



Transcription of the diary of Sarah Chase, 1865 (Octavo Volume 3).

This handwritten correspondence is in the collection of the American Antiquarian Society (Catalog Record 272098).

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Entries are scattered throughout account book kept by R.H. Dickinson & Brother, a slave trading firm in Virigina, between 1855 and 1858. It is not always clear in which order Sarah Chase wrote her diary entries.

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Slave Market Acct Book Richmond Va. April 1865 Richmond

8 Left Fortress at 11—

9 City Point—Sands at [?] Richmond

10 Guns for Lees surrender

11 Sheplagh Palmer

I wouldn't care so much if their teachers were black—but to think of white teachers is awful!

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April 8th 1865 Saturday

8 6 A.M. Prof. W. Miss S L & I off for Richmond

Left for City Point—the Fortress—City Point off 8

9 Sun. City Point—7 P.M. Richmond

10 Mon. Dr. B appears—Guns for Lee's surrender

11—Shepley Palmer [?]

12 Ord. Goodbye Shepley

13 Am annensis! Copy names from Cash book tm pages onto Monitors[?] page in this

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21st Dined ftt at C.C. Med [?]

22 [?] of Capitol Pike work 21st Comm [?]

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22 Sam Genl. Halleck & Staff today arrived—boned & elegant returns—Genl. Patrick

23

24

25

26

27 San Comm [?] Williams & Lucas to Oak Wood Cem

28 Grames[?] Stockwell & two colored ministers served CCm[?] School

29

30

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May 1865

1 Monday—Magazine plate of brains Battles [?]

2d Tues L & I spectators in [?] Church with negro teachers—while Comm draws off some for Foster

3d Wednes Clear & cold Miss Hillyard

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22 Sat Top of Capitol! Devans Ambulance for outskirts & Moore's Plantation John Smith & Powhatan's grave

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April 30th Saturday—Friends meeting—Patrick Henry's church

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May 1st Monday—"Bible class" ftt. Magazine "plate of brains" other[?] Battles & Mr Hardwell
Tues. May 2d Teachers come—give up Church—give base to Miss Cannedy—Miss McHenry—
Battles Gammels Hill & Iron Works—Miss [?]

Wednesday 3d Clear & cold—Miss Hillyard—Droulle in camp

Thursday 4th Genl. Meade—Griffin with his 1st Bull Run horse—Col Seymour Leut Col Binney
Genl. Macy—Genl Bender—Genl Seymour red shirt collar—handsome!! Meads Adjut Genl.—
Genl. McKenzie

Stokes Slave pen papers—1st intelligence office—2 calls—Chase's Soup House—1st Evening
School—Great occasion of Genl Gibbons visit—Miss Allen's call—Katy Robinson made 4th
wife to old Arthur Brown—during Even School

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Friday 5th Visit all the schols with Miss Hillard—Visit Miss Allen & write all night—Saturday 6
Army of Potomac pass to Miss Hillard off through—Care for them all day—Early to bed resting
till?—on Sunday 7th Calls on colored families

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Richmond Interesting Cold people Forrester Marshall & 12th Wickum Susan—Near 1st Af. Ch.
At Rebecka Meyers' Bible. Hemans Maria & Mary at Mrs Mumfords—cor. Of Franklyn &
Fourchee Burrill Emmett—Near Bullard House

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“On to Richmond 4.7th '65 Norfolk at 6 1/2 A.M. Clear cold and glorious—L & I with Prof. Woodbury & Miss Stephenson wave a Farewell to Dr Brown as we set sail for ? Davis's Capitol with gay hearts and little travelling bags—not knowing but what the torpedos and obstructions may oblige us to walk from ? Aikens' Landing (Mary Jane Richards—a bright & pretty colored girl—who has acted as Spy for our Army goes with us to take a school[?]) daughter of one of the first ladys in R.: separated from her husband on acct. of his cruel treatment.

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At 10 Oclock took Ocean Wave for City Point—Meantime I saw under the Live Oaks in the Fort talking with the wife & sisters of the officers the day [illustration of canal at bottom of page]

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April 8th At Williamsburg took on as many of the colored “Calvary” who were swarming on the beach—as the boat could carry.

Paymaster Maj. John S. Ladd Prov...danced sand & 5 played the bugles. Maj. Sykes offered any assertion in his power—Bermuda Hundred—a low little strip of land—few tents & cabins; & trees in the distant background—City Point dirty, scant breakfast \$1 but two dirty[?] cavalrymen were rich dessert—Both just from Berksville with latest intelligence—one was Shumway from Worcester—son of a minister—One of the Bugles came forward with greetings most deferential—his face all aglow to see Miss Sarah & I was pleased in the soldier to see a poor little farm boy—Duncan Jones (Cav) fr. Wilson Farm son of Kesiah & Isaac...

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Taken from D & H's Slave Auction House on Franklin St Where we looked over his desk-books & papers—March 31st Slaves were sold—I read the mem. of sale in the Day book a heavy line was drawn beneath it and

April 1st was written: but—thank God—no more was written or will ever ne in the bloody Register—I am so sorry I did not take that book—though it was so large (it being so recent) instead of this—To keep this book I will use to keep for myself a suggestive Memoranda of our following the troops into Richmond. L & I get home from our [?] Washington—are home two

days—Miss Stephenson comes—Genl. Gordon gives us a pass to City Point—(Miss Curtis of Boston at the Gordons.

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April Richmond 1865

8th Saturday—6 AM Prof W. Miss Stephenson L & I bid the family “Mary Jane” & Dr B. Goodbye—and off for Richmond—Take hand bags for we may be left at Aiken’s landing and have to walk many miles—no idea of when or how we shall get there—or how long we shall stay—10 Start for City Point where we arrive at Ocean Wave 8 in a wilderness of shipping all starry with lights—a long line of barracks offices & store houses stretch along the narrow strip of shore with a RR track & a tall flight of steps leads up to the table land of City Point—From the head of this stairway an extensive & most lovely stretch of starry signals on the multitudinous shipping—March with the crowd up to the new hotel wh. is overflowing—A glimpse at the Christian Commission Rooms—A tent for Reading, Writing and meetings...A rarely pure faced young man—black eyes & hair skin most fair & expression rare with gentle loving eyes—(the best specimen of a C.C.) Rev Mr Martin was sorting & stamping over a thousand letters—(S afterwards saw him at the CC in Richmond

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where he showed me a sweet picture of his wife & baby in the back of his watch. The gold chain that this grateful refugee gave him for giving up his bed to her—Post master Mr Smith took us in a tug to the [?] to spend the night—Passed the President boat—gay with lights—the band playing—President—his wife & Sumner on board—Now how I wish we had gone on board—they sailed away at sunrise--& soon after we were going to have an interview with Sumner... 9th A glorious Sabbath morn—A tug comes out for us and through a beautiful picture takes us ashore—From the stairway a lovely view: the river with its forests of masts—gay with Sunday flags—like a pictured bay at our feet—Bermuda Hundreds—a barren strip with a fen full[?] & trees stretching opposite at the left—the Appotomox[?] at the left back round the Point—on the Point but three or four old houses--& a little community of army buildings—Should go right on to Richmond but for Prov. Marshall who insists on the impossibility of our being allowed “Sec of War” allows none unless ordered—“to go” Had we gone to [?] office as I wanted to—we should have found [?] from Genl Devens ect & could have gone right on I was most desirous to be with the colored people to worship on their first Sabbath of Freedom—but unfortunately & unnecessarily we staid most of the day at the Point—and made the most of it—going all abt. the Point—ransacking Genl Grant’s Head Qrts. a one story log house of the rooms

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I climbed in the window (Contraband said no one had been in since Grant left I took the pen with wh. he write the last thing before leaving and the sheet on wh. he had begun a letter to Stanton [?] and brought away several papers and pens—sat in his chair & used his pen wiper and paper weight—in the back room two beds just as they were left--& little Grants shoes at his bedside—Colored book in principal house gave us a nice lunch of tea crackers & English cheese---his “family” all in Richmond...& other officers—Sleep table land Pint river beautiful at our feet—opposite shores near & clear—In the Telegraph Offic talked through lightning with Genl Deven’s & Dr Benedict—his Medical Director who said an ambulance would meet us on our arrival ect.

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Continued

(9th April—Saw the “Congress” at Newport News—Sam Harrison’s Landing & Harrison’s birth place) like the Potomac—but more rosy & jem like —on one side steep, barren shores on the other low & tropical & lovely—Thrice we passed near the “crows nest” a signal station—long after the first passing we found ourselves again close by—a very narrow strip of land intervening what beautiful trees stretch away over the hills to the horizon—“San Congress ect”—At Aiken’s Landing thought we might have to leave the boat on acct of torpedo’s but the river had been examined & buoys put where they had been discovered and the anxious Captain pilots us to Richmond Rocketts (landing) through the wrecks & torpedos wh. are so near on either side a cane will often touch them Group of young officers passing & tipping bottle after bottle of raw brandy—in tow of boat-I motion to a good facts & very young officer not to take & he passes—so every time & he looks for my approval—At last a cry of Spires of Richmond & all wish to behold—every inch of the sail is beautiful and at last Richmond looms up before us beautiful on its hillsides—At Dr. Benedict—Med Director of Army Corps—took us in his Ambulance to Spottswood—up—in the dim twilight through the mournful wilderness of tottering walls & threatening pinnacles & smouldering fires—It seemed as if a great city was laid in ashes—as we rode—nothing left of the great

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Tuesday 9th Cool & rainy. Take “Bro. Fitch” C.C. in the Post Surgeon’s Ambulance (Dr Laney) to Stuart-Windsor & Jackson Hosp. Stuart Hosp can accomodate but 300—Glad to see young Dr Green of Boston there in charge—Met Danl. Denny’s son with him. All the hospital barracks are well built but poorly ventilated—In one of the wards were those who were left when the Potomac ?] went through—The men we nursed as they fell in the street from exhaustion—Overpoweringly grateful was Wm. H LaRue Wilton Miss [?]-The one we worked so long over—I think he would have died else. At Winders some of our soldiers were just encamping M Jackson we saw Williams in the [?] & McLaren & Co in the C.C. where we dined—though the barracks were large & well whitewashed—Linen [?] each row—a Laundry & Dairy it was a

dreary place for any mortal—nothing to please the eye—no chairs & nothing but [?] and what neglect & filth & to a contrast to our hospitals –In the beautiful grove back of the Hosp. we saw the gun wk. said Peace?

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to the land—the last gun fired at Lee—L. & I visited Gov Smiths house on Capitol Sq. looking down the walk to the Washington Monument. A comfortable looking house—nothing wonderful Davis's house....

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10th Wedns. Go out to see Sherman's army pass through according to the programme—but Genl. Sherman does not submit to a review from Halleck—Dine with the Dr[?] at Pizzinis (Strawberrys & cream ice) and have a Grand ride with Dr. Clark taking Misses Foster, Duncan & Cannedy—visit Lee Hospital—Col. Lincoln and staff at their tent arbor[?] on the wild plain--& the 34th Mass at dress parade—wonderful precision—as if but one man—See where Dahlgren was killed and then to Genl Turner's Hd Qrts—a lovely place with a blooming garden of roses with a snowy silken fringe tree & above all most graceful elms Capt. Gibbs—thoughtful—graceful & elegantly refined acts the host at his tempting lunch—how pretty his roses on the platter (of cold ham) reminds me of Maj. Carney—sit on the porch in the glorious moonly [?] revelling in the picturesque about us & enjoying a nice chat—conundrums & the band. I saw Mrs. Lofts [?], Capt G & Dr accompanied us on our beautiful ride home 11—Thursday Sherman's Cavalry!! Army!! What a spectacle! Sat on City Hall steps where Halleck intended to review but no Halleck is visible

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Richmond 2d Visit

June 2d 1865

Lizzie Gordon, Miss Haven, Angie Ball, M.H.C. L & S at 6 AM are off for Richmond—bright and lovely day & a pleasant breeze

7th L & I at 6 take the boat for home

