snow fell, with which we have ye first sledding this winter. very thankfully rec'd & diligently improved.

Saturd: Feb. 1- these two past have been sledding wood for myself & ye poor. Towards Eveng, called to a meeting of the Head Men.

3 L.D. - discoursed from Rom. 8: "What shall we say to these things", etc. The house was so full yt not one more cd have found place to set or even stand-- numbers stood out in ye snow during ye whole service. It was a very solemn day-- a heavenly influence seemed to set home ye words.

Monday-- sat all day in council wh my people, consulting wh answer to return to ye speech their head Men delivered on Saturday last, who have lately returned from Sr. Wm's, by whom they have been advised to revoke their petition to the Boston Ministers for a Chh. or meeting house-- & petition the King for ye same-- That it is much better & more hon'ble to be done by the King & will better please him.

That these Boston people are a seditious & Rebellious ppl-- great enemies to government.

That they killed their King (meaning Charles ye first) & then were obliged to flee for their lives-- we were all one before-- this cruel murder is what divided our minds &c.

That the King's Minister(s) were not so rigid as these

New England Ministers.

That they wd baptize all Child'n & grown people too without asking so many questions &c &c- & moreover tis proper that you shd in every thing ask my advice & have my approbation as the King's servant. If you had in ye first place petitioned to me for a Chh, I wd have wrote to the King & ye great ones there, & it wd have been granted you at once without any advice".

The answer wh the Warriors wh ye Chh returned to the Councillors exceeded my most sanguine expectation— gave me recent & stronger Testimonial of their steadfastness, attachment to & friendship for me, than I ever before rec'd. Numbers of them said, "they wd go with me to prison or to death— where I followed X, they wd follow me.

they made many just & striking observations upon ye loose conduct of ye episcopal ministers (so many as known to them)— the manner in which some of ye Indians hd been formerly taught— baptized without being asked scarce any questions, save this— "are you willing to be baptized & thereby become a Christian?" & upon their being baptized were accordingly pronounced such-members of Christ &c— let their life & conduct be what it wou'd.

Were allowed, or rather ordered to make a feast & have a bottle of Rum to grace the Ordinance— at ye Dedication of their Childn which pleased them estreamly well in their then ignorant & natural state.

Several said, as for their parts, they believed, yt they shou'd have been forever miserable & unavoidably gon(e) to