

From the Anna Quincy Thaxter Cushing Diary, Octavo 15.

Feb. 26. [1858] Friday – Mrs. Clapp spent the day here – It has quite troubled me that it has taken so much time to get my costume ready for the party, for I have never been in the habit of spending a great deal of time upon such things – I have had the head-ache too, today and did not feel much like going to the party, after all – Ben. had decided to go as Friar Tuck, and had all his arrangements made – Margaret went in town this morning, and got some flannel and cut and made him a Friar's dress, today with some help from Aunt Mary: but just as it was about time to get ready he was called to a man that had been thrown out of his vehicle on the turnjuke, and badly hurt – so I got ready and went to the party, hoping he would be able to come, before a great while – The evening passed, however, and much to my disappointment, I saw nothing of him – Patrick came for me, between half past 11 or 12, and on returning, I found that Ben. Had got ready as quickly as he could, after he had taken care of the man, and had gone up to Mr. Gassett's but finding that people were at supper, and had taken their masks off, he preferred not to come in – he was quite disappointed, as he had depended upon being there – I was sorry that he did not come in, even though it was late – he would not have been the only late one, either, as Mr. Churchill appeared in costume, but without his mask, after supper – The whole affair was quite novel, and amusing, but it seemed to me that it sorely paid for the expenditure of time and money upon the costumes – a great many of the dresses were hired, and the costumes ask a high price – from five to fifteen or twenty dollars, I believe – I think there would have been more interests if there had not been such sameness of five dresses, especially among the gentlemen – there was too little distinction – Mr. Phipps, who wore a plain Quaker dress, and talked in Quaker style, did his part as well as any one, I thought – Mr. Gassett appeared as Sir Kemitt, the Knight of the leopard, in a complete suit of armor – Maria as the Daughter of the Regiment – Carrie Lawd as “The White Lady of Avel” – Mrs. Ellis, as “Little Red Riding Hood” – Mr. May as Rev. Dr. Primrose &c &c I had quite a pleasant talk with Hannah Adams, my old school-mate at the Wells's who was at the party, She and her two sisters keep a boarding school at Jamaica Plain, and Isabel is a scholar of theirs – There were two other “Nights” besides myself – Miss Martha Cummins and Miss Sara Lawd – our dresses were not alike, however – my silk waist was made with a low neck and short sleeves, but the lace was made high, with large flowing sleeves, open almost all the way up, and the whole [...] dress was spangled with gilt stars – then I wore a starred veil, on the back of my head and around the front of the head a sort of diadem, made of pasteboard, and [...] the upper edge, and wound with black velvet – upon the velvet were stars and a crescent – I carried a black fan, spangled with little stars – Lissie Caper's dress was handsome – it was a Turkish costume – Susan Vincent made an excellent Chinese lady – there was dancing all the evening, so the music of the piano and a cornet.