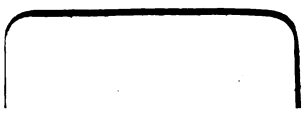
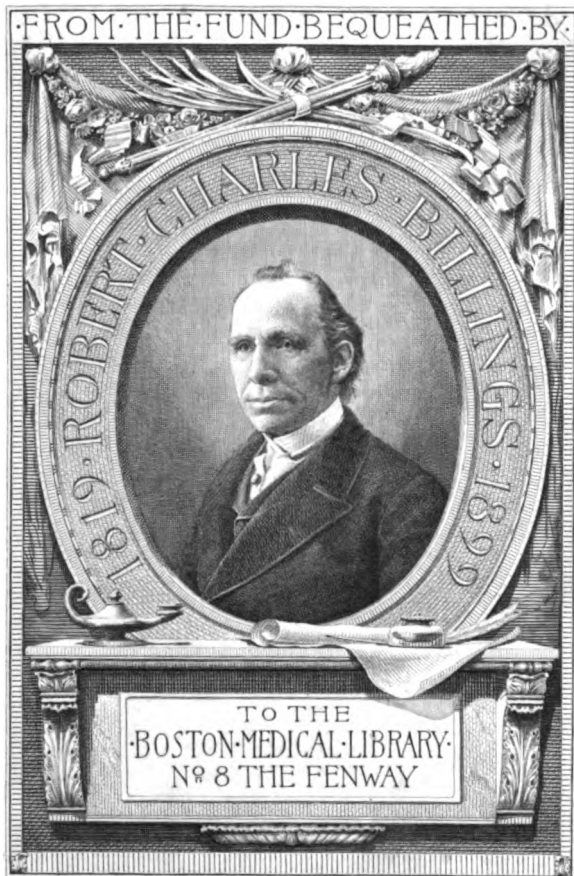
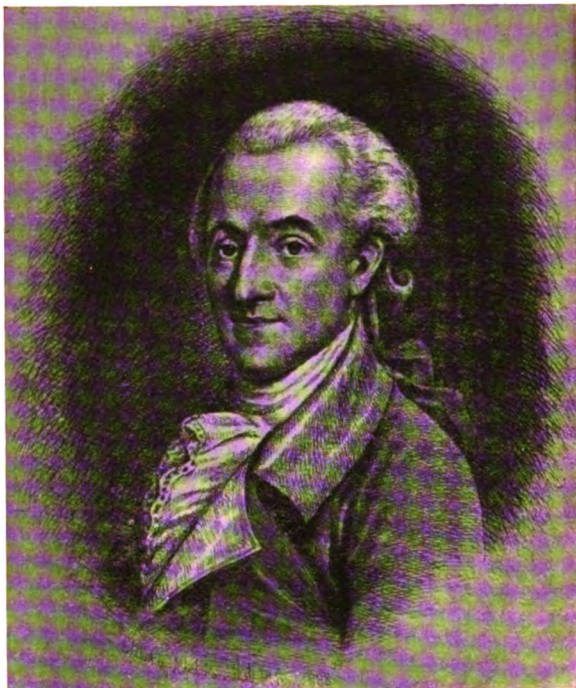


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1. Ca. 399





ELBRIDGE GERRY,
1744-1814.

From an etched portrait by Rosenthal (1888) after a miniature
in possession of the family.

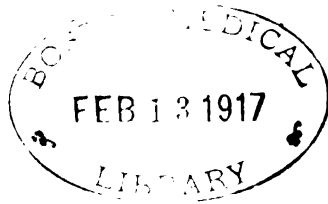
THE DIARY
OF
WILLIAM BENTLEY, D. D.

PASTOR OF THE EAST CHURCH
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 4

JANUARY, 1811—DECEMBER, 1819
INCLUDING
SUBJECT INDEX TO VOLUMES 1-4.

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June 1, 1817. Sunday. Notes. Wid. Mary Hutchinson with her child, d. of her grandson Joseph Ropes, aet. 28. Both parents dead. He died abroad in Havannah. She has five grandchildren abroad at sea. Her husband died after I came to Salem & was not of Salem, but from Beverly. Widow Lydia Pierce, sick. Wid. of Ebenezer P. She was a Brown & brought up under Dr. Sewall of Boston & was a Sister to the late Mary Berry. One of the best of good women having stability, great discretion, a useful & friendly disposition.

2. Capt. J. Prince gave me the hints of Capt. John Selman's expedition to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1784. He died last Friday. Capt. J. S. I have known for many years & of no man's integrity & natural good sense had I a higher opinion. A general account of him & of his expedition is prepared for the paper of next Wednesday. To Capt. J. S. I introduced all such gentlemen as wish to see the curing of fish on our shores such as Gov. Claiborne, Pope, &c. I was astonished to find a man more tenacious of the hopes of his country, than of life & all his property, when his native modesty declined the humblest offices, when his love of industry was almost the love of labor for labors sake and when he cared for no opinions which could [not] be reconciled to personal or public happiness. I shall hold Capt. S. as a model of the temper & character which are to bless mankind.

3. The blowing up of the quarter deck of the Canton Packet in Boston Harbour by the mad resentment of a black man because he was not allowed yesterday to go to election will explain the true spirit of our free blacks & the still bewitching influence of what they call election. A small black girl in our own family whom we reclaimed from extreme ignorance & poverty we were obliged to indulge in going to election as she was too restless at home to be of any use till these days were over. Such as have no excentricities at any other time have them in these. And yet most of them without a penny have no other amusement than in a long walk & absence from home, the most fatiguing dances & the never ceasing sound of the violin, & return exhausted, dirty, ragged & often hungry & emaciated.

5. This evening the long expected Steam Boat arrived. It is said that it had some new constructions which had failed of their effect. It excites great curiosity but has less confidence from the repeated disasters which have attended it. Three Companies have been destroyed already by it. So the best inventions lose favour by falling into unskillful & adventurous hands.

6. The Steam Boat at White's wharf opposite Carlton street. The end of the Wharf is fenced so as to prevent the interference of the Crouds which the novelty collects. The conversation is not so much of the machinery as of the profit the boat may give & the months it may be used. The Owners are speculating upon the profits also, as well as their neighbours.