

December 28, 1865 Thomas S. Armstrong Diary

Dec 28 Thurs

A fine day. Went out to see the sheep. Fed them. 8 or 9 doz. Sheep oats. The weather is rather cool. Still at the colors. The vacation is fast passing way. I am very anxious to know how the second term will prove. As one casts his eye over the vast unbroken landscape of these prairies, he is reminded of old _____. Tis said that farming is very easily accomplished here. We have _____ saying. Anna Borders has just had a fit. Mother Porter went at evening as she had another fit. Johnny went after. Goodbrake a fit. A periodical & voluntary convulsion of the _____ was our deduction. Frank and I engaged in studying the colors. We leave off our languages now. The snow is in good trim. Covers houses. Fence _____ & fields with a coat of white. What makes snow look white.

Dec 29 Fri

Frigid. Another day spent as heretofore. Nothing special. The word is that Col. Kelly has bought the Savage property gave his own house to Col. (?) & \$4000 for the Savage property of a good brick house. + 40 acres of land. Now that is quite a change again. Frank & I to board here next Spring term I suppose. Won't we. Miss Borders worse this evening. Another fit. Johnny went off the medicine. Playing "odd or even." I am working on the problem of the square in perspective. Read Alford the great. Snow is still in good quantity.

Dec 30 Sat.

This was a fine day. Cool enough to be pleasant. I wrote a piece this forenoon on _____ went corresponding to one. I have imprint (?). _____ went to town here. _____ also went to town. There was no mail for me. Reading & conversation as usual. Mr Allen was here this afternoon. He is teaching near. Here in the district. He has a 3 month school of 42 dolls _____. He is tall. Has black & brown eyes. Has a soft voice & seems to be unusually kind to Huldah. Mr Allen has ben out of the army only a short time. He has been stationed at Jackson, Miss. Mr. Beebe _____ 73 came here this afternoon. He was on the hunt for this "frau." His junior by 20 years. He thinks he could go out to the _____ and cut more wood than Al or Johnny either. At evening, Frank & Huldah went to Groves. I found out a new point. The plane of the equator is 23 degrees 28 to the earth's orbit or the plaine thereof. Hence how many degrees is the earth's axis off the orbit? Read some in history. Drew Frank's portrait. Got Mrs Madden's.

Dec 31 Sun.

A glorious day. Windy. The girls have gone to town for George. This makes the end of the year Anno Domini 1865. A year great in its results. To the nation, to me individually. The Rebellion collapsed during the year. The President was killed. Lee & Johnson surrendered. Jeff Davis capt'd. Andy Johnson came into the Presidential Mansion. As to my self, I was delivered from captivity & married two great events to me. At least I've taught one term in the Clinton school. Regain my lost money. Am in good health. My wife is much strongest there. She was 3 months agg. Lime deals gentle with us all. I have things pleasant. I enjoy life. My kind friends take pleasure in rendering my comfort. Brookline give us health & plenty to eat & wear. Good banks. We enjoy ourselves. We are opening new channels of thought. I review life with pleasure. I have have a salary of 100 dolls per month which is good for me. I think much better than I'd have got if I'd remained at home dury the war. My father & mother & bros. & sisters

seem to be well by the last acct. All is glorious. A brilliant future awaits me if not of greatness but of usefulness.

Could not decipher the next page and a half

How much is he out. Went to bed early. Geo & Grace on one side. Frank & I on the other. We were awakened after while by music by many voices. Mary to the _____ . The clock struck twelve. We heard a movement & “new Years Day gifts” was the cry. This is here in the year 1866.

Jan. 1 1866

Arose without a headache, feel very well. We enjoyed life largely. Today after breakfast, George, Johnny, & I took a notion to go hunting. I took the carbine, George the rifle & off we went. We followed the hedge northward but found no game. Went eastward then crossing a cornfield where George found a track (?) going into the ground. Johnny went after _____ axe or mattock to Britten’s. He, Geo, & I took a tour out around _____ to the Holi Dug for game where, lo, here was a rabbit. We got him out, o’ but he squealed. George put him hors du combat by sundry stroke on his neck. We then proceeded back by the run walking thro’ the tall grass. Nothing came up. Tho’ saw some prairie chickens. Cam on home. Saw the girls down on the ice. Went down, & O’ but did we skate. The ice was a little rough. The girls would start here. We would follow hard after & sit down & away we would go. I gave Frances 2 or 3 tumbles. Huldah hurt her arm by a fall. Frank & I tarried at the call for dinner & took a few _____ movements. We discussed the chickens & toward evening we got in the wagon & with the girls behind & we on the seat. We took a jolly ride along the high road Clinton. Mother Storts family seemed all well & hearty except “Eru” O’ but we are some times or _____ make the _____ of a nice time. I don’t care.

Jan 2 Tues

Arose about 8 A.M.. After breakfast we went up to school. Quite a goodly number of scholars. The school crowded full today. Miss Chapplelear spoke to me about taking a class. I did not do much today. I told her to wait till noon & we would see the directors. I told her that now my full number of classes. Miss Knadler is full also & wants to send a lot up to Miss Chapplelear. I heard no classes in the forenoon but made arrangements to see Mr. Humphrey & Mr Crang. They think they will come up & fix the school. Up they went to take Miss Welch out of the _____ corn house. I told them something would have to be done. They think of bringing _____ of the school over & putting Miss Chapplelear in my room. Miss Madden _____ here, Miss Welch _____ her. Heard geog & grammar & arith. Frank & Grace went to Kellys. Kellys are going to _____ for _____ for the new hours. Miss Kate Woolf & Br. Browne were married this evening & took the cars at 5 P.M.. went up to George’s store & _____ Ricky Conklin & Miss _____. Harvey Yazel (?) has gone. Went up town & _____ Mr Henry Crang and Wm. Whitwick.

Jan. 3 Wed.

This forenoon before recess, Messrs Crang, Humphrey, & Al Kipton came up & staid with me till recess. They hear the classes in arith recite. They discussed the various flaws about the small room. I had a splendid school. At evening, left the directors at the buildings. At evening went

up to George's store. Cold & sharp night. We did not study any. Heard Harvey Yazel & Jim Connell disputing, had to dry them up.

Jan 4 Thurs

Very cold morning. Got to school first as the bell rang. My school is rather noisy. Had map questions. The carpenters cutting a door into the room. Must tell Miss Chapplelear to recite with Mollie in French as she _____. She tripped over the fence. Her feet slipped & she fell back against the step with her shoulder. At eve got a "public" George & "Sis" out of _____. Col. Kelly had been nearly killed on the cars toward Wenona. Mrs K to go to him likely. Frank & I playing Blind Man's Bluff.

Jan 5 Frid.

This morning I went up to school. The directors have concluded to change entirely the order of the school. Miss Chapplelear & Miss Madden both came to me to see about commencing to change the schools & to make the change so that Mollie Welch could bring the school from down town. I told them to find out what pupils had better change. I just watched my school to a limited degree and need to detect what to do. At or towards noon we sent for Mr. Humphrey & thought we would have his opinion on the affair. After dinner, Miss Chapplelear sent her portion in after I had got my school to change some. The scholars viewed the change as an innovation I think. Those left acted queerly. Some cried. Archy Lewis took it hard. The rest mocked some what at it. But poor Archy thought his fortune gone. After recess, Miss Molly came with her flock and entered into her room. We were visited by Mr. Humphrey who thot we were scared. Before we were hurt(?). But he did not think that that Miss Madden thought she didn't want to teach where she wasn't wanted & when the scholars were crying for their old teachers. But she was informed by Mr. Humphrey that she could not console tastes & wishes but would have to go where called. At evening felt not a bit like reciting. Went home feeling rather queer. The carpenters put a door in the little room. As I came down, met Mr Humphrey at Crang's. we went to Etherton's and got the promise of a carpenter to the morrow. He thought all was finished. As I came past, I saw Col. Kelly "Halloo Col, I thought you was killed." So I am alive yet. Went up to his office after supper. He told me about his escape. It was before supper. Had a _____ at the grocery after supper. The snow going off. Weather made _____ fast. The Colonel inc. about the Savage property. I am glad the Col. has done so well. He gave me his house and lot for the Savage property & 4000 dollars to boot. Then he sold 20 acres off the west end for 2500 dolls. & can get 5000 for the rest. Showing that he has made 1500 dollars counting his own property at 2000. Then 1500 dollars & the Kelly property. 2000 dolls is what the Savage property stands the Col.

Jan 6 Sat

Arose about 7. Hurried up to the carpenters, got my man, put his to work and came down to breakfast. After which I went up to the school house. Had the rear desks I moved forward, put them in the little room. _____ room transferred recitation benches. Each seat made of benches brot over by Rogers from the Hovey House. I put the programme under way partially when Miss Chapplelear came. She was anxious _____ class in 3rd Part A arithmetic & my class in geog. I gave them to her. Moved in all the benches and used them. At evening found my wife very unwell with a cold. Went uptown to see Kelly. He told me about the small scraps with _____. He used his influence to quiet him & got him pacified. I don't

feel well about the success of my next term of school. I've got to put some Back _____ in play. 3 months will tell on the operation.

Jan 7 Sun.

Frank in her sleep said last night out plain "I don't want to stay here, Huldah." Her cold is miserable in the extreme. I went to church at 11 _____ and new moon. On the centenary of Methodism, John XXIV, 4. The Roman Catholic, Calvinistic, Lutheran, & Methodistic. Frank went to bed this afternoon. Her head aches. She feels sick. Frank very unwell. Has a bad cold. My mind is a little _____ on the sketch about running the school this week. But it has got to go if its takes the hair off. Rather cold this evening. Nothing very special going on in Clinton.

Jan 8 Mon.

Arose early. Went up to Hunt & Hands. Got my clock and went to the school house, put it up. Got my breakfast & returned to school We had a full turn out this morning. Read the rules. No drinking, no whispering, no leaving seats _____. We read them off & told them what they must do. We had rather a busy time arranging. I am about to get a class in Book Keeping. I am disposed to persevere. Flogged Alf Wood & Mike Counsell with my hand. Went to Miss Madden's room & flogged 3 in there. Visited Miss Mollie Welch's _____. Heard part of my classes. I am _____ to have order. What am I? Just as much as any other man! Pretty cool again. Miss Chappelear has considerable systems. With her skills, I will succeed I know. At evening wrote off a programme & wrote off the names on the register. Males & females separate. At nine P.M. went up to find a book at Phillips store on Book Keeping. Frank had gone to bed when I came back around eleven. *Next sentence in French.*

Jan 9 Tues

Cool this morning. Got to school as the 1st bell was ringing. Commenced lively this morning. All went along pretty well. Called Francis Clark out on the floor for whispering. She cried. I visited Miss Rogers school. She takes considerable care with her school in reading. I visited Miss Pradles. She was explaining Bind-ology (?) or natural history. At evening I had a list handed me by Miss Chappelear for whispering. I told them _____ after school. Miss Yazel started for the door. I told her to remain. I walked to her. She was very impudent. I talked to each one. They promised reform. Mollie Greene, Os Wood, and Fannie Clark, Mary Davis, Miss Deboice, Julia Beatty, Rowland Belle Bordens, _____ Yazel attempted to out. I stopped her & told her I did not permit impudence. I wanted to know what she intended to do. She thought she would not whisper if she staid in school and if she did not she wouldn't. Impudence. At last she promised if she came she would do it. I ought to just put such scholars out of the house. I am bound to make it go if it takes the hair off. Frank went with _____ - home. Sleeting. I went up to the grocery. Talked to Mr Geo Conklin & to George. Went up to Mr. Crang's & to Mr. Humphrey's. But found them both gone. Repaired to the grocery We had the Courier Gazette for to read. The news is good. Saw 6A statement or administrators notice from Jim Foley on the effects of "Robert Hanson Deceased" and one from Mrs Aler wife of Frederick C. Aler deceased. Poor fellow. He paid he debt of nature from a wound he rec'd in defense of his country. Retired after talking awhile. Mother Storts on the school. I found my mind running on the status of the school and also on my trials, I found my mind excited and in much disorder

Jan 10 Wed

Arose found the sleet turned to raining. Ate my breakfast of cake, butter, & tough beef. I went on my way to the school house. I wrote my copy in both rooms. We had no trouble today. I stood 3 or 4 on the floor for whispering. We had considerable skating today on the ice place in front of the school house. Not much trouble. Miss Chappelear said she had to tell Isaac Beath (?) to take his seat. He was leaving without permission & was going to leave for home. Miss Lizzie Leeds, Miss A. Minton (?), (Miss Mills) & Jennie Clark must be watched tomorrow. I dealt with [them] in earnest. As I came to George's grocery saw _____ Carver & Mr. Ackman. He wanted me to put his children through and he would back me. I shall certainly do the same. Frank does not come this evening. I know most she is crying her dear eyes out but for to see me.

Jan 11 Thurs.

We find the snow still melting. Bounced from my lovely cot and ate in a hurry & went to the school house. Found none there scarcely. I went to writing my copies on the boards as usual. Misses Madden & Chappelear were soon on hands. We commenced as usual. But had no time to call roll. Went right to work. Talked to Miss Maggie Wright. She was whispering. I asked her about it. She pretended she did not know that was the rules. The room was pretty noisy considering. Put Dick. He knew two or 3 others on the floor. But bit didn't hurt a bit. At noon Miss Chappelear said to me "I won't take any more names. They don't care a bit for standing on the floor. Miss Madden is mad about you whipping her scholars & not doing anything to the large ones & who _____ the small ones. I saw the justice of the thing or rather the injustice." The skating was grand at the play ground. The boys with their skates on went through it with a gusto. After dinner I was through the rain to _____ Creek & on the right of the bridge I cut a bundle of thorn whips. It made a flutter I assure you. At the "taking up" of school, I made a few remarks & now I want to notify this school if there is not a change in this school there will be some body hurt. Now beware! If you do it, you do it with your eyes open. Now remember it is a shame to have scholars of this size making trouble when they should be an example & left the room. I am on verbs. Do draws, etc. Had a school this afternoon that was a school. At coming back often while I found two _____. I took out the rod & gave Mike & Alf Hood a whipping & then laid the piece on the desk. He _____. The girls dried up that noise. Visited Miss Rogers' room. Had gymnastics. Had writing in Miss Madden's room. Good copy. Wrote copies after school. Miss Chappelear marking maps. At evening I went to Phillips store & got a Slate & Rays 4th part. Came on down & went to studying banking. At a late hour I got back with the oil for the lamp. At a late hour went to bed. Lay there thinking some for the Harper's Monthly. 4.00 dollars. The snow is going off as fast as possible.

Jan 12 Frid

Arose this morning & got ready. I was up at 7 A.M. After school the mud is growing bad, am sorry to see that. It was melted of the snow & ice. The school went along fine today. Went to see Mr. Humphrey about dismissing at 10 to go to the funeral of Mr. Beatty, a soldier. But he told me that those who wanted to go might as it was so much that he thought it best to keep the school going. After dinner Miss Chappelear took a class into the room Class "A" arith. I spoke of _____, composition, & reading. To my school. Miss Anna McFarland was appointed editress. She was elected by the boys. She chose "Minnie" assistant. Put 8 boys on _____ in 2 weeks and 8 girls on reading. The paper is to come next week. The other in two weeks. At noon, Frank & her mother & I went up to Col Kelly's. The mud was

pretty thick as we went but when we came back it had dried up. Col. Kelly told me his troubles with Riley wanting to [go] to the dance & that he reasoned him out of it by telling him that if he went in 2 years _____ would get bids from young men & then he as father would have to step in. The she would rebel probably and would refer him to Riley as vindication of her conduct. At last he gave in. The Col. approves of my conduct in the school. Read him this week's diary. Riley came. He read me the Raven & more of Poe's poems. We had muse by Uree. We then came on home & found it freezing fast & cold.

Jan 13 Sat

Went up town after breakfast which was about 10 A.M.. Signed for a book at Hand's (gro) Store. How I work citing Educational Monthly National. At noon Mr. _____ Porter & Uncle Thomas Landes came. Thomas knew most of the people & knew he was on the hunt of his son's horses 3 which were stolen. He had already spent 100 dollars on _____. He is a brother of Jane Dodds Man Sam. After dinner & evening I studied _____ 4th Part. Frank & I washed in the kitchen in about 17 spoonfuls of water. Windy day.

Jan 14 Sun

Frank & I arose late. Did not go to church today at all. Sat by the stove reading diaries. Saw the gay _____ white & red on their way to church. At evening Frank & I took a walk out past Campbellte Church past _____ Mahans to the _____ & returned. I had the pleasure of carving the turkey today at noon. Very cold this evening. Wrote a piece "on dit" on pencil at Mother Storts table. Went to bed pretty early. I don't like this not going to church.

Jan 15 Mon.

I crawled ou leaving Frank in the arms of Morpheus but after _____ woke her & told her she should arise, take & put her clothes on & come down stairs. I read to her the "on dit." Found th sleet had fallen and and after breakfast as I went up found the trees all loaded with ice & dr. Warner's peach trees were bending over in the way. I cast my eyes up at all the magic work overhead. Every twig had a coat on. The scene was enchanting. The pines were bent over and looked like a woman with a shawl on. Left my production with Rogers who said he would give it to DeLevis. Went up to the school house, the bell froze up & sounded like pounding on an old pot. It had a bad cold. Sure. I wrote my copies on the board as usual. The water is coming through the ceiling. The school went along very well. They were a little noisy. Did not get around much till afternoon. Miss Rogers' school _____ went in and found her out _____ as quiet as nice. It [is] a real nice school. Hear noise & laughing in Miss Knadler's room. When them that I gessd Miss Rogers came back she said they guessed they were "playing school in there." I went in and found 6 or 11 boys standing on one foot & of all the grimaces I laughed at one large boy, Miss Knadler would go to him & snap him on the ears & jaws. He would laugh and look mischievous. After school was out, I came on home. Lost my hat at Madden's. At noon, I saw DeLevis. He gave me fits for writing with a lead pencil and writing on 2 pads of one leaf. He is putting Jos. Smith's piece in also. He showed me part of my piece in type. He thought that principal would give "on dit" fits "less begetting" Ha! Ha! George and I ate enormous portions of turkey at noon. As we went up town, the wind blew us clear off the sidewalk, just beyond the P.O. It was a wind that came up from Rogers'. Got can of oysters & 1 lb. crackers 1.15. We had to _____ & set as we came on down home. I feel awful well. How strange.

Jan 16 Tues

Arose early and went to school early, wrote my copies. School went along pretty well. This morning, Miss Chapplelear thought she was _____, By Mr L about it That was handed in. We let it pass. School went on about as usual. We really forgot our spelling. The house was not leaking today. The ground was frozen hard. Some of the boys went skating. Got a ltter from Col. P. Ford about Richard being abused by Winston. At evening had French in the little room. At Haynes & Riley, Kelly took dinner with us. At evening I read Poe's Raven etc. Rather cool this evening.

Jan 17 Wed

I got up to school, wrote my copies. School went on as usual and just after I had called higher arith 3 names were given me. Miss Cundiff, Beatty, & Madden. I talked to them that I guessed I would have to whip them. 3 then as they began to cry changed my plan I asked several their opinion of the rule on whispering. There was a diversity of opinion & also about the punishment. The girls cried. Just before 12 I sent them home with their books & told them when they could come back & also their duty as scholars they could by making the proper acknowledgements. They took their books. 2 pitied poor Miss Cundiff as she cried in the hall. The scholars were discussing the thing pretty extensively. Julia thought she didn't care if she did not come to school any more as she wasn't learning anything. Miss Cundiff was willing to take a whipping. But I thot the right way was to send them home. & suspend them from this school for awhile. Well I came down to Dr Madden's & saw Miss Madden & Sol. was crying. Her eyes wet. I was asked what must be done for them to get back. I told them I would tell as I came back. I felt "grand, gloomy, and peculiar." At noon went up to Madden's. The girls were there. I told the Dr. the only way I supposed was to have them come up & do as I required. He said that was right & all he wanted me to do was stick up to my rules. School went on as usual. Miss Jennie _____ on called. She is a teacher as assist out at Nat. Pleasant. At evening, I was trying to get the French class going. But we got to talking about the school The snow is going a little today. I tell you this school is a hard one. Sure. But most think I am all right. Dr. Madden thinks Miss Chapplelear thinks she knows it all. But he says she is a good teacher. Mr. Beatty hailed me as I went along the street. He wanted to know what was the matter with Julia. I told him. He told me to do my duty & he would send her back. The boys thought they would come if I caught them & also they say they can't do as they would there. School is so crowded. I told him my trials. Huldah came down & we had algebra.

Jan 18 Thurs

School went along very well today, this morning the fire was bad, I had to send the school into the little room by _____ to warm. Miss Julia was on hands this morning. After recess she made her acknowledgement. I was sorry that it had to be done but I can't help it. The directors were up & seeing that the school was in order as they heard that all was going wrong. The scholars were sitting 4 in a seat. It was true they were satisfied that all was right and went on their way home. Was pleased Mr. Adkins' son was kind enough to promise me that he would come back & talk with the school. All went s well as a marriage bell. I had to hear adv. Geog. as Miss Chapplelear as hoarse. Came on down to Kelly's office as a man asked me about the tax on that lot. I went in the office and, lo, here was quite a party of men earnestly debating a question. The Col. was glad to see me and showed me a piece in the paper on file in his office. He show me "on dit" and asked me if I knew that man. I told him "no" I didn't know that man. He said it was a mean thing. I read it and here came in Squire Greene. Says he that article is a

base low & scurrilous thing. I wouldn't have my children read such a black quarrel thing. It is a mean spirited thing and is a _____ sign that the writer is no hand at writing. He murders the King's English. All condemn it. Col Kelly was mad as fury, O, but I felt as they read it over & commented on it. I have taken one cent for myself. I'd have sold out cheap. I came on out. Col K followed me. That is a secret attempt to injure you. I do wonder who it can be. Has anyone been up to visit the school lately. "Yes Cap'n _____ Downs was, yes a good many have been up to visit the school lately. Its _____ ain't it Col? But you know it's a free country." The Col named several but they have to give it up. I got the paper from Charley Stokes and took the thing home. I could hardly eat supper. I felt as if DeLevis & the printers were telling it all around town. George & I went up as usual. I hurried up to DeLevis' as fast as I could go. I met him just going back into the rear of the house. "Who's there?" I went without the _____. I told him the whole _____. He saw he would first keep shade and referred to a case in court in which a "woman was stabbed to inches above the difficulty" & about "Queen Victoria going to bed in England at night and making water in China." He discouraged the idea of me replying to that article. He said it would blow over. He advised me to tell "Kelly & Steve" to lay low. I came on down & called Col Kelly out. He & Greene were talking. "Col" I said, we got out in the hall by the door. "I want that fool article. You did _____ that beats me. You did?" "Yes I did." Well it's all right there. It will do. I think it will do good. Greene is giving it fits." Well I'll keep it straight & seem as I did before." We have been discussing it for 2 or 3 hours and we have viewed it in 40 different shapes." Then went over to Phillips store & got as first word _____ where will you be invited to leave town. Have you seen the public, etc. _____ Day, Dr, Morris & others thought it rough. Thought "on dit" coward. I lay low. Came on down with George & studied awhile on book keeping.

Jan 19 Frid

Went up to school as usual. All went along well this forenoon. Gave my book to Col Lemon to study. Miss Chapplelear gave topics on arithmetic, Came on down for dinner. Found Frank & Grace gone to Kelly's. Went up as far as far as the new house & met Mollie Welsh. She said she was glad to see me as she thought the second bell had rung. I didn't know but hurried back. We had some visitors. Anna McFarland & Minnie Chapplelear read the paper there. We had music. Rev Downs gave us a fine speech. Mr. A.D. Rissour spoke. I gave a few remarks. Then we dismissed & I went to Col Kelly's. Frank & Grace & Mrs Kelly in the "frame" business. We came on down. Frank & I home. Frank & I discussed the corners of houses. Mrs Madden. At McFarland we at school house one perspective. She got tired of the waiting or of the cold. At evening I went up town. Had a long talk with Morrison & Rogers on the whaling boy a guy. Frank hear that Miss Chapplelear was principal & that I am assist.

Jan 20 Sat

Last night as George & I went up to town, the lightning & thunder & sleet piled down strong. After we left the P.O. it com'd raining very cold rain. The lightning would flash. The thunder would roll as we sat in the grocery. In came Sal Yazel & another girl wet. They put on airs. They said they were going to the church. I arose early this morning and built a fire as soon as I could in the old stove. But is as cold. I got the room warm. After while went to work on book keeping. Frank had to _____ of that the last night. Morrison's wife & Miss Rogers guessed me as the writer of that piece. Toward noon. I took the old clock down & cleaned her. After dinner, Mr. Gow od Sherwood's store in Chicago called to see me. I went to Mrs Lewis' with him. He showed me his maps. Sherwood's. He edited them. He showed me some of his books.

Sargeants & _____. \$3.50. I went up with him to see "Steve." Came home on down again. After I "told" Steve Steve was examining a Reb _____ who wanted a certificate to teach school.. Can a Reb teach? Took Gow to Crang's. Had him introduced to Prof Edminston, Whitwick, & Gray. He & Edminston were chums at Washington, Pa. He was a teacher at Washington & at Rock Island. His bro is principal there now. He went with Edminston home. At their leaving, I started for Kelly's office. Fell down as I went across from the corner to Kelly's. Tho I had a long talk with R.R. Crang about raising Miss Chappellear's wages. He is decidedly opposed as he says it takes more talent to teach the lower grades than to teach the higher & they hired her to teach wherever they pleased and that would not give her any high wages. I told him I thought her head was a little turned. He said she must be reasonable. I had a long talk with Kelly. Came on home for supper. Went back to Phillips store and got some _____ & some _____ for sore hand. Most an awful cold day. Our stove could't keep us warm at all. At evening it was awful cold.

Jan 21 Sun

My arm pained me. Nothing of note. Frank washed me. I read some to day. I find the paper is gone containing the Nov. article. Well, I am sorry but can't help it. I went out the door from whence I shouldn't, like to bring it forth. At evening (as we were thinking of going to church) _____ on I came to the conclusion to go to Kellys, met Riley on the street. Asked him if the Col was at home. He said he didn't know as he hadn't been there lately. Found the Col at home. Mrs Kelly isn't at home. Riley soon came and gave me a problem to work the waterman. We got the answers. Rate of current = $\frac{1}{2}$ dif of rate up & down per hour. Rate of rowing = differ of miles down per hour and rate of current = sum of miles up per hour & rate of current. Riley was enthusiastic at his pursuit of the truth. He is really quick in his conclusions. About 8 I came on home & found Huldah nearly well. Soon went to bed.

Jan 22 Mon

School is about as usual. There is a disposition to break over the roles. I will have some more suspending I presume. I feel well & hearty. My arm is getting along finely. The clock _____ along finely. My class in Men. Arith is going along finely. I am getting _____ with them finely. George & Grace have gone sleighing. Snowing at noon. The ground is frozen. We can skate any place the snow falls on the ground. Now we will have snow long & _____. I went back after dinner. The snow fell thick and fast. I had my class in book keeping this afternoon, the last recitation. I went with Miss Madden's & _____ found 14 boys. Kept in for Mrs _____ and we concluded at least to let them go. I then was called into the other room by Miss Chappellear. Miss Greene wouldn't do as she told her. I told her she would have it to do. She said she would do it for me. But not for Miss Chappellear. I told Mollie she would have to control her temper if she wanted to go to our school. At eve got 100 dolls from S.F. Lewis. Gave Kelly 30 dolls. Offer him 40 dolls. Came on down & gave Mrs Storts 40 dolls with the 10 dolls this morning & the 30 dolls I gave her before makes 80 dollars. I _____ Mrs Storts. Col Kelly wants us to come and live with him next March when he moves. I rather think we _____ Hoss. Saw the Col. _____ last evening. Told him about Dick & all went _____. Studying book keeping. Had an introduction to Dr Adams. He told me of his son Park. He came to school. I told him to send him on even if he was Big, Kelly says _____ order is poor.

Jan 23 Tues

The snow is glorious. It has been snowing all day. It is about 6 inches deep. Sleigh bells enliven the winter scene. I _____ my eyes out of the windows & look over the white earth far away. The houses loom darkly against the sky, their snow covered roofs are very much heightened in brightness by the very darkness lowering heavens. Park Adams and _____ to be glad of the chance of going to school. Found Grace & George at home at noon. Had to tell Mr. Isaac Beatty as he was just drinking that he must quit drinking as he was lifting the cup to his lips. I am in good spirits. Miss Madden would run any school. She is so bustling and noisy. The Courier came, no news. I am writing off a form for _____ class, also one for me. I don't know. Stern winter is on us. Frank & I are still in good feeling toward each other. When she intends to file for a divorce I don't know. Miss Chappellear has full authority in my old room. There should be no partnership business in the thing. She is very clever. She don't know that Frank thinks she wants my pants on.

Jan 24 Wed.

The snow fell till after 12 last night. This morning as I went past Humphrey's alone I found him out sweeping _____ to me. I'd like to write an article against him about selling out & _____ business in the same place. The weather is pretty cool. I like this winter weather. I am glad I can appreciate health fin (?) enjoyments and all the comforts of home even if it is a poor one. Better than being in prison. School went along finely. Gave Frank & Haynie & Bob Chappellear a few _____. Had a long talk with Kelly & George about Abraham Lincoln. Found supper over when I came on home. _____ has a lot of valentines. Just arrived. Sleighting fine. I'd rather _____. Studied partial payments till late. My mind is entirely engaged in my school. I wonder how we all succeed. Snow on good.

Jan 25 Thurs.

I arose at 7 this morning. Ate breakfast. Went up to school. Found that the snow was going to melt, got a few boys, went up, we cleaned off the roof with spade & pans. School went on well till noon. There was an immense amount of snow carried in & N there in the hall. I told them that I wanted it stopped. After school was dismissed, I kept Mol Greene & Jim Kirk. Mol was saucy. She said she came to me. I didn't start to come to "Mol" Chappellear. They had words for some time. I couldn't help but laugh. At last, I told Miss Mol Greene would have to take her books and leave school as she had whispered when she knew the rules & also had used highly offensive language. I gave Mol Greene her walking papers. Looked around & here was Miss Chappellear crying. She said she was going to quit teaching that school, she would rather be in old place ten to one, for there were several in the school that were against her. I told her she would have to take it easy and not let it worry her. She went to Humphreys to make a complaint. Went to church with Huldah. Here for supper. Got to church as the 2nd bell rang. Got home ½ past 9. Rev Moore gave us a sermon on us all being sinners. Mr. Pound make a speech about being personated. He shouted that he joined the church to throw around in the influence of the church to keep from swearing. Rec'd to day American Educational Monthly.

Jan 26 Frid

Skating this morning. Looks like falling weather. Miss Chappellear gave me some names or showed me some. At the writing exercise, I gave the commands 1, 2, 3. They did not do it as I ordered or as I commanded. I then told them to go over it again as I (drew) glanced over to where Miss Mills sat. I told them to lay their pens down. She flung hers down upon the desk

making quite a disruption & then folded her arms as I thought all the impudence she could. "I asked her what she meant" and grasped my stick, went to the desk, & laid the stick on her severely. As I finished, I heard Hold on you've gone far enough. I went to my desk and ordered the 3 that were up and coming towards me to take their seats. I repeated it and they did so. We did nothing till recess. I went on as usual. At recess I made the remark to Park Adams, "What did you think of it?" He said he was never so mad in his life. "You don't think I did wrong in whipping her." I think you went too far. At noon when I came back, I understood there was a terrible hubbub about the matter.

In the afternoon we have some reading exercises & one declamation out of eight. I read from Sargent's work on teaching. Part of the school went to Edminston's. I kept two after school for whispering. Gave them a light corporeal. At evening went down to Kelly's, met Mr John P [orter] (?). He told me to go to Kelly's with Francis. I found Huldah & Will. We got ready and went out to Mr P's. Taking Ura along, our team went very slowly. My hunch is an excitement.. Dr. Madden intends to prosecute me and that it is _____ charged as a brutal assault becoming a brute. After supper, Johnny hitched up he fiery steeds and he and Wm Brittain (?) in front & the girls behind, we went to Mr. Allen's school house, was introduced to Mr.

_____, teacher. I spelled before recess. It put me in mind of old times. Aft recess, hdre came Wm Moore and Miss Mills, Ann _____, & wo or 3 others. After recess, Mr. Allen would have me give out which I did. He let them choose up. Some of the scholars made some noise. Mr Allen without making any inquiries told me there was one chuffy lady, there he had a notion e Robinsonhome the Bridle Brok[e]. Got home safe, wanted & went to roost.

Jan 29 Sat.

Skated with skates for the first time. Will & I cleared off a space for Joe to skate. Frank came down, talked the matter over with my father in law, advised me to just go on as if nothing had happened. After while Johnny came saying here was great excitement in town & the Board meet to night & want to see you in town. We gathered up and Johnny took us into town. Went to Kelly's, he did not know how the thing would go as he didn't know the facts. I told him he didn't know what to do. I went to Crang's, the hour having arrived. We went to Lewis' office, Messrs Taylot, Rogers, _____ Directors. S.F. Lewis & Miss Chappelear were there. They asked the facts. I told them as near as I could. They proved I was angry & I was too severe by Miss Chappelear. They claim I had no right to whip as large scholars as that & that the boys did right in interfering. Also, it better be kept from Bill Andrews said Mr. Taylor that I thought they ought to be punished. Mr Crang asked me if I would repeat the thing if a similar thing occurred. Mr. Humphrey thought Miss Jennie as an exemplary girl as she had belonged to his S.S. class for 7 years. _____ and Kisson thought there must be order kept by a reasonable means. But thought that if they didn't support the teachers in whole some orders that they'd better take their money out of schools & put it where it would do more good. Crang was indignant & Humphrey was now behind him & thought I did wrong on whipping at all. Esquire Lewis thought she should've been kept after school & whipped as dispassionately. They remained (The Board) and will let me know their decision. We left & went to George's grocery (where I'd been before Robinson that he'd shoot a man that would whip one of his girls & Britts, UYou was sorry for it wasn't you after it was over.) Kelly was there. He didn't know what to do. He is in hot water. He thinks tho' I did right. We the light still going in Kelly's office and he went up there. He said he'd come down in the morning if anything serious was brewing.

The snow is melting to day and sleighing is heavy. The Directors told me the town was all excitement about the affair & wanted the facts.

Jan 28 Sun

Arose ate breakfast, went to church. Look with Frank at a high seat in the synagogue. Rev Moore gave the ladies credit for dodging the rules of the church by wearing _____. Miss Mills came to _____ with Mrs _____, never noticed me tho' she looked to Pamela. While we were discussing Mother Storts version Wm Funk came over and in great trepidation spoke to Mrs Storts to come over right away. She got up thinking it was one of the children that was sick, but I knew what it was. I knew at a glance as I saw two or 3 neighbors going to Funk's that Miss Jennie was on exhibition with that famous arm and that dreadful shoulder too terrible to be shown. I [believe] events tomorrow will show I look for a suit for assault and partly for a proscription in reference to my powers in that school & I will probably be invited to leave as they are trying to make me as they are trying to make me in as bad actor (?) as possible. The Maddens are all mad. The Wrights think I ought to've been killed in the army. Others think I'm a brute. People may get me out of conceit of myself. Well I don't like the situation. If I was up to this time (8 P.M.) tomorrow night. I guess I'll teach the school if they keep me. Also I can pay my fine. There is I think no use of making a stand. I don't suppose they will offer personal injury to me. I don't want to injure the community. I may be on the way to Ohio before two weeks.

Jan 29 Mon

Arose with misgivings, washed at a few bites, put my overcoat on, left Frank as usual. Went to Kelly's office. He spoke to me about going to see Mills. I sat there awhile thinking, arose and went to McIrwin's & Co.'s carriage shop opposite Orahood's (?). I opened the door, saw a man in the shop, asked him if Mr. Mills was in. He said that his name. I told him my name was Armstrong & I wanted to speak to him about a thing between him & my self. Says he I want nothing to do with you. Get out of my shop. You've treated my girl most scandalously. I went to expostulate & I wanted to ask him just to listen & I would tell him about what I _____ came for. He called then for a man above. That man came down on the steps. Listen to what he has to say Mr. Mills. I went on telling him that I had punished his daughter in a passion & consequently did it in a manner unwarrantly severe. That I did not want to do him an injustice not the community either. I knew how he felt as father of the girl etc. Then here cam Hal Kisson & Mr Mills asked me if I would make a statement in the paper in reference to the affair. Certainly. Well, I'll leave it to the directors, said he. Mr. Kisson objected to putting it in the paper for he thought he would rather keep out of that paper. I told him Good Morning wondering at the changes in life. Went as fast as possible to the school house. 10 min after time. All in readiness & order. Miss Chappelear that we'd better have devotional exercise. I read nearly a chapter of Matt. Went on the _____ on my way. The director Mr. Ad Kisson & Mr Humphrey came in as I was nearing my class in algebra. I told Miss Chappelear to set them in writing as I went in the little room. We, Ad Kisson, Humphrey had a "war talk." We then went in & I addressed them by commencing I owe this school an apology for what has happened here lately, etc. Mr. Ad Kisson followed in a good speech saying order should & would be enforced & scholars must obey the rules if they attend school here. Mr. Humphrey concurred. Mr. Humphrey thought of speaking to the boys but concluded to let it go. Mr. Ad Kisson acted the true man. Then Harvey Yazel was told by Miss Chappelear to take up his books and leave school. "What for?" I told him to get ready and he got ready, left his books &

started. His sister spoke to me about going to give him his books. He was on the steps. I told him his sister wanted him to take the books. The _____ a better reprimand & went on down. I followed him and told him that was no way for a boy to act going away from school.

Got 2 Harpers & letters at noon. I saw them at morning but was not enough interested. All went along finely. Mr. Ad Kisson came around the _____ schools, his offer soon. Had some whisperers. Sat evening __ Miss Madden's room. Mrs America does not seem so better this evening. Called on some of the teachers Miss Chappellear kept two classes in _____ out of the school house with Mr. Ad Kisson. Says he, You may thank me for keeping you from being dismissed. For there was an effort to do so. I like that man. Ad Kisson came on down. Saw George & Johnny, saw Col. Kelly office full. He came out. I gave him the particulars. He said the Rubicon is passed for until you saw Mills your friends had no case. Ad Kisson came to here this morning to get me to go to Mills. When he heard I'd already gone, he clapped his hands & came on down. Col Kelly said yesterday all was cursing & bitter denunciation but today said he, all I've seen say you are a man & they will support you to the last. The McGills have changed. He told me the Taylors & Moores were again[st] me, also Crang & Humphrey, and Ad Kisson after a hard struggle with them got them turned to support the teacher. Snow going off fast.

Jan 30 Tues

I heard the clock strike 7, got up and dressed partially & spoke to Francis. She thought I was still in bed, but I wasn't. She fooled? Went on up town as usual. School did well. My mind is much relieved. Miss Chappellear told me that Laura Madden had left school & Sal Clark is not coming any more because I whipped her friend. That pleased me. The two Hickmans came yesterday at noon. I saw Bill Rowley standing on the side of the pavement at Phillips'. Asked him if he had quit school, he thought "he had." He had something else to do. At evening my class in book keeping had dry book & ledger _____ form. Whipped two for whispering. Had a long talk with Kelly about school etc. After supper Frank went to church with _____. I went to George's grocery. Grace saw the man with the kettle on under or near the hen house. 5 min to 10 P.M. A beautiful night. The moon shines brightly, ice covers the roads where slush & water lay a few hours ago. I am in good spirits about the future.

Jan 31 Wed.

Arose early went to school, wrote my copies. School went along finely. Whipped Mike & Taylor for lying. Rev Downs came up, heard us read. Mr Crang came to tell me about the paper business. He said they required it. I thot of hat I ought to write him. He wanted he standing _____ for 2 in the school. Also to note that there really was a breach of conduct. The friends of Mills are pushing him thinking I got the better of him in acknowledging to him and left them without a hold. Frank & Grace went to M.E. Church. Geo & Grace on up to grocery. They went with Matthews (?) to the Campbellite Church. Rev Downs gave us "Infant Baptism" returned 2 M.E. Church. Brot girls home.

Feb 1 Thursday

Arose early. "Darling" Frank came in. "Willie isn't going to school any more. He is going to chop wood." _____ went along well. Mr DeLevis showed me the paper at noon. It had the notice. "The _____ Honorable Mr. Armstrong, Principal of the public school, who chastised a daughter of the Mills with undue severity has, we learn, made as full and complete reparation as possible, by making acknowledge, went before the Directors, the school, and the

parents of Miss Mills. This is manly & honorably and cannot fail to satisfy the reasonable demands of all parties.

As is generally the case, good grows out of the evil – while Mr. Armstrong will be benefitted by learning to control himself and in such circumstances certain scholars who need the strictest discipline & sharp severity will understand that they have one over them who “won’t do to trifle with”

The snow is going. The girls gave me a flower & paper to make them a couple of pictures. Col Kelly & wife were here for supper. Frank & I staid here, went up to get colors for the pictures. My schools are in good order. I feel well. I wrote a piece for the paper tomorrow. Col. Kelly says that that affair is doing good. So does De Levis. It has disarmed the opposition. The report is that Moore’s son drinks & swears. Maddens, Laura & Julia Moore go to Edminston. Mr Slick got religion to night. Mrs Storts says he said “He felt better.”

Feb 2 Frid.

Arose, found it snowing again after I’d got up. After putting on a new bib, I ate breakfast and went up to the school house. School went along well. I gave Miss Chappellear the article. I told her to give it to the Editress. The little girls were glad when I gave them the flowers. The clouds have cleared away and the snow is melting. The sun is out. I think when Mrs Yazel was [here] yesterday I told about Hawes eating a salt breakfast caused him to want to drink & to go get it without permission. Hence he lost his position in school. Miss American told me that Mrs Yazel had been to her about taking him under her wing. I guess I have something to say about that and I am willing for him to come back if he will try to do right. After dinner, we had the reading of the Rose Bud in Miss Madden’s room. I listened awhile. “Whose paper is that boys?” Shouldn’t you listen to it. Yes sir as they became uneasy and made noise. The roses looked conspicuously. Then I went to Miss Chappellear’s room. Misses Cundiff & Converse. The two Mollies read. It was good & well read. Some few were up to hear it read. Mr. Andrews thot he couldn’t get a piece to speak. Go with _____. I told them we wanted them to get pieces to speak. At night studied about a turn of exchange & time on partial payments. Pretty cold this evening. *Next sentence in French.* Our school is improving. Talked with Dr. Edminston and Mr. _____ of Chicago. I a[m] oppose[d] corp. punishment. The ground hog came to see his shadow to day. Ura up.

Feb 3 Sat

Arose, went to work. Mastered the time principle in par. Payment & worked arbitration of exchange. Saw Joe Moore. He said put in the Creek nation the report was blofoing od sure upon the floor from Miss Mills. I told him it was Hooks. He said he was getting along finely with his school, would _____ in 3 weeks. At night saw the Mathews sick. Studied till 9 P.M. Geo Oglesbee spoke at Normal last night. I nearly cried “Eureka” as I found the _____ principle. Frank is pretty well. I feel well. Got a letter from Jacob. All well. Sheep doing _____ not, sold wool, can get 60 cents

Feb 4 Sun.

At 11 hear Rev D. Downs preach. He gave is a good sermon, said he, “Young gentlemen, no whispering” Some should read Harper, Al Ellet, & Charles Ellet’s history & E.S. Parker Mil. Sec. to grant. Read Diamonds & some in book _____. At eve went to Kelly’s with Frank,

saw _____. The churches are getting some members. Clint Richards has been to the bench. Also Mr. Slick's daughters. Huldah went with Richard to Jennie's party today. Cold & bitter. 15 min to 10 P.M. Tomorrow I will have to tell Mr. Woodard a thing or two about his neglect of duty on Dec _____ Friday in running off. He oughtn't be allowed to come back till he repents. The Rubicon is passed say I at a _____. Dr. Edminston thinks the two schools are working to each other admirably. I am glad the _____ men are waking up on the subject. I am ready for my part.

Feb 5 Mon.

This morning arose in good time _____. Cold, very cold day. After school, spoke to Woodard. He treated the subject lightly but I told him he would have to come in. He said he would if he had to. I gave him till Frid[ay]. Got along pretty well to day. S.F. Lewis, Crang, & Ad Kisson staid in the schools. I am in considerable dread of something taking place. At evening, went to the teachers' meeting at Humphrey's residence. The directors & teachers were all there. We had a long & varied account. I saw Mollie Welch to her house. Something must be done to delay the storm of whispering. Mike _____ ravages the boorishness of some scholars. The tobacco chewing & spitting. The incentive to get study the familiar question. The search warrant, the search _____ house. The idea of grilling a young man to stay in the house. Sat & Sunday & the other days, i.e. sleep there etc., etc., etc adj'd _____ die

Feb 6 Tues.

Cold this morning. The forenoon _____ a report to Oscar Woodard. We started as usual at the highest arithmetic. Recitation, the directors addressed me to dispense with the class and we would attend to the business. They spoke about the whispering rules & Mr. Ad Kisson said they must be obeyed. [The] matter was brought up and shown up in all its features. The pros & cons Mike said he had lost a 5th reader as innocently as a lamb. I came to the conclusion that all was going all right, then the Baptist Church testament & the Anderson Ely book & note. The Madden school was brought in & testifies all had lost some article to gold pens. Had disappeared. Jim Connel was in. He heard the whole account. The directors asked him if he had any objection to his house being searched. "No sir. You or Mister Armstrong may go & search the house. Then they expelled Mike Connel & he cried. Left Jim Connel gave up the control of the house to day.

All went along well. Mr. Humphrey wanted to see me this morning about the Mills question. I think Mills friends have something to do about the thing, but I'll do as I said about the thing. A beautiful day. Snow melting.

"Not Deserters

The history of the 78th O.V.I. does injustice to the memory of some brave men. When the regiment first went out the entire medical department was in much confusion. The rights and powers of the different departments were not well defined. And recognized. Owing to this many sick soldiers were taken from their commands and transferred to Northern hospitals without proper authority. As a consequence their immediate commanding officers were compelled to mark them as deserters on the rolls of their respective companies and from these rolls the history of the regiment was compiled. Thus many good men's names came under the heading, "The following men are marked deserters." Of this class is Wilber Armstrong private, Co. G, 78 O.V.I. He was sick at Fort Donelson. Was placed on the boat to go North by Lieut Co. Hawkes

of his regiment and died in a hospital at Cinn. It is extremely unfortunate that the names of these brave men had not been culled out before the publication of the work. As they have not been the readers should be careful to inquire into the circumstance before classifying any one as a deserter whose name appears under the heading given above.”