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THE DIARY OF JOHN HAMILTON CORNISH, 1846-1860

*Edited by R. CONOVER BARTRAM **

The diary of John Hamilton Cornish¹ offers a warm and living account of the early history of the Church of St. Thaddaeus, Aiken, South Carolina.

The cornerstone for the Church was laid in 1842, the result of efforts of seasonal visitors from Charleston who spent their summers in Aiken to avoid the heat and dampness of the coastal city. Members of the first Vestry, elected for fourteen years, were all residents of Charleston.²

The Reverend John Hamilton Cornish began his ministry in Aiken on November 14, 1846, and continued "not without countervailing influences"³ until his resignation in February 1869. Born March 6, 1815, in Simsbury, Connecticut, young John at the age of twelve moved west to Michigan and later to Illinois with his pioneer father, a physician, and his family. In 1833 he and his brother Andrew⁴ returned east to study and later to serve as "Ministers of the Gospel" in South Carolina. The two brothers shared a close relationship, John coincidentally dying three years to the day, May 24, 1878, after the death of Andrew.

The hand-written diary of Mr. Cornish has been transcribed to date through 1860. The following excerpts from these transcribed volumes set forth, in his own words, spelling, and punctuation,⁵ the story of the first fifteen years of his twenty-three year ministry in Aiken, ignoring the admonition written in 1833 on the first page of the first volume: "Let no stranger's curious eye, Into these pages ever pry." Surely he would forgive this "prying" for the sake of an enriched understanding of the events he recorded.

Monday, November 16, 1846. Pedagogue. Commenced my pedagogal labours this morning. Six young girls present. . . . All in the Primary English Department.

* Mrs. Edward T. Bartram of Aiken, South Carolina, is editor of the St. Thaddeus Church weekly *Bulletin* and has written a history of the Church, as yet unpublished. She has done a great deal of work in radio and newspaper publicity and has contributed to the *AAUW Journal*.

¹ The original diary is in the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina, which has granted permission for this publication.

² Albert S. Thomas, *A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina, 1820-1957* (Columbia, 1957), 492-495.

³ John Hamilton Cornish, Ms. notes on the History of St. Thaddaeus, in possession of Mrs. Rowena Cornish Budlong.

⁴ The Rev. Andrew Cornish served as Rector of St. Paul's, Pendleton, from 1848 until his death in 1875.

⁵ The ampersand, however, has been expanded and the period substituted for the terminal dash.

Thursday, December 3, 1846. Church this day at 4 P. M. and a Lecture by the Bishop.

At Mrs. Swartz's⁶ Rt. Rev. C. E. Gadsden D.D. introduced me to the Hon. John C. Calhoun with whom we spent part of the evening. He is about six feet in height, or a little over, very thin and slim, stoops a trifle when walking accrost the room. Very affible and ready in conversation. He sat with his chair poised on the two back legs—his heels under the fore legs, and his hands in the arm holes of his Vest or in the pockets of his pants, with his upper lip raised almost continually. There is in his eye a glow—luster—brilliancy—or whatever it may be called—peculiar and striking. There appeared to issue from the center of them a flame of pure white light, that might cause objects before them to cast a shaddow on the wall.

I called at Maj. Schmidt's⁷ for Mrs. Cornish—where we took tea, and returned home.

Saturday, December 12, 1846. Went to Ch[urch] with Martha⁸ this morning and left her to practice on the organ. A Military Drill—above a hundred in the Company—no music—little order. But interesting to me in other respects as showing me in a measure what kind of people I am among, and the impression is more favourable than I anticipated. O Lord, give me wisdom from above and grace and strength of body and soul, to glorify thy name among this people, and turn many from sin to righteousness, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

⁶ A boarding house apparently located close to the Railroad Depot. On December 5, 1846, Mr. Cornish noted: "Last night about 300 bales of Cotton were burnt in front of Mrs. Schwartz's. The heat was so great as to melt several of the iron wheels of the Cars . . ." The boarding house was run by Francis and Mrs. Schwartz as a stopping place between trains. John C. Calhoun "and Lady" came up in the train and met their carriage there. Many from Boston, New York, Baltimore, Nova Scotia and other Northern points made this their winter residence or final home, having come to Aiken as invalids. It was also called Schwartz's Hotel or the Aiken Hotel.

⁷ This was J. F. Schmidt, of Charleston, who with J. K. Sass was a founder and first Warden of St. Thaddeus. Church records show that the first three presons confirmed were John F. Schmidt, H. Matilda Schmidt, and Elizabeth Britton on August 7, 1844, presumably by Bishop Gadsden, since at that time there was no Rector at St. Thaddeus. The Rev. Alfred E. Ford did not take charge until January 26, 1845.

⁸ Martha Jenkins Cornish, daughter of Col. Joseph Jenkins and Ann Jenkins Fripp, of Brick House, Edisto. Cornish met his future wife when he was tutoring the Seabrook children at Sea Cloud Plantation, Edisto, and at the same time completing his studies for the ministry under the Rev. Charles E. Leverette. The young couple were married at Brick House on January 22, 1842.

Friday, January 8, 1847. A clear cold day. The water in my study in the goblet froze solid—9 P. M.

Saturday, February 6, 1847. [Charleston] . . . The [Diocesan] Convention adjourned in the midst of a discussion upon a series of resolutions offered by H. W. Lesseesne, Esqr, respecting a peculiar organization for a Congregation of Coloured people in the City,⁹ to 10 A. M. Monday.

Monday, February 8, 1847. At Convention the Resolutions occupied the day and were finally passed in part.

Sunday, April 11, 1847. Ch[urch] A. M. and P. M. — More than usual present, a good many visitors, strangers, invalids, &c present.

Tuesday, June 1, 1847. A hot day. Answered to my name at the Market, and exempted from road duty.¹⁰

Monday, September 20, 1847. Mr. Rowe called, and informed me of the death of Mrs. Hale AE—which happened today about one P. M. Her son, Col. Fremont, just from California, arrived in here in the Cars from Charleston this evening, having heard of the extreme illness of his Mother on his arrival at Washington.¹¹ At his request I said the Burial Service over her remains this evening at 8 o'clock, Mrs. Cornish and three or four other Ladies and Mr. Rowe present besides Col. Fremont.

Tuesday, September 21, 1847. Feast St. Mathew, Church A. M. Prayers. 6 or 8 present. This morning saw Col. Fremont off for Charleston in the Cars with the remains of his Mother.

Saturday November 20, 1847. Hung a bell. A killing frost last night.

Monday, January 3rd, 1848. Wrote to George Jardine, organ builder, 548 Pearl Str. New York.

Friday, February 11, 1848. [Charleston]. Convention occupied most of the day discussing the merits of the plan of the Convention to establish a congregation chiefly of coloured people and slaves.

⁹ These resolutions resulted in the construction of the Calvary Episcopal Church for colored communicants. The building, on the corner of Wilson and Beaufain Streets, was consecrated in December 1849. Thomas, *Historical Account* . . ., 200-201. In 1962 efforts to obtain funds for its repair and preservation failed, and it was razed.

¹⁰ See entry for Monday, June 20, 1853.

¹¹ Very probably Col. John C. Fremont, who had been summoned from California about this time to Washington for court martial.

Sunday, March 26, 1848. Church A. M. and P. M.—pleasant day—full house A. M. Baptised Hugh Alison, in the new Marble Font just put in near the door of the Church inside. The whole congregation arose and turned around, which had at least the appearance of joining in the service as they ought.

Tuesday, April 18, 1848 . . . The body has been lying so long it was necessary to bury it immediately.¹² As the grave had to be dug after Mr. Baldwin arrived in the Cars, they were not ready for the burial till XI P. M. Prayers at the house. A bright moonlight night. Miss Ward and Mrs. Steedman, Mr. Baldwin and I walked after the Corpse, and several Servants with us, to the Methodist Meeting House, and to the grave in the North East corner of their lot, where the Service appointed at the grave was performed. It was about a quarter past 12 at night when I left this untimely grave.

Wednesday, April 26, 1848. A large pine tree [was] bloon accross one corner of the Church, doing much damage to the roof and cornice outside. Now raining. We shall have great cause for thankfulness if this rain does not cause the plastering and cornice inside to fall before morning.

Monday, May 8, 1848. Called on Miss Carolina Stewart. She desires to be baptised though in infancy, having received from a Lutheran something like Baptism.

Thursday, May 11, 1848. At 12 M. Martha and I went to McBride's¹³ where I Baptised, using the conditional form, Caroline Rebecca Stuart AE born March 27, 1829. Sponsor, her Mother, Mrs. Nabb.

Rec'd a Note from Maj. Schmidt saying that he was authorized to say that an organ that had been but little used would be given to the Ch. of St. Thaddeus, provided the subscription money raised by me for procuring one, be appropriated to repairing the Church and erecting the tablets. The said Organ cost \$400. made by Erben—and is the gift of Mrs. Laurens, the Daughter of Ed. R. Laurens,¹⁴ Esqr. . . . Called on Maj. Schmidt and accepted the proposal respecting the Organ.

Sunday, May 21st, 1848. Church A.M. and P.M. Between services administered the Holy Communion, in private, at Mr. McBryde's, to two sick persons, Mr. Leonard P. Bliss, of Mass. [and] Miss Caroline Re-

¹² A reference to nineteen-year-old Mrs. Finch Macky, who had died April 16.

¹³ A boarding home for invalids in Aiken.

¹⁴ Edward R. Laurens was the son of Elizabeth Rutledge and Henry Laurens, Jr. He was one of the founders of St. Thaddaeus and a member of its first vestry.

becca Stuart of Charleston. Their first Communion. Mrs. Nabb and Mrs. Cornish partaking with them.

After Church P.M. met Dr. Hume¹⁵ in his carriage near Dr. Coffin's office. He bid me Farewell. He goes to Charleston to die. His son Edward was with him. . . .

Monday, May 22nd, 1848. Leonard P. Bliss died at 5 o'clock, in his 38th year. I officiated at his funeral at the Church and his grave in the Church yard at 5 P.M. A goodly number of persons attended. Sent a letter to his Brother, William H. Bliss, at Providence, R.I. Care of D.D. Sweet & Co.

Friday, June 2nd, 1848. Mr. Bland Called. [He] took possession of the Sunday School Room. . . . Sent for by Mrs. Nabb. An afflicted Mother, trembling, weeping, hoping against hope over the last of five children, who with a reasonable, religious and holy hope, is now waiting the hour of dissolution which to all appearance draweth near.

Saturday, June 10th, 1848. Died at Mrs. McBride's yesterday XI o'clock P.M. Caroline Rebecca Stuart, AE 19 years, 2 months and 13 days. Martha and I were sent for by the afflicted early this morning—accompanied them, with the body, to the Cars, in which they left for Charleston.

Wednesday, June 14, 1848. My darling "Liz" is still very sick, seems to fade away daily like a tender blossom—or a bud that had a worm at the heart.

Saturday, June 17, 1848. The Organ came yesterday and was put up today by Mr. Hagood.

Died this evening about 9 o'clock—or rather, fell asleep in the arms of Jesus—who carrieth the Lambes in his bosom—my Dear little "Liz"—Elizabeth La Roche—born June 25, 1847—being one year old, wanting eight days. The Lord gave her to us—a dear, sweet child, we gave her back to him, at the font. He lent her to us to smile upon and bless us for a short space. He loved her, and took her from this rude world to himself, to train her up among the sweet flowers of Paradise. How beautiful and lovely will she grow up among them. We shall go to her. Lord, wean our affections from this world and fix them on thee, that we may meet in peace and joy where parting shall be no more. Amen.

¹⁵ On July 26, 1846, Mr. Cornish dined with Dr. Alexander Hume "on his farm, about half a mile from the Village." He notes his death on June 6, 1848.

Sunday, June 18, 1848. Mr. Haygood officiated at our new Organ, large congregation. Communion, being Trinity Sunday—partakers white 9—coloured 4.

For want of a proper person, obliged to officiate at the burial of my own child.

Monday, June 19, 1848. Mr. John W. Haygood this evening delivered to me the Key of the Organ. By the direction of Maj. Schmidt, I gave him a check on the Bank of Charleston of \$42, for packing, unpacking, and putting up the Organ, and passage from and to Charleston.

Sunday, August 20, 1848. Church A. M. and P. M. Collection for the Advancement Society \$16.98 A small congregation—both of the other Houses being open—in one of which (the Baptist) Dr. Bachman¹⁶—a Lutheran—held forth against the Church in general and in a rage against me in particular, for having baptised one whom he had attempted to baptize.

Monday, August 28, 1848 [Columbia]. Wade Hampton, jun[ior] and Lady called to see me and ask me to their house.

Friday, October 6th, 1848. . . . Incidentally heard of a paper in circulation here purporting to come from Mrs. Nabb, containing a statement of circumstances relating to the Baptism &c of her Daughter by me, calculated to give the wrong impression of the matter.

Obtained the same, through the agency of a friend, and had a true copy of it made for me.

Received a letter from Martha.

Received a Letter from J. K. Sass, Esqr. in which he calls me to rescue him from an insulting attack made on him by Dr. Bachman, in consequence of his contradicting certain statements of Dr. B's on my authority. Wrote to Mr. Sass and enclosed a Letter to the Rev. John Bachman D.D. . . .

Sunday, October 22, 1848. Church A. M. Ordination—Communion. Eleven partakers. Alms \$13.81 given to *now* The Rev. Mr. Bland. P. M. Confirmation—2 white and one coloured confirmed.

I said Morning Prayer—presented the candidate C. T. Bland to be admitted Deacon—and assisted at the Communion. Rev. Mr. Hall preached the Sermon—and the Rt. Rev. C. E. Gadsden D.D. admitted to the Holy Order of Deacon

CHARLES THEODORE BLAND

¹⁶ Dr. John Bachman, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Charleston, and eminent naturalist.

P. M. Rev. Mr. Hall said Evening Prayer. Rev. Mr. Bland preached—and the Bishop confirmed—Mrs. Elizabeth Pascallis, Lawrence H[ines] Folker, and (coloured) Elizabeth Frances Jackson.

Wednesday, November 8, 1848. [Charleston] At St. Philip's Church XI A. M. . . . I delivered the 'Pinckney Lecture'¹⁷ to a very respectable audience. Present—the Bishop and 13 of the Clergy including myself. . . .

Evening called on the Bishop and with me, Mrs. G[adsden] and Catherine called and took tea with Miss Pinckney, and her sister, Mrs. Izard¹⁸—Daughters of Gen. Thos. Pinckney, at the old mansion, charged with the Pinckney Lecture—among other rarities Wine 50 years old was handed.

Saturday 17, 1849. Left in the Cars for Aiken. . . . Locomotive ran off the track in part twice and the baggage car broke down—which detained us so that we did not arrive at Aiken till after sun-set.

Sunday, March 25th, 1849 . . . The goats came into my piazza and trimmed my roses and shrubs last night—the door I suppose being left ajar.

Tuesday, April 24, 1849. At 8 1/2 o'clock in St. Thaddaeus Church, married Phillip Saltus of Charleston to Elizabeth Jackson, a coloured couple.

Sunday, April 29, 1849. Pleasant. Church A. M. and P. M. Evening a shower.

Maj. Lovell, the sole survivor of those who fought at Lexington and Bunker Hill, was at Church this morning, quite erect, and active, though I suppose his age must be above 90.

Wednesday, May 30, 1849. Delivered in St. Philip's Church the Pinckney Lecture. The Bishop said Morning Prayer.

Took tea at the Old Pinckney Mansion, the Governor's House in Colony times, quite a party present. Miss Harriott Pinckney presented me this note, saying it did not require an answer.

¹⁷ Charles Pinckney (d. 1758) provided in his will that annually two sermons be delivered in St. Philip's ". . . on the glorious and inexhaustible subjects of the greatness of God and his goodness to all his Creatures." *SCHM*, VIII (1907), 218.

¹⁸ Rosetta Ella, daughter of Col. Thomas Pinckney and granddaughter of General Thomas Pinckney. She married Ralph Stead Izard in 1839.

The Pinckney mansion, home of Gen. C. C. Pinckney, was located on East Bay just north of Market Street. It was presided over at this time by Miss Harriott Pinckney (d. 1886), the General's daughter.

Rev'd and Dear Sir

Twenty-five dollars is the sum designated by our Grandfather's Will for the two Lectures. We hope you will excuse our enclosing one hundred, with our grateful thanks for your very excellent and eloquent discourses. Believe me with great esteem,

Your obliged

Harriott Pinckney

Tuesday, July 24, 1849. Just as I was sitting down to breakfast J. M. Legare called and said Mr. Gardiner had sent, desiring me to go to Augusta, to attend the funeral of a son of Mrs. Andrews, who was drowned yesterday, a lad, some 9 or 10 years old. I did so. The rain last night having washed away the props of a bridge on the road, while the Cars waited for it to be repaired, I walked on with a B. C. P. [Book of Common Prayer]—and after a walk of about 8 miles, reached Augusta about an hour before the Cars.

At 5 P. M. officiated at the funeral of Mrs. Andrews' youngest son. Two other lads who were drowned with him were buried the same day. Evening called on the family. I lodged with Mr. Sherman. . . .

Monday, August 27th, 1849. Evening Martha and I called at Mrs. Williams'—at Maj. Schmidt's and after Tea at Mrs. Alison's . . . Martha sang a song to the Guitar. It was a great pleasure to hear her voice again accompanying her favorite instrument.

Monday, September 3, 1849. P. M. 5½ o'clock Said the Burial Service at Mrs. Schwartz's over the body of Mr. John Parker, aged 63, of Charleston, Rev. Mr. Lance present. . . .

Tuesday, September 4, 1849 . . . The body of Mr. John Parker, in a coffin, wrapt in a sheet, was put in the coole under the Car—with the baggage—sic transit gloria mundi. He has left a palace at Flat-Rock, his summer residence and a venerable old family mansion at Goos Creek—whither they take his remains to the family burying place.

Friday, November 30th, 1849 . . . A Roman Catholic Lady, Miss Porter, buried this P. M. in the Church yard, by Rev. Dr. Barry—Romanish priest of Augusta, Ga.

Thursday, April 25th, 1850 . . . [Funeral of John C. Calhoun] I reached Charleston about 1 P. M. Saw part of the procession at the Citadel. Went to the B[ishop]'s and washed and dressed and walked to Broad Str. where I saw most of the procession. The lofty hearse bearing the corpse of J. C. Calhoun passed between the military to the City

Hall—in front of which it stopt—till the procession passed it with heads bare. It was then taken into the Hall—and laid upon a large canopy prepared for the purpose. The public buildings and many of the private houses were trimmed with black Cambric. Shops shut—all business suspended.

Took Tea with Rev. Mr. Young. Met there Rev. Mr. Breck of Nashotah [Wisconsin]. Wrote Martha.

Friday, April 26 1850. Attended the funeral of J. C. Calhoun at St. Philip's Church. The house was cramed. The whole of the Burial Service was performed in the Church. The psalm was sung. Some 10 or so clergymen (I among them) sat in the Chancel in surplices. A Discourse by Rev. Wm. Miles. The Clergy in Surplices followed the Bishop down the aisle and surrounded the coffin, while the Bishop committed the body to earth—dust to dust—ashes to ashes. Afterward the body was deposited in a vault prepared for the purpose in St. Philip's Church yard.¹⁹

Monday, January 3rd, 1853 . . . opened my School this morning.²⁰

Wednesday, February 9, 1853 Ash Wednesday. Church A. M. Offertory \$1.26 . . . and a private Communion Service presented to me by Mrs. Anna M. Edwards. . . .

Tuesday, June 7, 1853 . . . Called at The Rev. Mr. Bland's where the Sewing Society met.

Saturday, June 11, 1853. Met Mr. Bean at the Cars this morning. P.M. G. B. Lythgoe sent for me in haste, and I remained at his house till near sunset. Baptized Anna Louisa—born Sept. 21, '52—parents George B. and Anna Bella Lythgoe. Being absent on this business the bell was not rung and no service.²¹ The Sexton found a Rattle Snake under one of the Cushings in the Church.

Monday, June 20th, 1853 Summoned before the Town Council, for neglect of road Duty. Referred the Council to the Acts of 1825- in the Vol. IX of Cooper's Statutes at Large of S. C. where ministers of the Gospel are declared not liable to any such duty.

P. M. Some rain.

¹⁹ Deposited in the South Carolina Historical Society is a letter of the Reverend Mr. Cornish, April 8, 1871, describing the exhumation of Calhoun's body and referring to the funeral here attended. *SCHM*, 62 (1961), 248.

²⁰ St. Thaddeus Seminary for Boys, one of several schools conducted at various times by Mr. Cornish. This school started with two instructors and six pupils.

²¹ June 11 is the Feast of St. Barnabas.

Tuesday, July 5th, 1853. At 12 M. Buried Mr. Lythgoe's infant, Anna Louisa, in the Baptist Burying ground. Rainy P. M.

Tuesday, September 6, 1853. Wrote to A. Meneely's Sons ordering a BELL weying 734 lbs. in Key of D. with complete hangings.²²

Saturday, October 8, 1853. The old bell was let down and the new one weighing 742 lbs. raised to its place. . . .

Wednesday, October 12, 1853 . . . Sent the old Bell to the R. Road—weighed it, 630 lbs. . . . forwarded it to Meneely's Sons, West Troy, New York. . . .

Wednesday, January 11, 1854. The daily routine for the present is—rise at 5 A. M., dress—devotions—Greek Testament and other devotional readings till 7. Give instructions to Rhoda and "Matta"²³ until 8—Breakfast—open my School, now at the Odd Fellow's Lodge, at 9 A.M. From ten A.M. till ten at night, Miscellaneous. . . .

February 10, 1854. Rev. Mr. Herring of the African Mission addressed the [Diocesan] Convention . . . Rev. Mr. Arthur spoke an hour or more on the Greenville Memorial. A resolution of Inquiry into the Charter of St. Thaddaeus Church, Aiken, was past. . . .

Tuesday, March 28, 1854. Mrs. Franklin occupies the house in the Church yard from this day till she can find another place at \$1.50 per month.

Wednesday, July 5, 1854. P.M. . . . Mr. J. M. Legare called to inform me that the Adv[ancemen]t Society had made an appropriation of \$300 for St. Thadd. Church for the ensuing year—in consideration of a promise on the part of the Vestry to apply to the Legislature for an alteration in their Charter.²⁴

Tuesday, July 25, 1854. Took the Cars on the Columbia and Greenville R. Road. . . . Saw on board of it Mrs. Lythgoe and her daughter Harriet— There is a charter for a R. Road from this neighborhood [Newberry] to Aiken and the rout is said to be well suited for the purpose—a ridge running through most of the way so that but little grading would be required.

²² In an entry here omitted Mr. Cornish states the cost of the bell as \$122.22.

²³ Children of John and Martha Cornish. See entry for Sunday, March 6, 1855.

²⁴ The required alteration in the charter provided for the annual election of the vestry. *Statutes at Large of South Carolina* (Columbia, 1874), XII, 319-320, No. 4200.

Wednesday, July 26, 1854 . . . About 3 miles this side of Walhalla we stopped before Mr. Augustus Lythgoe's residence—Mrs. Lythgoe—and G. B. Lythgoe's daughters, Victoria and Lavinia. G. B. Lythgoe's residence and head quarters is at West Union, about 1/2 mile this side of Walhalla. A large Tract of Land—24000 acres, purchased by a company of Germans in Charleston for the benefit of their countrymen is named Walhalla or Good home. About 600 Germans are settled on farms out of the villiage. The Villiage at present is a street a mile long, built up at regular intervals on both sides. As it is but about two years old everything is new. There are two hotels and stores and shops of various kinds. We dined at Beaman's and then drove 5 miles to the top of Stump Mountain, through which the Blue Ridge R. Road Company are cutting a Tunnel—1 and 1/4 mile long—through solid granite or Ness Rock.²⁵ The East side of the mountain is faced down and the head of the Tunnel cut in about 60 feet, and the whole cleaned out some 15 or 20. There are to be four shafts sunk a thousand feet apart. Shaft No. 1 is now about 60 feet deep. They are working in it, as in the Tunnel—night and day. Shaft No. 2—the Water has stopt further progress till they get a steam pump, the depth of this shaft will be about 200 feet. There is a hotel and quite a villiage of Cabins already on the mountain. It rained most of the time we were there, and we returned to Walhalla in the rain.

Thursday—Our bill at Beaman's for two of us²⁶ and two horses and driver—for dinner—supper—Lodgings and snack—was \$2.12½—He offers Board at \$10 per month.

Tuesday, August 1st. [Spartanburg] I was very favourably impressed with the intelligence and good taste of the Villiagers . . . On our left, as we entered—upon an eminence over looking the villiage—are the New and imposing buildings of the Wooford College—a Methodist institution, which opens, I think this day, with some six or 8 scholars—and five professors who are comfortably quartered in elegant houses provided for them, with good salaries—all arising from the gift by will of one Wofford—a Methodist preacher—who managed to accumulate a large property. . . . The Rev. J. D. McCullough . . . is erecting of Brick, the buildings of St. John's School. The School in operation—with two Teachers and about twenty boys, who all together constitute one family over which the Rev. J. D. McCollough and his

²⁵ The Blue Ridge Tunnel, which has never been completed, was considered in the 1850's the longest railroad tunnel in the world. For a detailed account of its construction see Charles Sloan Reid, Marguerite Brennecke, and R. C. Carter II, *Persons, Places and Happenings in Old Walhalla* (Columbia, 1960), 196-203.

²⁶ The Rev. Andrew Cornish was traveling with his brother.

admirable wife preside. In the Chapel where The Daily Morning and Evening Prayer is offered I assisted at Evening Prayer. Happy is the lot of the lads who are here priveleged to find a second home, in this nursery of knowledge and piety . . . I was strongly tempted to cast my lot here with McCollough, as he urged me.

Friday, August 4th 1854. Rev. Mr. Arthur and Rev. P. J. Shand and I and Rev. Mr. Wigfall went up the Charlotte R. Road 16 miles to Ridgeway—where we met the Bishop and Rev. Roberts P. Johnson, Rector—and assisted at the Consecration of St. Stephen's Church—which will accommodate about 150 persons—a beautifully moddled Church ediface—altogether Chuchlike—cost about \$900—plan by J. D. McCollough . . .

At 3 P.M. Rev. Messrs Shand and Arthur and I returned in a freight car.

Sunday, September 10, 1854. Church A.M.P.M. No offertory collected today—discontinued them for the present, it being reported to me by Mr. Robert Hume that it was very disagreeable to many persons from below who were not accustomed to this thing.

Wednesday, September 20th, 1854 . . . Every place seems to be filled up—in part with refugees from Yellow fever in Charleston—Savanna—and Augusta.

Tuesday, March 6, 1855. THIS DAY I AM FORTY YEARS OLD

This has been a day of cloud and sunshine, tho' mild and pleasant. I planted some garden seeds and several Pomegranite trees. Made some repairs about the yard. Rec'd visits . . . Rhoda and Martha came home from school with a good account of their progress—Mary has amused herself in the house and yard—a cheerful, curly headed little girl—easily amused and giving but little trouble to anybody.

John William or "Willie" tries to make himself as interesting as a fine healthy boy of eleven months can.

My servants—Phoebe and Caesar and Frances have been busy gardening today. Miriam in the kitchen, Joe and Lucy playing in the yard.

As to my earthly possessions—I own the Lot and House where I am dwelling—and a vacant Town Lot in Guttenburg, Iowa.

I am endebted small sums to various individuals—which, including what I have in trust towards building a Parsonage—amounts to about \$500. None of my salary for the present year has yet been received.

Should it be duly paid, I hope, by the helping of God, to be even with the world before the close of another year.

My field of Labour is very peculiar, but I have not been without some cheering tokens from time to time, that my labours have been blessed to the good of souls. The Lord be praised. . . .

(To be continued)

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
ALEXANDER GARDEN, M.D., AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY
OF ARTS

Edited by JOSEPH I. WARING, M.D.

(Continued from January)

Dr. Garden to Mr. Henry Baker

[April 1757]

I come now to your Letter from the Society, to which I shall beg leave to make such Answers as I can.

In the first place, I beg leave to return my hearty and unfeigned Thanks to the Society for this Honour they do me in putting any Esteem upon the few Thoughts which I had the pleasure to Communicate to them. Their Commands will always give me Pleasure and I only wish I had Influence enough with some of our Planters here to excite them to put any of their Proposals to the Tryal. Since the Receipt of yours I have done all in my Power to push them on to make Tryal of some other of our Herbs, and now I have formed an association of some of them to make several Tryals this Summer of which I hope to be able to give the Society good Accounts by the End of the Year. I have wrote Mr. Whitworth fully on this Head and sent him a Copy of our advertisement for that purpose.

You propose the Cultivation of Logwood, Brazil, Fustic, Sanders, Woad, Madder, Tumeric, etc. Every Planter here will readily cultivate anything that will give him Returns equal to *Rice* or *Indigo*, but unless the Returns were superior or equal, he receives any proposal with great coolness and indifference, and after all that can be said to him on that Head, he will obstinately continue in his old Way. The Culture of *Indigo* is something uncertain and depends greatly on the Seasons, so that a Commodity that would be more certain and less liable to be hurt by our Sun or excessive Rains, even tho' it bore a lower Price would be well relished by them—or any Commodity the Culture or Preparation of which would take up but little Time and few Hands. Of this Number would be Logwood, Brazil, Fustic, Sanders, and that Species of Copra which I mentioned before. As to the four first articles the only Difficulty would be the procuring of Seeds and knowing the proper Soil, exposure and Culture of them; for I readily imagine it would be an easy Matter