

Journal of a Peddling Trip

Kept by Ebenezer Graves of Ashfield, Massachusetts

MEMORANDUM FOR THE YEAR 1853, COMMENCING MARCH 21ST

MON. 21st — Fair and warm. Came foot to the Falls, stage to Greenfield, cars to Keene, then afoot to Stoddard. A first rate sap-day, but little snow about Keene. Sheep were out to pasture & we saw one man carting manure.

Tues. 22nd — f: w: Came through Antrim to Hillsboro Bridge. In Stoddard we visited the glass works. It was curious to see them make the glass bottles of every size and shape. At Antrim we purchased \$75.00 worth of silk. Staying overnight at Mr. McEllister's. The proportions for glass are about 23 bushels of sand to 25 of ashes & 6 of salt.

Wed. 23rd — f: w: Froze considerable last night. We came to Concord afoot today 26 miles. Some settled going, and people carting manure some. Staying at Mr. Barr's the plasterer.

Thurs. 24th — f: w: Today we commenced peddling. There has been several silk men along within a month, but we traded about \$5.00 a piece. Stayed at a Mr. Fiske's.

Fri. 25th — Peddled through Green, Union and streets also down around the carriage factory, Abbot's. Traded \$2.60.

Sat. 26th — s: s: Peddled half day. In the afternoon we visited the gas works, and the overseer explained the process. Pit coal is put in an oven and baked, which drives out the gas, which is forced through water several times, then passes into a condenser which cools it and partially cleanses it, then it goes to the purifying room where it is passed through

beds of lime, after which it goes to the receiver and is ready for use.

Sun. 27th — cool & cloudy. It is Sunday. Addison & I went to meeting all day. Stopping with a Mr. Sull.

Mon. 28th — cool & cloudy. Froze quite hard last night. Took the cars to New Market, 37 miles, then foot to Durham 4 miles. Traded but little. Scarcely any snow to be seen & roads mostly settled. Attended a Phrenological lecture by S. S. Fletcher, this eve.

Tues. 29th — f: w: Came to Dover got here about noon. Had our heads examined by S. S. Fletcher, phrenologist before we started. Peddled P.M. did pretty well. Dover is a very manufacturing place, larger than Concord. Many cotton factories here. I think Fletcher dont understand his trade first-rate especially examining heads.

Wed. 30th — f: w: Peddled in Dover, sold some over \$12.00. Staying at the same place we did last night. They are Quakers by the name of Osborne. Sold mostly by wholesale today. Dover has about 9000 inhabitants. Some the biggest cotton factories I ever saw.

Thurs. 31st — f: w: Addison & I separated this morning, he going south I north. I cam to Salmon Falls 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Saw people ploughing today. Traded little over \$5.00 today. This is a great manufacturing place, though not so much as Dover.

Fri. Apr. 1st — Stormy in morning. Started about $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten in the cars to Great Falls 4 miles. Sold about \$3.00 to-

day. It cleared off beautifully warm about noon. Great Falls has quite a number of large factories, and going to build a print factory this summer. It is in the town of Sommersworth.

Sat. 2nd – v: p: Came afoot to Rochester, took cars to Milton Depot, then stage to Three Pond Village. Arrived about noon. It is very muddy in this region, being much more comfortable riding than footing, if it does take off the profits some. Traded \$3.50.

Sun. 3rd – p: Went to meeting this forenoon and evening. Quite a strong sermon in favor of temperance. Most of the people in this place are shoemakers though the water power is used some.

Mon. 4th – The ground covered with snow this morning. Peddled in forenoon, though it misted some. Crossed the line into Maine, after dinner, travelled about two miles & had to put up the rest of the afternoon on account of rain. Very dark and rainy tonight. Traded most \$5.00.

Tues. 5th – Pretty rainy day, though I traveled 8 or 10 miles & traded over a dollar. Came through the town of Lebanon into Sandford.

Wed. 6th – Pleasant most of the day, though we had a shower in forenoon. Travelled 14 miles since about 3 o'clock. Sold over \$3.00 today. Came through "Spring Dale" village, in Sandford, and "Sandford Corner," then to Kennebunk. Came 10 miles on the plains where nothing grows, except Yellow Pine shrubs. Saw some wild geese, the first I've seen this year. I'm stopping at the tavern.

Thurs. 7th – Peddled through the village. Very pleasant. Traded over \$5.00. Addison came tonight from Kittery. Been separate one week.

Fri. 8th – f: c: Peddled through the Landing village, then down to the Port. Addison at the Port all day. We sent

\$95.00 this morning for silk. Kennebunkport village, here, is a very pretty place, & a place of a great deal business for one of its size, ship-building. Heard the frogs tonight for the first time this spring.

Sat. 9th – It rained some, early this morning, but cleared off very warm before noon. A. & I came to Biddeford today, 9 miles. Peddled none. Feel rather lazy.

Sun. 10th – Warm in morning, but cool and windy, with slight showers before night. Went to meeting in day. The village of Biddeford & Saco, together would make quite a large city. It is a great manufacturing place, the largest in Maine. Cotton factories abound, having immense water power on the Saco river.

Mon. 11th – f: cool: We came afoot to Cape Elisabeth, about 14 miles. Peddled but little. Visited the fort. The cannons are fixed so as to be turned in most any direction. The mortar and shells looked curious. And their building for heating balls. Then, there was a garden for the men to work in when they choose. The privates get \$7.00 per month which is the lowest wages and the one that has care of the hospital has \$16.00 which is the highest, and their board & clothes are all found them.

Tues. 12th – f: w: Peddled over in Westbrook & sold out every skein of silk. Went to the Express office & found a new load this evening. Very dark & some rainy this evening. Traded some over \$4.00 today. Stopping with Mr. Foster the second night. Has a wide awake daughter Naomi. Foster works in ship yard.

Wed. 13th – p: Sorted over our silk, etc. to get ready for peddling. Received a letter from home, also one containing a bill of our silk. Staying at Mr. Abraham Fosters yet.

Thurs. 14th – Fast day. Rainy all day.

Stayed all day at Mr. Foster's.

Fri. 15th - f: The ground was covered with snow this morning. Peddled all day around the south & eastern part of the town. Came across a family shelling clams for bait for codfishing. Sell them at six \$ per barrel. I went on the lighthouse. It was in a horrible place to get shipwrecked.

Sat. 16th - f: Been rather lazy. Took a walk over to the city in evening.

Sun. 17th - Little stormy in forenoon. Cloudy in afternoon. Went to Roman Catholic meeting in forenoon, and I never want to go again. Such horrid ceremonies. All the prayers & most of the singing was in Latin, and of course unintelligible. Then the bowing & bending of the knees, etc., at the word Jesus, and the ringing of little bells, the mixing and distributing of the holy water, all together formed such a scene as I never wish to see again. Oh! the wickedness of the priests blindly leading them on to misery. Deliver me from their sins. I think it would be a much less sin to attend a ball, or a theatre on Sunday, than to go to their meeting.

Mon. 18th - f: c: Peddled in Westbrook, through Stevens's plains & Stroud-water villages. Saw some of the prettiest residences in the groves that I ever did see. Took a walk in the evening of nine miles.

Tues. 19th - f: w: Peddled in Westbrook & Portland. Westbrook is a fine farming town, having several pretty villages.

Wed. 20th - f: w: Peddled in Sacca-rapepa [?] in the west part of Westbrook, which is small manufacturing place. There is also a great many gaiter boots bound and stitched here. Grass grows fast now-aday.

Thurs. 21st - f: w: Came over to

Gorham, which every much resembles Old Hadley, both in its form and aristocracy. Being the most aristocratic place I've seen in Maine. I left it about noon and came over to Standish corner, which is much like Gorham. In this place a man followed me in such a manner as to frighten me some. I believe he meant me no good. I soon left and came over to this place, Steep Falls, in Standish, which made about 15 miles travel today, but I traded over \$4.00. There is a high school at Gorham for ladies, & a select school at Standish corner for both sexes, which makes them more aristocratic I suppose.

Fri. 22nd - Peddled here, in Steep Falls, this forenoon but it rained this P.M. and rains this evening, with thunder & lightning. Here is a small village, part on one side in Standish and part on the other side of the Saco river, in Leimington. Much lumber sawed here.

Sat. 23rd - f: c: Came to Cornish, 7½ miles, found all supplied with silk by making sale coats, pants, etc. so I cam over to Hiram bridge 5½ ms. then took the stage to Fryeburg 12 miles, through Brownfield. Silk goes rather hard on account of the enormous quantity of sale clothes which is made, all up & down the Saco river. I have found much snow today, the north side hills in the woods are white in many places with it. I visited the falls of the Saco, in Hiram, as I came along. They are a grand natural curiosity. Such an immense mass of water, falling at least fifty feet in going one hundred, formed a cascade as much ahead of Shelburne Falls as they are ahead of the falls of a common millpond.

Sun. 24th - fair. cool in morning but warmer before night. Went to meeting in A.M. Took a walk over into N.H. this eve.

Mond. 25th - Cloudy all day. Snowed

a little. Peddled till about 3 then came over to Bridgeton 12 miles. There is much pine plain land in this part of the country. Traded over \$5.00.

Tues. 26th - f: w: Did pretty good day's work here in Bridgeton. Quite a business place here for a small one. They do a great deal in the tanning business here.

Wed. 27th - f: w: Sent \$37.00 for silk this morn. Came to North Bridgeton, peddled till noon, then came on to Harrison & finished that in afternoon. Did well. Visited the wire factory, here in Harrison, this afternoon. They make an enormous lot of wire, of all sizes. They take the rolled rods, first and heat them as hot as they can without melting, & keep them heat 11 hours. Then put them into a preparation of sulphuric acid to take the rust off. They are size No. 4. Then they draw them down to No. 8, then heat them again, then draw to No. 12, heat, draw to No. 16, heat, draw to No. 20, & heat again, which is the last time. They draw some as fine as No. 36. They make mostly fine wire for cards, for factories. Got a letter from Addison this evening.

Thurs. 28th - f: w: Came through the villages in Waterford. Two small places, but didn't do much so I came over to Norway. Put up at Mr. H. W. Millets, where we stopped when here before. Travelled about 20 miles today.

Fri. 29th - f: w: Peddled here in Norway, did a good day's work. Stopping at Mr. Millett's another night. Norway is quite a business place, there being a large carriage factory, bedstead factory, tannery, iron foundry, carding works, etc. etc. It is very warm and dry for the time of year. Roads very dusty.

Sat. 30th - Cooler. Came here to Uncle Ben's this morning. Dont peddle any today. People all glad to see me here.

Sun. May 1st - Quite cold and windy, Dont go to meeting today. Quite windy. Took a walk just night, came across a hedge-hog & shot him if it was Sunday, with my pistol.

Mon. 2nd - f: Came to Paris, took the freight train to Lewiston for \$.85. Silk not arrived yet.

Tues. 3rd - Cloudy. Little rain this evening. No silk yet.

Wed. 4th - f: w: Silk came this morning. Freight \$.50. Sorted it over, came over to Sabathsville in Webster, traded some, then came to this place, through Wales, to within about a mile of Monmouth. A good farming country through here, and several beautiful ponds. It has been uncommonly dry for two or three weeks, roads dusty.

Thurs. 5th - Rainy day, wind south. Peddled between showers in Monmouth, and came over to Winthrop 7 miles. Traded but very little.

Fri. 6th - Cloudy in morning, but cleared off before night. It rained most all night. Peddled in Winthrop, & Kennebec, then came to Augusta. Stopping at Mr. Seeman's, where we did last winter. Letter from home. Made Mr. P. Jaques, the Methodist minister in Winthrop, a call this forenoon. Good folks.

Sat. 7th - Peddled in forenoon some. Very pleasant. I feel some afraid of the new peddlers law, which makes any one liable to pay a fine of fifty dollars, that goes without a licence. And no one can get a licence, unless he has been in the state five years.

Sun. 8th - Cloudy, rainy, snowy, etc. Went to meeting at the Methodist house in forenoon. I'm staying with a family by the name of Church.

Mon. 9th - f: w: Very rainy last night. Came to Hollowell this evening, traded well today.

Tues. 10th — f: w: Peddled in Hallowell in forenoon, then came to Gardner, 4 miles, where I found Addison, after a separation of over three weeks. Visited in P.M. This city was named for Esq. Gardner, the richest man in the place. We visited his residence this afternoon. His dwelling house is said to have cost more than the State House at Augusta. A & I have had some of the times this afternoon talking over our exploits.

Wed. 11th — Rainy in forenoon, but fair & warm in afternoon. Sold about \$3.00 worth. Gardner is not a very pretty place, being rough & uneven, and stuck up on a side hill, similar to Hallowell.

Thurs. 12th — fair and warm in A.M., cloudy in P.M., rainy eve. Trees, grass, etc. grow very fast. I saw currant bushes & shad trees in blow. Peddled on this side of the Kennebeck in A.M. but crossed over to Pittston in P.M.

Fri. 13th — f: w: Peddled in Pittston. Goes rather hard, wish I was at home. Came up to Augusta just night. Saw a cherry tree in blow. The land on the Kennebeck is a clay loam with clay subsoil. Great many brick made. Worth about \$4.00 per thousand. Stopping with Mr. Seeman's people again. I've seen some of the prettiest flowers lately that I ever saw. Especially the Oleander plant. It has a large pink-rose blossom. They propagate it by taking slips and stick the ends in bottles of water till they root, two or three inches long, then set it out in a pot, and keep it very wet.

Sat. 14th — f: w: Was foolish enough to go, this morning, and have our fortunes told. Have not half so much faith in fortune-telling, as I had before I went. We also had the good luck to see a small schooner launched from the east side of the river. She went off beautifully. Her name is Eben Sawyer. Peddled on the

east side of the river this afternoon, and are stopping over Sunday here with Cyrus Elms' people. Mr. Elms is engineer on the steamer "Tearer," that runs between here and Bath, and his wife has some Spanish blood about her. Augusta is a very pretty place, mostly on the west side of the river. The State House is at the south end of the city, on the west side, but the Arsenal, and Asylum for the insane are on the east side, all three are very noble buildings.

Sun. 15th — f: w: Didnt go to meeting today, had so much visiting to do. Made Mr. Wm. Seeman's family, and the widow Eliza Gale's family, a visit this evening.

Mon. 16th — Peddled most of the day in Augusta. Stopping in same house we did last night, only in another family, by name Wilson, Joal.

Tues. 17th — f: w: The warmest day of the season, yet. Addison & I separated this morning, he to steer south easterly, and I north westerly. Came through Kennebeck, (where there are several large oil-cloth carpet factories) and through Readfield, where there is quite a village, then I came in to North Wayne. Addison & I sent \$93.00 for silk this morning.

Wed. 18th — Cloudy A.M. Fair & hot in P.M. The woods look quite green. Things come forward very fast. Peddled in North Wayne till 3 o'clock then came to within 2 miles of Livermore Falls. People are doing their planting fast. Spring grain has come up nicely. At North Wayne they make a great many sythes, employing from 75 to 100 hands.

Thurs. 19th — Rainy most all day. Stopped with a Mr. Wyman till afternoon. Then moved a half mile. Wind northeast. Quite a sandy country about here, on the Androscoggin.

Fri. 20th – c: windy. Peddled in Livermore Falls village till noon, then came over to within about a mile of Keith's Mills in Chesterville. Went fishing after supper & caught quite a string of trout. Begin to feel pretty easy about the law. Guess they wont trouble us. Mean to be careful.

Sat. 21st – f: cool: Came through village at Keith's mills, also at Farmington Falls, nearly to New Sharon village, all small small places. Traded over \$5.00. There is many first rate farms along here on the Sandy river. I saw a quite number of snow banks, off on the hills to the north, today. Stopping over Sunday with a family by name of Fletcher. Quite old people.

Sun. 22nd – Some showery. Didn't go to meeting but attended a funeral at 5 o'clock & heard one of the best sermons I know, from the text "As dying and behold we live." We not only live in another world after death but our influence on the world, while we are in it, extends to all succeeding generations. A pleasant, or a haughty word, or look may be the means of making a person's life happy or miserable, and finally of their salvation or destruction. Serious thought. There is a starch factory in this town. Saw snow-banks on the hills at distance today.

Mon. 23rd – f: w: Came from New Sharon through Rome, to Belgrade depot, 17 miles, then took the cars to Waterville, for 40 cents. Got here about 4 o'clock, found Mr. Brown's and Mr. Allen's people well. These are two families that lived in one house, where we stayed over Sunday when here before. Mr. Allen was sick then, threatened with fever, and I doctored him some with water. He soon got better and thinks I was the means of his not having a run of the fever. Waterville looks prettier to me than it

did when I was here before. It is the prettiest village I've seen in Maine, I think. Got a letter from Addison. Seen several Apple trees in blow.

Tues. 24th – Some rainy. Peddled in P.M. some. Waterville is situated on the Kennebeck 18 miles above Augusta & I think, the prettiest ville I seen in Maine. Being situated on a rich & level portion of land with great water power, is destined to become a large city. It has a number of mills, and is also the seat of the Waterville colleges. The railroad passes through it, from Portland to Bangor.

Wed. 25th – Quite rainy today, & nothing done, this week yet, of much amount. Just night I started and came about five miles up the river, passing through Kendall's Mills, village in Fairfield which is quite a pretty place, mostly new.

Thurs. 26th – It has been a very rainy day, wind N.E., which has kept me within doors pretty much. Though I went down to the river & saw them catch the logs. They catch the logs in large pens, called booms, made by stringing logs across the river, or part way, slanting, with a narrow opening at the lower end, through which the logs all pass. Men stand at this opening to help the logs along, and when they see one that belongs to them, they drive a wedge into it, to mark it, and it is caught soon and fastened into a raft with others. The rest they shove along down stream.

Fri. 27th – f: w: We had a powerful rain in the night, but it cleared off beautifully this morning. I peddled along up the Kennebeck to Bloomfield where I found a letter from home, and a bundle of silk. Or, rather, it was the other side of the river, in Skowhegan.

Sat. 28th – f: w: Peddled in Bloomfield most of the day. The Villages of

Bloomfield & Skowhegan on opposite sides of the Kennebeck, are very business places. I traded over seven dollars today.

Sun. 29th - f: w: Went to meeting in forenoon to Methodist. Wrote a letter home today. In this village of the two towns there is two or three shovel factories, a large paper mill, tannery, etc. The paper mill is very profitable. There is a starch factory in Skowhegan, also one in New Sharon, Mercer and several other towns in this part of the state.

Mon. 30th - f: w: Peddled in Skowhegan, till most night, then came to Norridgewock, five miles up the river. Traded over \$6.00. This town has one of the prettiest streets that I ever saw, in the village on the north side of the river. It is deeply shaded with large, ancient trees, many of them of a species of willow. One of them I took the trouble to measure. It was 18 ft. 5 inches in circumference, with a very large spreading top. Just at night I came up the river two or three miles. Tis a pleasant country.

June. Wed. 1st - f: w: Cool night last, and some frost. I came up to Madison bridge, 5 miles and peddled till afternoon, then came up to Anson, four miles farther. Here is quite a village. In Norridgewock, three miles below Madison bridge, is the old *monument*, reared where there was a band of Indians killed in the time of the Indian wars. The Indians had troubled the whites very much, killing, burning, etc. and the whites formed a band, and came up the river to find & punish, if they could. They succeeded in finding them, and surprising them in their camp. They killed a great many, and drove the rest into the river. That, running very swift at that place, they were nearly all drowned. I think the monument was reared by the Catholic Indians. It has been thrown down once and put up by

the towns people but it is now thrown again. It is of granite, and when standing about twenty feet high. The inscription is written in Latin, and difficult to be read.

Thurs. 2nd - f: w: Peddled in Anson till noon then came up on the west side of the river to Embden, then crossed over to Solon. There is a small village in Solon, but none in Embden. Traded nearly \$7.00 today. Stopping overnight with a man by name of Moor. The old gentleman was very good natured, and considerably interested in my business. Or rather in me. He said if we came that way in the fall, we must be sure and call on him.

Fri. 3rd - Cloudy and misty all forenoon. Stopped at Mr. S. W. Moor's till after dinner, then finished peddling in Solon, and came over to Athens, ten miles, through a very hilly country. Some of which is just in the state of nature, not a tree having been cut, more than enough to make the road. Athens village is small, about as large as Solon.

Sat. 4th - f: cooler: Quite a rainy night last. Peddled in Athens till two or three o'clock, then came over to St. Albans passing through Hartland. Traded about \$5.75. Got a letter from Addison. This village & Hartland are about as large as Solon & Athens, though not quite.

Sun. 5th - f: w: A beautiful day. Wrote a letter to Addison & one to Dunklee. Went to meeting in P.M.

Mon. 6th - f: w: Went over to Hartland and traded over \$10.00. Stopped over Sunday and are stopping tonight with Gardner Bonney's family. First rate folks.

Tues. 7th - f: w: Though had a shower just night. Peddled in St. Albans a while in forenoon but they are so awful poor that I could not do a thing So I cam over to Dexter 10 miles. Found Mr. FitzGerald's folks well. I think St. Al-

bans is a poor town. The houses of the village are mostly small & shingled on the sides. There is quite a number of Quakers in town. Dexter is quite a large village, and a very growing one. There are four woolen factories which help the place very much besides other shops, tannery, etc. It has a hill on the east side, from the top of which is the best prospect that I know of. The White Mts. are in sight on the west, and Mt. Katahden on the north northeast and in every direction there is a view, as far as the eye can reach.

Wed. 8th – f: w: Peddled in Dexter. Traded over \$10.00. Stopping with Mr. Orin FitzGerald's folks another night.

Thurs. 9th – f: w: Peddled from Dexter to Corinth, through Exeter. Traded about \$6.00. Very good farming country. Grass & other crops look uncommonly well.

Fri. 10th – Came through Kenderskeag to Bangor. Passed through corner of Glenburn. Traded over \$4.00. Corinth is a very good farming town and quite wealthy. I'm in Bangor but 4 or 5 miles from the city. Warm but windy.

Sat. 11th – f: w: Peddled to the city, then took a road out from the city and peddled out a mile or two. Traded over \$7.00, which makes over \$35.00 this week. I'm stopping just out of the city, on the east side of the Kenderskeag river, and close by the ledge called the "lover's leap." It is about 100 feet perpendicular from the river.

Sun. 12th – f: w: Went down to the post office this morning, and found four letters for me. One from Dunklee, one from Addison, two from home. One of those from home contained a copy of a letter that Uncle Addison's folks have had from *Darwin*, dated at Honolulu March 10th. I had given up ever hearing from him again, supposing he was dead.

He has been off on a whaling voyage, and been gone from home two years last Nov. I never was so glad to hear from any one in my life. Even to know that he is alive, is a great consolation. I would go the world over to find him if I thought I never should see him without. I have written a letter to him today, also one to Uncle Addison, brother Addison & home.

Mon. 13th – Cloudy in A.M. Sprinkled some. f: w: P.M. Peddled in S.W. part of city. Traded about \$6.00. Got most out of silk, especially Fancy & Sad. Expect more Wednesday, \$50.00 worth.

Tues. 14th – f: w: Peddled on the road from Bangor towards Hampden, about a mile. Sold all my silk except a little Fancy & Sad. Traded over \$8.50.

Wed. 15th – f: v: w: Had to lie by to wait for silk. Got it about two o'clock a good load. \$50.00 worth. Sent fifty dollars to Dunklee for more. Got a letter from Wm. F. Bassett.

Thurs. 16th – f: w: Very hot & dry lately. Traded over nine dollars. There was a small fire in the city last night, but I saw it not. Not much damage done. Bangor looks very pretty in the summer.

Fri. 17th – f: h: Finished the west half of the city. Traded not quite \$6.00. Fancy colors go quick, but Saddlers goes hard. Looks a little like rain just night.

Sat. 18th – f: w: Peddled on the east side of the Kenderskeag, north of the depot mostly. Traded over nine dollars. We have had a week of very hot, dry weather. Need rain very much.

Sun. 19th – Dry & very windy I never saw dust fly worse. Wrote a letter to Dunklee & Addison & sent a paper home. Went to meeting in P.M. Got a letter from Addison in morning. He is in Thomaston.

Mon. 20th – f: w: Settled with Mr. Wingate's folks and came over to the

East side of the Kenderskeag. They charged me \$.50 for staying over Sunday. Left my washing to be done. Mrs. W. thinks she has a pretty hard row to hoe, being his fourth wife, and having several children of his to take care of. After I got started this morning, I found that I had lost or left my pistol somewhere. I had not seen it for several days. I finally concluded I left it where I stayed Friday night. After supper I went there & found it. Traded over \$9.00 today. Going to stop over night with an Irish family. Dont know how I shall get along. I peddled Sat. on Harlow & Centre Streets. Today, finished Centre & part of French streets.

Tues. 21st - f: w: Guess I shan't stop at another Irish house. Those that I stopped last night with were first rate folks, and treated me as well as they could. But they had a set of boarders that were up late, the bed was infested with bed-bugs, the fish for breakfast was tainted & the butter frowy. However, knowing how to shirk I got along and lived through it. I have done the best day's work today that I have done this year. I finished French St. then Broadway & a part of Pine Streets. I saw an India Rubber tree today. it is an evergreen, and never sheds its leaves. The leaves are shaped like Milk-weed leaves, only ten times as large. I left my Saddles silk in my Carpet bag today. It does not sell well at all here. Traded today \$14.50.

Wed. 22nd - Cloudy. A little rain this morning & a little in P.M. Made out to trade about \$5.00 today, mostly on Essex Street. I've traded about \$53.00 since a week ago tonight.

Thurs. 23rd - f: w: Peddled on State & York streets mostly today. Traded \$10.50. I had a tooth filled last night by Dr. Jordan, with tin foil. Cost \$.75. Got

my silk most sold out, especially the colored.

Fri. 24th - It rained about two hours this forenoon, finely. It did very much good, though people would have been glad to have seen twice as much. Peddled on State Street nearly up to North Bangor.

Sat. 25th - f: w: Went up to Stillwater village in Orono, and back to Bangor in afternoon. Got fancy colors most sold out. Traded about \$46.00 this week. Stopping over Sunday with Mr. Moses Wingate. The same that I stayed with last Sunday.

Sun. 26th - A little showery today, but very cool & comfortable. Got a letter from Addison this morning, from Thomaston. He says he has had a letter from Dunklee stating that he could not furnish us with silk at present prices on account of a rise in the price of raw silk. It being at present \$5.50 per lb. in N.Y. I have written to Northampton to know what they can do for us. I dont know but we shall have to give up the business by the middle of July. I went to meeting this A.M. Been writing most of P.M.

Mon. 27th - f: c: Came over to Brewer which lies opposite of Bangor, and peddled till middle of afternoon, then paid a boy 4 cents to row me across to Bangor again, a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ below the city. Stopping over night with a Mr. Crosby. He wants me to work for him in haying. He thought he could afford to pay me \$1.25 per day.

Tues. 28th - f: w: Went down to Hampden (after mowing an hour or so) and sold out my silk. I've got to wait till Weds. P.M. for another load. Mr. Crosby has a nursery, in which there is some grafting done different from any that I ever saw before. The stock is cut off slanting, and the scion is split, not quite

in the center. The thickest side stands up-right on the highest side of the stock, under a slip of bark which has been cut down. The thinnest part of the scion pass across the center of the stock, and is stuck between the slip of bark and the wood on that side. They succeeded *very well*, especially on the Plum.

Wed. 29th – f: w: I mowed & spread hay till $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten, then went down to the Penobscot to go in swimming. Had a first rate time. Found a plenty of Straw berries coming back. This afternoon I went up to the city & got my carpet-bag & new bundle of silk. \$50.00 worth. Helped take care of the hay in the latter part of day. Hay is very light this year, though not near as bad as last.

Thurs. 30th – Cloudy & some rainy. Cold & chilly. Came through Hampden to Frankfort. Found three letters for me. One from home, one from Uncle Addison, & one from T. Dixon. Don't peddle today. Travelled 10 or 11 miles today.

Fri. July 1st. – f: w: Peddled in Frankfort. Silk goes rather hard here. There has been several silk peddlers along this spring. There is two villages in this place, as in Hampden, about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart. Frankfort is quite the largest place, on the Penobscot river, about 14 miles below

Bangor & 18 above Belfast. Strawberries are very plenty. It is very dry weather yet.

Sat. 2nd – f: w: Took the boat Governor, and came down to Belfast, stopping at Bucksport. Fare 50 cents. Got to Belfast about $\frac{1}{2}$ past nine. Had the good luck to get rid of my hot Kossuth hat on the way. The wind blew it over-board. Went & bought me a Leghorn for \$1.25. Found Addison at the Post Office about 11 o'clock. Before that I had found a first rate place to stay over Sunday, with a family by name of Durgin. We went there & left our Carpet-bags then took a walk after dinner. We found all the strawberries we could eat. Went in swimming before supper. We have a first rate time, not having seen each other for most seven weeks. Belfast is a city & quite a pretty place. They expect to have great doings here Monday, celebrating the "fourth."

Sun. 3rd – f: h: Went to meeting this forenoon. Had rather a lazy minister I think. Got a bundle of silk this morning \$50.00 worth. Silk has risen in price & we have to pay 25 cts. per lb. more than we have been paying. Got a letter from Northampton about silk. Can't do anything there.

NOTE: This account of Ebenezer Graves' peddling trip is owned by Mr. Lawrence S. Cooke, to whom we are indebted for permission to publish. The journal will be concluded in the next issue of OLD-TIME NEW ENGLAND.