Lavinia Murray's Retrospect of 1833

SC2015.039

Transcribed by Margaret Long, July 2017

Miss Lavinia Murray's

Retrospect of the year 1833

No. 14 Carroll Place

New York.

1834.

Miss Lavinia Murray's

Retrospect of the year 1833

No.14 Carroll Place

New York

1834

Van Doren's Institute January 1st 1834.

Although I hail the approach of the New Year with pleasure, yet I can not refrain from having some serious thoughts as the year 1833 is drawing to a close, when I think that another year of my life is past, past never to return, the year 1833 is sunk into oblivion. While I regret that time passes so rapidly one question is to be asked, how have I improved the past year? I fear a satisfactory answer can not be given.

In order that I may spend the comming year in a different manner from its predecessors, and I think one effectual means will be to take a review of the past year. In that review the scene will not be much chequered, one event being much like an other.

Van Doren's Institute January 1st 1834.

Although I hail the approach of the New Year with pleasure, yet I can not refrain from having some serious thoughts as the year 1833 is drawing to a close, when I think that another year of my life is past, past never to return, the year 1833 is sunk into oblivion. While I regret that passes so rapidly one question is to be asked, how have I improved the past year? I fear a satisfactory answer can not be given.

In order that I may spend the concerning year in a different manner from its predicessors, and I think one effectual means will be to take a review of the past years. In that review the scene will not be much chequered, one event being much like an other.

In taking a retrospect of the past year I will commence one year from this day which was January 1st 1833. It was a very rainy day. Upon looking out of the window one would see the carriages running in every direction containing gentlemen who were making calls upon the ladies of their acquaintance as is the custom here on New Year's day and it had its origin I believe with the first Dutch settlers. During this day I enjoyed my self very much.

Having given an account of this day I will proceed with a review of the remainder of the month. On the second of January school was again commenced, as the time which we termed the Christmas holidays was past.

With the commencement of school I again commenced

In taking a retrospect of the past year, I will commence one year from this day, which was January 1st 1833 it was a very rainy day. Upon looking out of the window one would see the carriages running in every direction, containing gentlemen who were making calls upon the laides of their acquaintances, as is the custom here on New Year's day, and it had its origin I believe with the first Dutch settlers. During this day I enjoyed my self very much.

Having given an account of this day I will proceed with a review of the remainder of the month. On the second of January school was again commenced, as the time which we termed the Christmas holidays was past.

With the commencement of school I again commenced

attending to those studies which had employed part of my time before, one of which was Geography, this study without exception must certainly be classed among the interesting, and as every person possesses curiosity this study gratifies it, for in studying it, one is by very little mental labour enabled to visit kingdoms, cities, towns, sail up rivers, cross the Ocean &c without having the fatigue of travelling. This month was spent princially in the house of Mr Carroll Place, the weather being so cold no one had a wish to leave a good fire. February was spent principally in the same manner as the proceeding month, but as it passed away I made

attending to those studies which had employed part of my time before, one of which was Geography, this study without exception must certainly be lossed among the interesting, and as every person possesses curiosity this study gratifies it for in studying it, one is by very little mental labour enabled to visit kingdoms, cities towns, sail up rivers or as the ocean to without having the fatigue of travelling. This month was spent principally in the house of No.12 Carroll Place, the weather being so cold no one had a wish to leave a good fire. February was spent principally in the same manner as the previous month, but as it passed away I bade

farewell to a Winter which had not been so excessively cold, and hailed the return of Spring with joyfulness. As I have nothing of any importance to say with respect to February I proceed to March, which was distinguished as it always is by its cold, windy weather and its cold storms. I spent this month in studying Watts on the Mind and Self Knowledge by Mason, and occasionally Willetts Arithmetic, perhaps if I had turned to a more practical purpose, the good advice given by both of these gentlemen, it would have been much to my improvement, and as I before said I spent some of my time in now and then studying Willetts Arithmetic, this

farewell to a Winter which had not been so excessively cold, and hailed the return of spring with joyfulness. As I have nothing of any importance to say with respect to February I proceed to March, which was distinguished as it always is by its cold, windy weather and its cold stormy, I spent this month in studying Watts on the Mind and Self Knowledge by Mason, and occasionally Willett's Arithmetics, perhaps if I had turned to a more practical purpose, the good advice given by both of these gentlemen, it would have been much to my improvement, and as I before said I spent some of my time in now and then studying Willett's Arithmetics, this

gentleman deals principally in numbers I believe his object is principally to try ones patience. During this month a society was raised among the young ladies which was termed the Maria Edgeworth's Society, we met on every Friday evenings this society was given up two or three weeks before vacation, but not until after we had sent a copy of our code of laws to the young ladies of the Lexington Institute. With the return of April returned again all the beauty of spring and those gentle showers by which the month is distinguished, during this month we left our residence at No 12 and removed to No 14 in the same street it is a corner house and larger than the other. In May we again commenced to take walks before breakfast, some of

gentleman deals principally in numbers I believe his abject is principally to try ones patience. During this month a society was roused among the young ladies, which was termed the Maria Edgeworth's Society, we met on every Friday evening, this society was given up two or three weeks before vacation, but not until after we had sent a copy of our code of laws to the young ladies of the Lexington Institute. With the return of April returned again all the beauty of spring and those gentle showers by which the month is distinguished, during this month we left our residence at No.12 and removed to No.14 in the same street it is a corner house and larger than the other. In May, we again commenced to take walks before breakfast, some of

which were very long and frequently in the afternoon. In one of these walks Mrs V.D. took us to visit the house of Refuge. The precise number of boys and girls that were there I do not recollect, but it was quite large. They were kept busily employed; One was enabled to judge in some manner how they conducted themselves by observing what kind of badge the wore on their arm; those who wore the white badge were considered the best those with a brass one the worst, there were more with the brass than of white badge on, the house was perfectly neat and I was informed the girls kept it so. The day that we visited was the visiting day for parents. At the house of Refuge I had a good example of seeing how affection will predominate over pride. I observed brothers and sisters who had come with

which were very long and frequently in the afternoon. In one of these walks Mr. VD took us to visite the house of Refuge. The precise number of boys and girls that were there I do not receolect, but it was quite large. They were kept busily employed. One was enabled to judge in some manner how they conducted themselves by observing what kind of badge the wore on their arms; those who wore the white badge were considered the best those with a brass one the worst, there were more who the brass than in white badges and the house was perfectly neat and I was informed the girls kept it so. The day that we visited was the visiting day for parents. At the house of Refuge I had a good example of seeing how affection will predominate over pride. I observed brothers and sisters, who had come with

their parents, to visit their brothers and sisters there. notwithstanding their dress was superior yet walking up and down conversing with each other and appeared very happy. There was a greater number of boys than of girls at this house of Refuge. I this month became a member of the Temperance society, many of the other young ladies joined it also. I hope this society will meet with great success. This the most delightful of all other passed very rapidly. But the inhabitants of this city could not see its end approach without having some fears, thinking that with the return of Summer our country would again be visited with the return of that dreadful disease the Cholera, which visited our country on the proceeding Summer, and

their parents, to visit their brothers and sisters there's notwithstanding their dress was superior yet walking up and down conversing with each other and appeared very happy. There was a greater number of boys than of girls at this house of Refuge. I this month became a member of the Temperance society, many of the other young ladies joined it also, I hope this society will meet with great success. This the most delightful of all other passed very rapidly. But the inhabitants of this city could not see it and approach without having some fears, thinking that with the return of summer our country would again be visited with the return of that dreadful disease the Cholera which visited our country on the proceeding summer, and

which by its influency carried so many to an untimely grave. But fears were groundless; we thank the Lord that this angle of death has not been permitted to visit the United States: still it has not left America during the Summer the disease raged dreadfully in Mexico, an also in Paris, in the former place hundreds died in a day. I now proceed to June. In this month General Jackson President of the United States visited our city, the second time that he passed up some of the principal streets. Mr. Van B— took us down to Fountains store in Broadway where we could have a perfect view of him. He road up Broadway at the head of a body of troops and was distinguished by his having his hat off bowing to the company, he was dressed in black, perfectly plain his hair was white.

which by its influence carried so many to an untimely grave. But fears were groundless; we thank the lord that this angle of death has not been permitted to visit the United States; still it has not left America during the summer the disease raged dreadfully in Mexico, an also in Paris, in the former place hundreds died in a day. I now proceed to June. In this month General Jackson President of the United States visited our city, the second time that he passed up some of the principal streets, Mr. Van D took us down to Fountains store in Broadway where we could have a perfect view of him. He road up Broadway at the head of a body of troops, and was distinguished by his having his hat off bowing to the company, he was dressed in black perfectly plus his hair was white.

I was quite disappoint with his appearance, thinking he would not look so old. This Summer he has been visiting many of the United States. After the visit of the President the inhabitants of this city were favoured with a visit from three of the descendants of the Aborigines of our country, in the persons of Black Hawk, his son and one or two of his attendants, at the arrival of these persons here, as many people crowded to see them as did to see the President.

I had not the pleasure of seeing those persons my self, but heard from accounts: they were persons of distinction among the Indians, and were captives who had been taken in war. They stayed at New York two or three days.

I was quite disappoint with his appearance, thinking he would not look so old. This summer he has been visiting many of the United States. After the visit of the President the inhabitants of this city were favoured with a visit from three of the descendants of the Aborigines of our country, in the persons of Black Hawk, his son and one or two of his attendants, at the arrival of these persons here, as many people crowded to see them as did to see the President.

I had not the pleasure of seeing those persons myself, but heard from accounts: they were persons of distinction among the Indians, and were captives who had been taken in war. They stayed at New York two or three days.

Before they left their freedom was granted them, they are now I presume enjoying the unrestrained pleasures of the forest. I spent this month pleasantly; my time was employed in study. One of the most prominent of my studies was Natural Philosophy; this study I am extremely fond of it was rendered more interesting as every time we recited a lesson, Mr. V. D read a Lecture upon Natural Philosophy.

In the succeeding month came the fourth of July. I was awakend on that morning of the firing of the twenty four cannons; which are fired in commemoration of the twenty four states which compose our happy Union; this 4th of

Before they left their freedom was granted them, they are now I presume enjoying the unrestrained pleasures of the forest. I spent this month pleasantly: my time was employed in study. One of the most prominent of my studies was Natural Philosophy, this study I am extremely fond as it was rendered more interesting as every time we recited a lesson, W.V.D. read a lecture upon Natural Philosophy.

In the succeeding months came the fourth of July. I was awakened on that morning of the firing of the twenty four cannons, which are fired in commemoration of the twenty four states which compose our happy Union, this 4th of

July is the 57th which has passed since the declaration of the independence of the United States: this day was accompanied by as great rejoycings as it usually is. I spent the day at Mr W D — On this day we had no school, I spent it at No 14, in company with another young lady all the others had gone to visit their friends, the day was spent very pleasantly. The intervening time until the twenty fourth of this month was devoted to my studies.

On the twenty fourth of this month was quite an eventful day to the pupils of Mr J. L. D. D. as it was the day on which the term was to close for the Summer and vacation was to commence, and last until the 1st of September. This was quite a joyful day, as we were now to return to our

July is the 57th which has passed since the declaration of the independence of the United States: this day was accompanied by a great rejoicing as it usually is. [[/strikethrough]] I spent the day at Mr. V.D. [[/strikethrough]] On this day we had no school, I spent it at No. 14, in company with another young lady all the others had gone to visit their friends, the day was spent very pleasantly. The intervening time until the twenty fourth of this month was devoted to my studies. On the twenty fourth of this month was quite an eventful day to the pupils of Mr. J.L.V.D. as it was the day on which the term was to close for the Summer and vacation was to commence, and last until the 1st of September. This was quite a joyful day, as we were now to return to our

Parents from whom we had been separated some time. This day was also accompanied with great bustle and confusion, occasioned by all preparing to leave. I left New York in the morning after having bid farewell to all my friends there many of whom I never expected to see again, as all did not expect to return after vacation.

I left New York in the afternoon, and with a joyful heart, entered on board the vessel which was to carry me home, I was at this time in company with my Father who had come to take me home. On the 25th I arrived at my place of destination, namely, home. I think I never felt so happy and never did the country look so beautiful. During the vacation I enjoyed my self very much with my friends. I also saw that

Parents from whom we had been separated some time. This day was also accompanied with great bustle and confusion, occasioned by all preparing to leave. I left [[/strikethrough]] New York [[/strikethrough]] in the morning after having bid farewell to all my friends there many of whom I never expected to see again as all did not expect to return after vacation.

I left New York in the afternoon and with a joyful heart entered on board the vessel which was to carry me home, I was at this time in company with my Father who had come to take me home. On the 25th I arrived at my place of destination namely, [[/underlined]] home. [[/underlined]] I think I never felt so happy and never did the country look so beautiful. During the vacation I enjoyed my self very much with my friends. I also saw that

during the short period many events will transpire even in a small village. For many people whom I left there when I came to New York had now gone to their long home, and the places which once knew them will know them no more. In the ~~the~~ vacation I received a letter from one of the young ladies who was staying with Mrs. V. D. that the little Simonetts two little girls from S. America who had been boarding with us all winter had left for S America and never expected to return. On the 4th of Sept — I again left my friends to return to Mrs Van Doreens, Institute for Young Ladies it was a delightful day, and I felt rather unwilling to leave the quiet country with its then beautiful

during the short period many events will transpire even in a small village. For many people whom I left there when I came to New York had now gone to their long home, and the places which one knew them will know them no more. In the [[/strikethrough]] the [[/strikethrough]] vacation I received a letter from one of the young ladies who was staying with Mr. V.D. saying that the little Simonetts two little girls from S. America who had been boarding with us all winter had left for S. America and never expected to return. On the 4th of Sep – I again left my friends to return to Mr. Van Dorens Institute for Young Ladies, it was a delightful day, and I left rather unwilling to leave the quiet country with its then beautiful

appearance for the busy city of New York but I did and in two hours after I left home was again in New York. As soon as I arrived at the city I went immediately up to Mr. Van Dorens. I there found only three young ladies had returned to school, but that number kept continually increasing.

I pass over the remaining part of September, October and of November until the 13th of the month, the evening of which day was distinguished was distinguished by their being a great shooting of stars, it mentioned in the papers, that this meteric phenomina was the most brilliant ever known, the street being occasionally as light as day. I regret very much that I did not have the pleasure of seeing this splendid sight.

appearance for the busy city of New York but I did and in two hours after I left home was again in New York. As soon as I arrived at the city I went immediately up to Mr. Van Dorens. I then found only three young ladies had returned to school, but that number kept continually increasing.

I pass over the remaining part of September, October and of November until the 13th of the month, the evening of which day was distinguished was distinguished by their being a great shooting of stars, it mentioned in the papers that this meteoric phenomenon was the most brilliant ever knowen, the streets being occasionally as light as day. I regret very much that I did not have the pleasure of seeing this splendid sight.

This month has not passed without leaving behind it a memorial which was a rather sad one. About the middle of this month I heard of the death of Miss Knox, she was a young girl of about 13 years of age she was one of the boarders here last winter, she died at Philadelphia with the small pox. During this month we left off attending St Thomas's church and have attended the Rev Mr Brittains, the before mentioned pastor of this church is an English man.

With the end of the Autumn of the year 1833, Winter returned again with all its terrors, on the 6th of December was Thanks giving day.

This month has not passed without leaving behind it a memory which was a rather sad one. About the middle of this month I heard of the death of Miss Knox, she was a young girl of about 18 years of age she was one of the boarders here last winter, she dide at Philadelphia with the small pox. During this month we left off attending St Thomases Church and have attended the Rev. Mr. Brittany, the before mentioned pastor of this church is an English man.

With the end of the Autumn of the year 1833, Winter returned again with all its terrors, on the 5th of December was Thanks giving day.

This day is appointed by the officers of government of some of the states, to give thanks to the great Author of our being for the many favours we have received during the past year this custom is not established in all of the states.

On the day before Christmas our holidays commenced which were to last until after the first day of January. I spent Christmas day very pleasantly at Mr Van Dorens. During the holidays I attended the wedding of Miss L. Van Doren who was married to Mr T. Blanchette evening passed away very pleasantly.

During the holidays I have remained with Mr V. D. I have at last taken a review of the past year until I have at

This day is appointed by the officers of government of some of the states, to give thanks to the great Author of our being for the many favours we have received during the past years, this custom is not established in all of the states.

On the day before Christmas our holiday commenced which were to last until after the first day of January. I spent Christmas day very pleasantly at Mr. Van Dorens. During the holidays I attended the Wedding of Miss. L. Van Doren who was married to Mr. J. Blaneh. the evening passed away very pleasantly. During the holidays I have remained with Mr. V.D. I have at last taken a review of the past year until I have at

last come to the 31st of December. Now as I look over the past year I see how many blessings I have enjoyed, how many blessings our country has enjoyed. Truly I can goodness and mercy have followed me all my days for which I should praise the great Author of my being. I also see how that I have misspent many hours, violated all my good resolutions which I made at the commencement of the year, and at last think my hours have been but a bad report of me. I hope a much better report may be added to the retrospect of an other year, should I live to write.

last come to the 31st of December. Now as I look over the past year I see how many blessings I have enjoyed, how many blessings our country has enjoyed. Truly I can goodness and mercy have followed me all my days for which I should praise the great Author of my being. I also see how that I have misspent many hours, violates all my good resolutions which I made at the commencement of this year, and at last I think my hours have boren but a bad report of me. I hope a much better report may be added to the retrospect of an other year, should I live to it write.

P. S. This book is presented to my dear Parents with the compliments of the writer wishing them a Happy New Year.

Yours affectionately

L. Murray

P.S. This book is presented to my dear Parents, with the compliments of the writer wishing them a Happy New Year.

Yours affectionately,

L Murray

Resolutions for 1834.

1 To live more according to the dictates of conscience.

2 To obey my Parents.

3 To respect my teacher.

4 To improve my time properly.

5 Not to judge the actions of others from wrong motives.

6 To be always contented.

7 To obey all the rules and regulations of Mr. D— as long as I remain with him.

8 To endeavour to govern my temper.

9 Not to indulge in trifeling conversation.

10 To return good for evile.

11 Not to dispute about trifles.

Resolutions for 1834

1 To live more according to the dictates of conscience.

2 To obey my Parents.

3 To respect my teacher.

4 To improve my time properly.

5 Not to judge the actions of others arise from wrong motives.

6 To be always contented.

7 To obey all the rules and regulations of Mr. V.D – as long as I remain with him.

8 To endeavor to govern my temper.

9 Not to indulge in trifeling conversation.

10 To return good for evile.

11 Not to dispute about trifles.

12 Not to dispute about trifles.

13 Not to speak when in a bad humour.

14 To be neat in every thing.

15 To say nothing about a person without I can say some thing good.

16 Not to say behind a persons back what I would not to their face.

17 Not to let a day pass without learning some thing new.

18 Not to cry.

19 To have a time for the performance of every duty.

20 To be charitable in every sense of the word.

21 To be amiable.

22 To have a place for every thing and every thing in its place.

23 Never to be envious.

24 To avoid all unkind feeling against a person.

12 Not to dispute about trifles.

13 Not to speak when in a bad humour.

14 To be neat in every thing.

15 To say nothing about a person without I can say some thing good.

16 Not to say to behind a persons back what I would not to their face.

17 Not to let a day pass without learning something new.

18 Not to cry.

19 To have a time for the performance of every duty.

20 To be charitable in every sense of the word.

21 To be amiable.

22 To have a place for every thing and every thing in its place.

23 [[/underlined]] Never [[/underlined]] to be envious.

24 To avoid all unkind feeling against a person.

25 To forget past offences.

26 To be thankful when reproved of my faults.

27 Not to be inquisitive about that which will do noone any good.

28 To be charitable with respect to the faults of others.

27 To set a good example to those younger than my self.

30 To write my journal every evening.

31 To be always polite.

32 To endeavour to improve my walk.

33 Never to let the sun go down upon my anger.

34 To have diligence and perseverance.

35 To make the best use of every thing in its place.

36 To learn more of my own heart.

37 To learn all my lessons.

25 To forget past offences.

26 To be thankful when reproved of my faults.

27 Not to be inquisitive about that which will do no one any good.

28 To be charitable with respect to the fault of others.

29 To set a good example to those younger than myself.

30 To write my journal every evening.

31 To be always polite.

32 To endeavor to improve my walk.

33 Never to let the sun go down upon my anger

34 To have diligence and perseverance.

35 To make the best use of every thing in its place.

36 To learn more of my own heart

37 To learn all my lessons.

38 Not to read any book which is not worth reading a second time.

39 To have patience.

40 To over come fear.

41 Not to have too much pride.

42 To be kind to all.

43 To have dignity of deportment.

44 To use all means in my power which are favourable to my own improvement.

45 To spend my Sabbath properly.

46 Not to indulge in anger.

47 Not to use by words.

48 To endeavour to be useful.

49 To live as I wile wish I had done at some future period.

50 To read a portion of scripture daily.

Ended.

38 Not to read any book which is not worth reading a second time.

39 To have patience.

40 To over come fear.

41 Not to have too much pride.

42 To be kind to all.

43 To have dignity of deportment.

44 To use all means in my power which are favorable to my own improvement.

45 To spend my Sabbath properly.

46 Not to indulge in anger.

47 Not to use by wordy.

48 To endeavor to be useful.

49 To live as I will wish I had done at some future period.

50 To read a portion of scripture daily. End.