Samuel Lyle Adair's diary, 1854-1861

This diary, written by Samuel Lyle Adair, during the seven year period from 1854 to 1861, contains scattered entries about Kansas Territory and Adair's ministry. The first entry indicates that Adair and his wife are considering coming to Kansas Territory. Other entries relate to daily activities and Adair's ministry and include mentions of whom he visits and who is ill. The entry for February 4, 1861, notes that Kansas had been admitted to the Union.

Creator: Adair, Samuel Lyle, 1811-1898

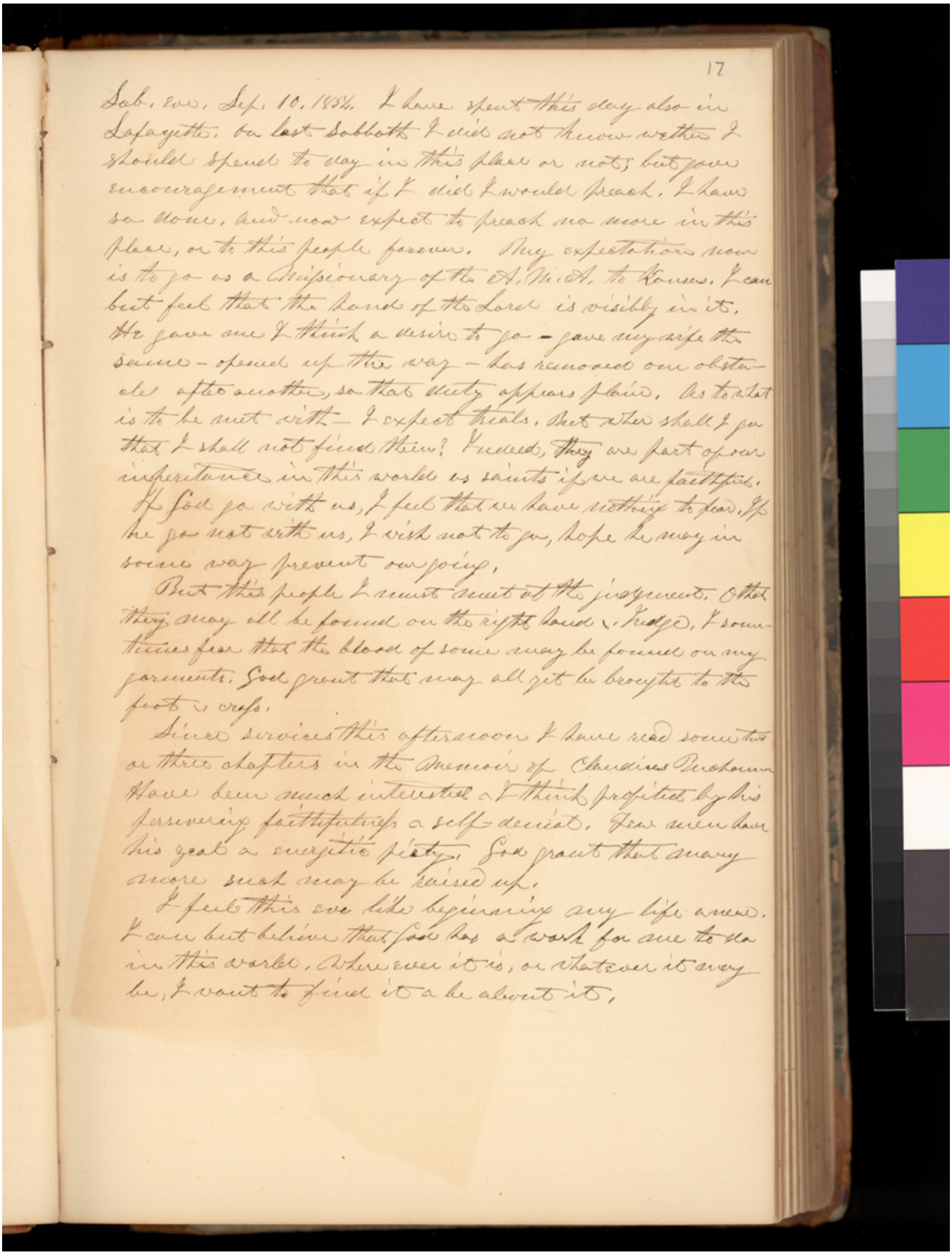
Date: September 10, 1854, through February 7, 1861

Callnumber: Samuel & Florella Adair Coll. #161 Box 8 Folder 8

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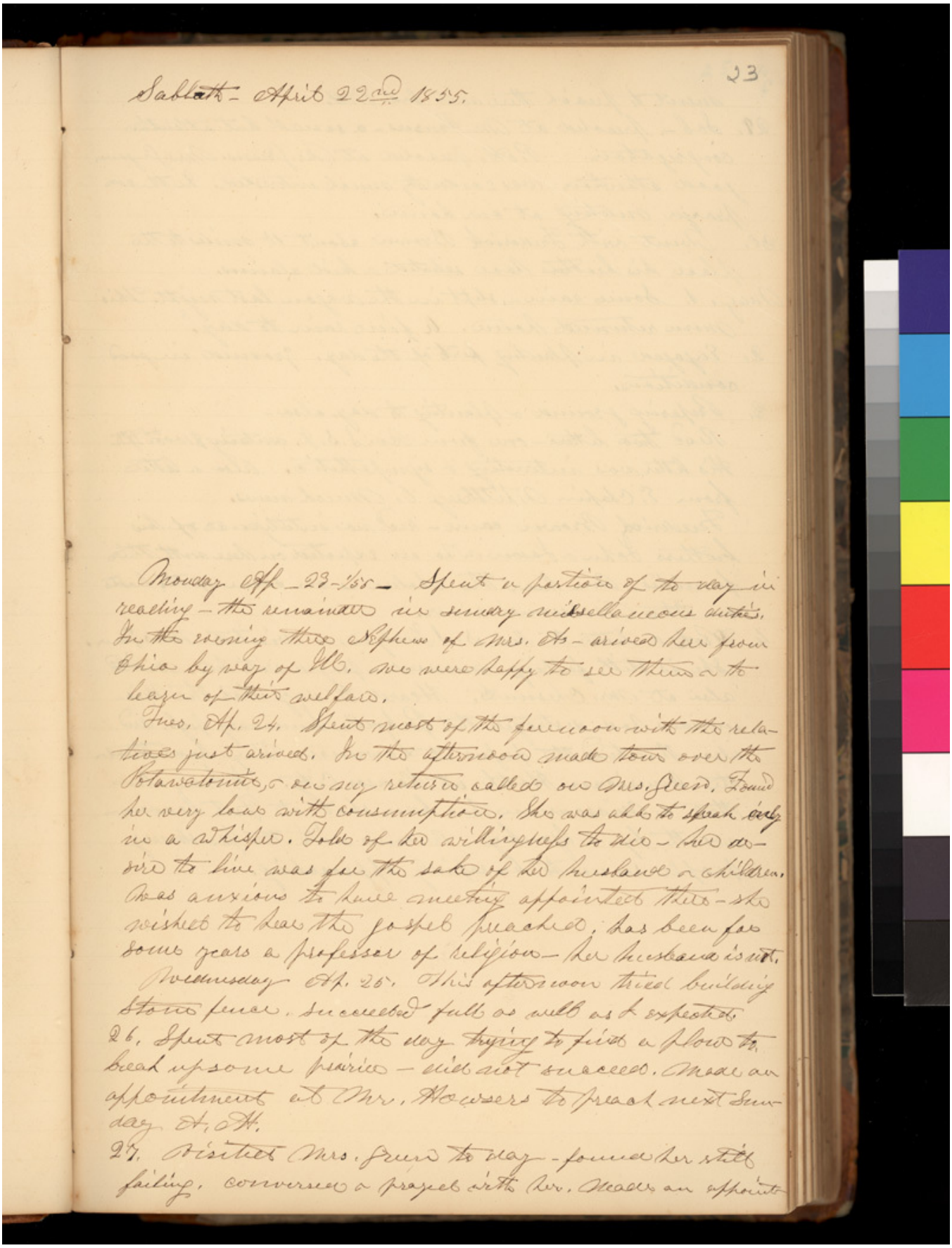
17

Sab. eve. Sep. 10, 1854. I have spent this day also in Lafayette. On last Sabbath I did not know wether I should spend to day in this place or not; but gave encouragement that if I did I would preach. I have so done, and now expect to preach no more in this place, or to this people forever. My expectations now is to go as a Missionary of the A. M. A. to Kansas. I can but feel that the hand of the Lord is visibly in it. He gave me I think a desire to go - gave my wife the same - opened up the way - has removed one obstacle after another, so that duty appears plain. As to what is to be met with - I expect trials. But who shall I say that I shall not find them? Indeed, they are part of our inheritance in this world as saints if we are faithful. If God go with us, I feel that we have nothing to fear. If he go not with us, I wish not to go. Hope he may in some way prevent our going.

But this people I must meet at the judgment. O that they may all be found on the right hand. Judge. I sometimes fear that the blood of some may be found on my garments. God grant that may all yet be brought to the foot of cross.

Since services this afternoon I have read some two or three chapters in the Memoir of Claudius Buchanan. Have been much interested & I think profited by his persevering faithfulness & self-denial. How much have this year a energetic piety. God grant that many more such may be raised up.

I feel this eve like beginning my life anew. I can but believe that God has a work for me to do in this world. Where ever it is, or whatever it may be, I want to find it & be about it.



23

Sabbath – April 22nd 1855.

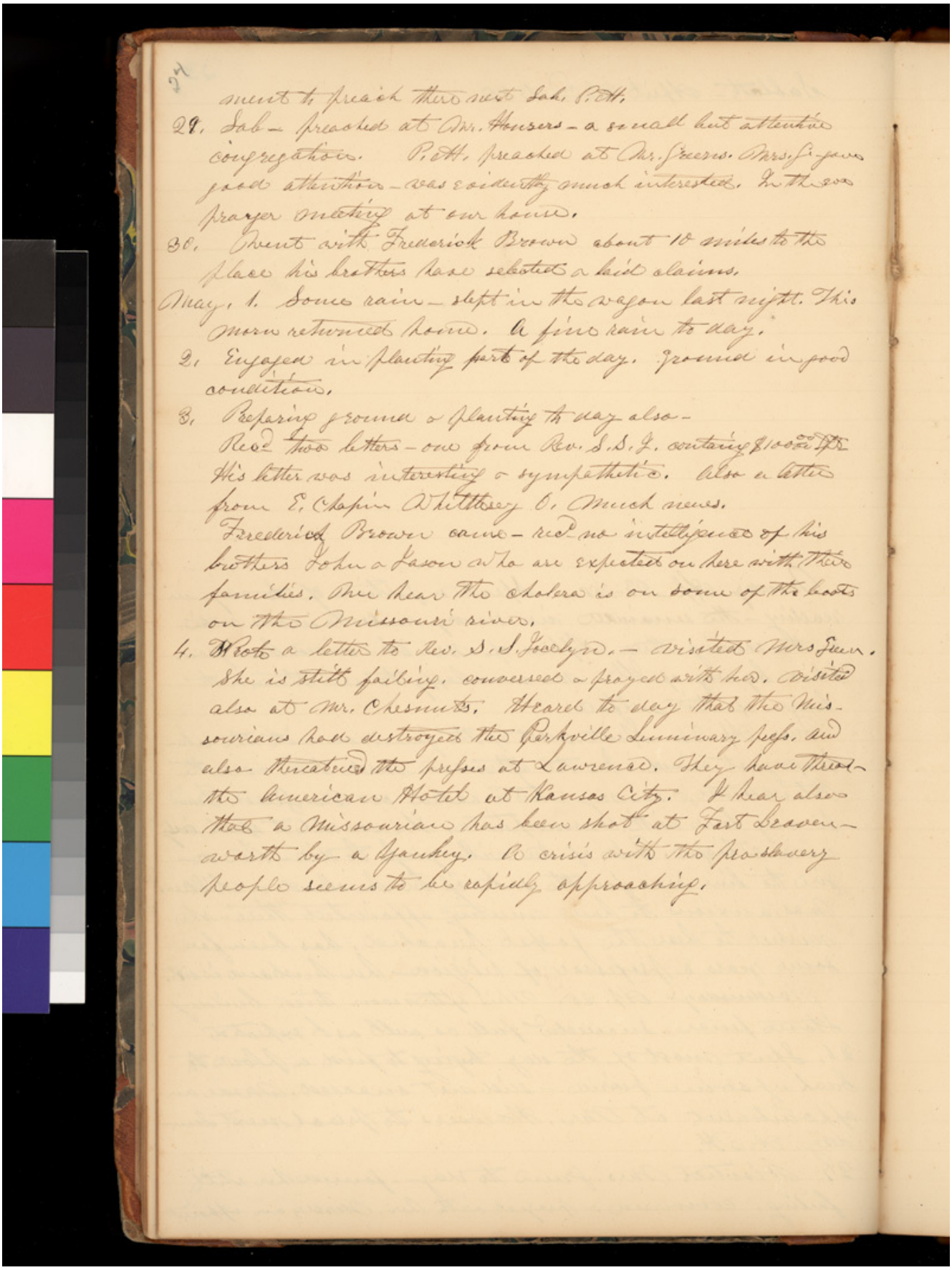
Monday Apl – 23 – '55 – Spent a portion of the day in reading – the remainder in sundry miscellaneous duties. In the evening three Nephews of Mrs. A – arrived here from Ohio by way of Ills. We were happy to see them & to learn of their welfare.

Tues. Ap. 24. Spent most of the forenoon with the relatives just arrived. In the afternoon made some over the Potawatomies, & on my return called on Mrs. Freed. Found her very low with consumption. She was able to speak only in a whisper. Told of her willingness to die – but desire to live was for the sake of her husband & children. Was anxious to have meeting appointed there – she wished to hear the gospel preached, has been for some years a professor of religion – her husband is not.

Wednesday Ap. 25. This afternoon raised building Store fence. succeeded full as well as I expected.

26. Spent most of the day trying to find a plow to break up some prairie – did not succeed. Made an appointment at Mr. Mowsers to preach next Sunday P. M.

27. Visited Mrs. Freed to day – found her still failing. conversed & prayed with her. Made an appoint-



24

ment to preach there next Sab. P.M.

29. Sab – preached at Mr. Hansers – a small but attentive congregation. P.M. preached at Mr. Greens. Mrs. G. gave good attention – was evidently much interested. In the eve prayer meeting at our house.

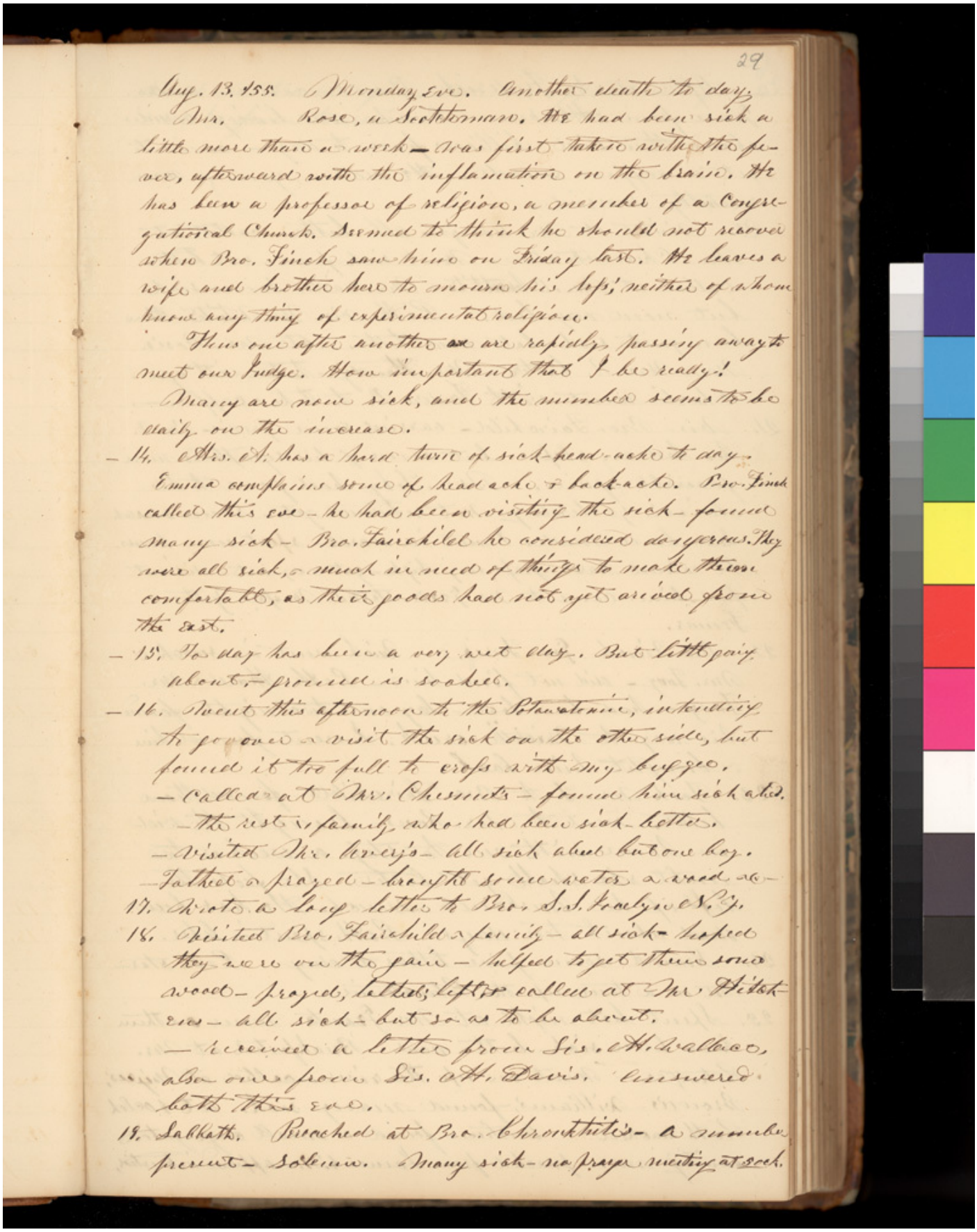
30. Went with Frederick Brown about 10 miles to the place his brothers have selected a kind claims.

May. 1. Some rain – slept in the wagon last night. This morn returned home. A fine rain to day.

2. Engaged in planting part of the day. Ground in good condition.

3. Preparing ground & planting to day also –
Rec'd two letters – one from Rev. S.S.J. containing $100 in bills. His letter was interesting & sympathetic. Also a letter from E. Chapin Whitney O. Much news.
Frederick Brown came – rec'd no intelligence of his brothers John & Jason who are expected on here with their families. We hear the cholera is on some of the boats on the Missouri river.

4. Wrote a letter to Rev. S.S. Jocelyn. – visited Mrs Green. She is still failing. conversed & prayed with her. Visited also at Mr. Chesnuts. Heard to day that the Missourians had destroyed the Parkville Luminary press. and also threatened the press at Lawrence. They have fired the American Hotel at Kansas City. I hear also that a Missourian has been shot at Fort Leavenworth by a Yankey. A crisis with the pro slavery people seems to be rapidly approaching.



29

Aug. 13. 1855. Monday eve. Another death to day, Mr. Rose, a Scotchman. He had been sick a little more than a week — was first taken with the fever, afterward with the inflamation on the brain. He has been a professor of religion, a member of a Congregational Church. Seemed to think he should not recover when Bro. Finch saw him on Friday last. He leaves a wife and brother here to mourn his loss, neither of whom know any thing of experimental religion.

Thus one after another we are rapidly passing away to meet our Judge. How important that I be ready!

Many are now sick, and the number seems to be daily on the increase.

— 14. Mrs. A. has a hard turn of sick-head-ache to day. Emma complains some of head ache & back-ache. Bro. Finch called this eve — he had been visiting the sick — found many sick — Bro. Fairchild he considered dangerous. They were all sick, much in need of things to make them comfortable, as their goods had not yet arrived from the east.

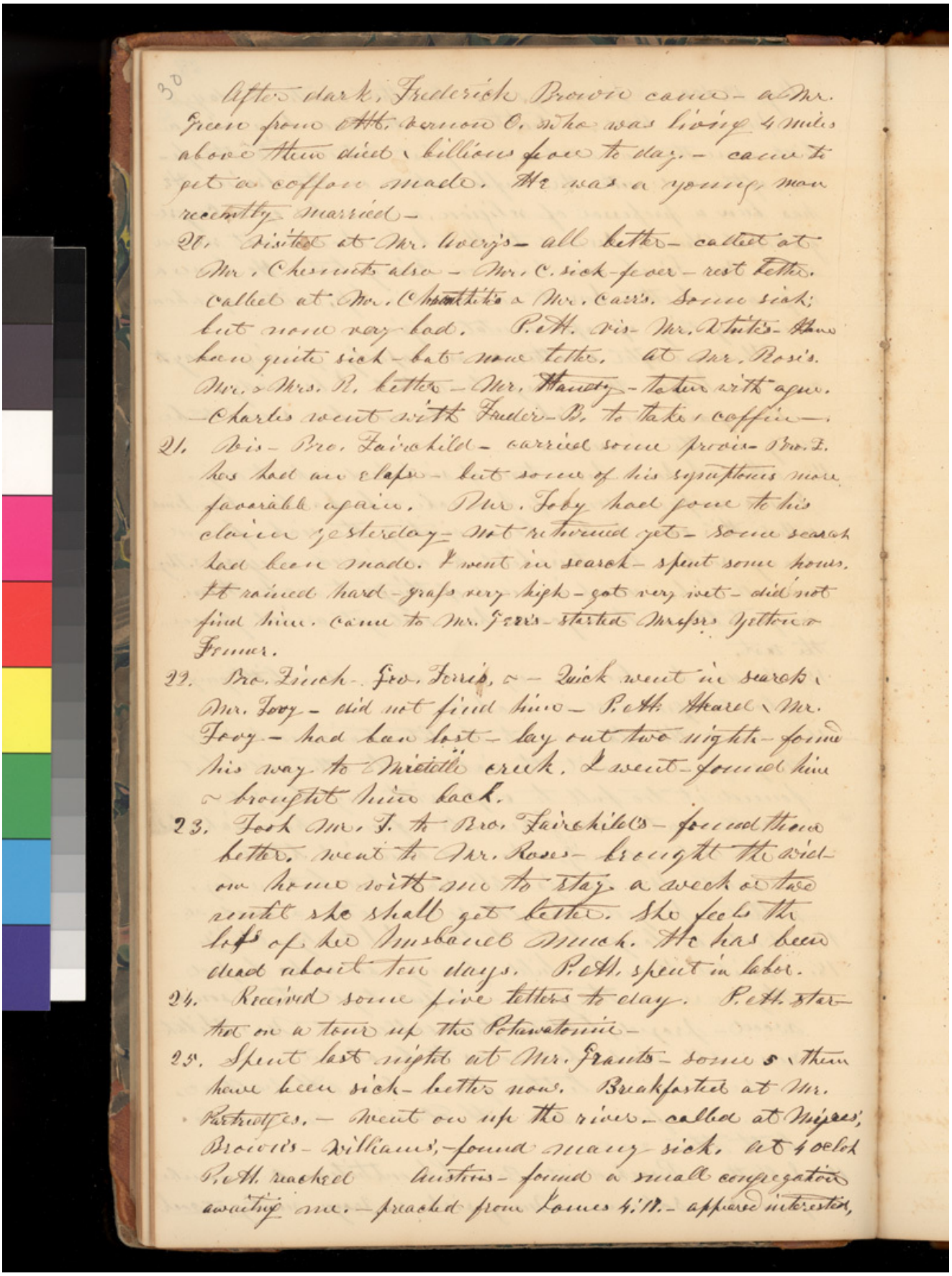
— 15. To day has been a very wet day. But little gain about — ground is soaked.

— 16. Went this afternoon to the Potawatomie, intending to go over & visit the sick on the other side, but found it too full to cross with my buggy.
— called at Mr. Chesnut's — found him sick abed.
— the rest of family who had been sick better.
— visited Mr. Lowry's — all sick abed but one boy.
— talked & prayed — brought some water & wood &c —

17. Wrote a long letter to Bro. S.S. Foster of N.Y.

18. Visited Bro. Fairchild's family — all sick — hoped they were on the gain — helped to get them some wood — prayed, talked & left — called at Mr. Hitchcocks — all sick — but so as to be about.
— received a letter from Sis. H. Wallace, also one from Sis. A.H. Davis. Answered both this eve.

19. Sabbath. Preached at Bro. Chronkhite's — a number present — solemn. Many sick — no prayer meeting at each.



30 After dark, Frederick Brown came – a Mr. Green from Ft. Vernon O. who was living 4 miles above them died of bilious fever to day. – came to get a coffin made. He was a young man recently married –

21. Visited at Mr. Avery's – all better – called at Mr. Chesnuts also – Mrs. C. sick-fever – rest better. called at Mr. Chamberlin's & Mr. Carr's. Some sick, but none very bad. P. & H. vis- Mr. Chamberlin's – Have been quite sick – but none better. at Mr. Rose's. Mr. & Mrs. R. better – Mr. Hawley – better with ague. – Charles went with Frederick B. to take a coffin –

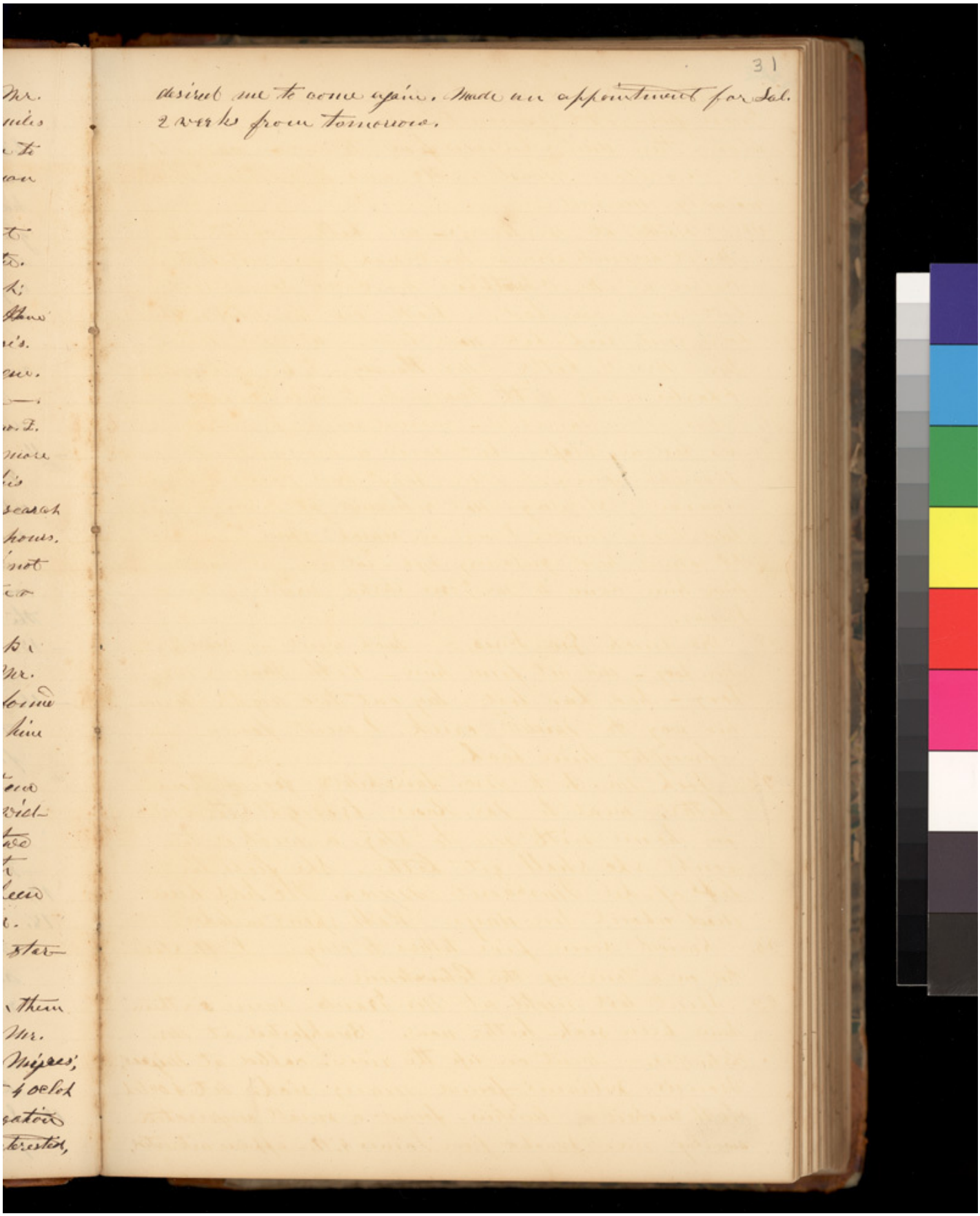
22. Vis- Bro. Fairchild – carried some provis- Bro. F. has had an ague – but some of his symptoms more favorable again. Mr. Foby had gone to his claim yesterday – Not returned yet – Some search had been made. I went in search – spent some hours. It rained hard – grass very high – got very wet – did not find him. came to Mr. Jones's – started Mrs Jones to Fremont.

23. Bro. Finch – Bro. Ferris, & – Quick went in search of Mr. Foby – did not find him – P. & H. stayed & Mr. Foby – had been lost – lay out two nights – found his way to Middle creek. I went – found him & brought him back.

23. Took Mr. J. to Bro. Fairchild's – found them better. went to Mr. Rose's – brought the girl on home with me to stay a week or two until she shall get better. She feels the loss of her husband much. He has been dead about ten days. P. & H. spent in labor.

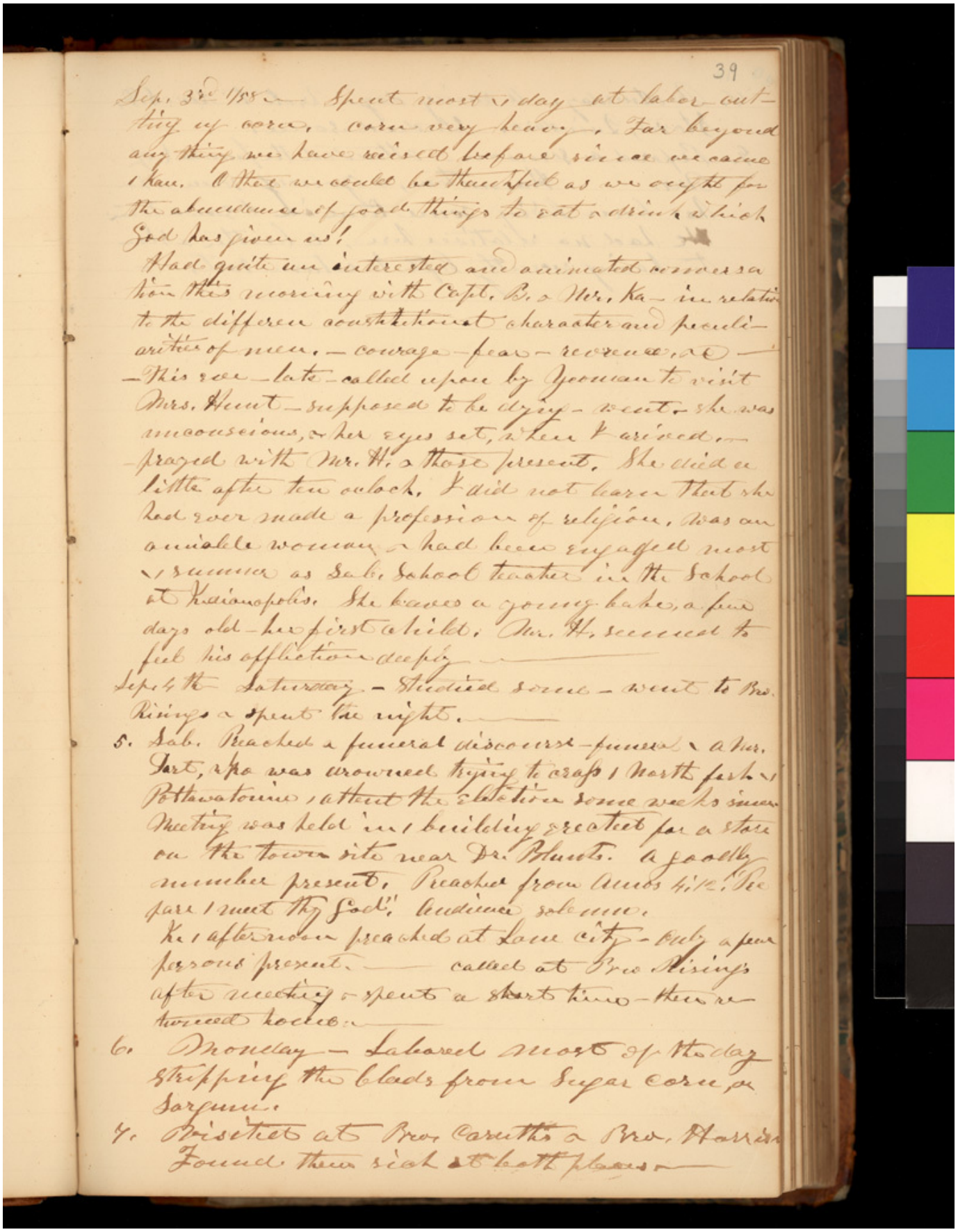
24. Received some five letters to day. P. & H. started on a tour up the Potawatomie –

25. Spent last night at Mr. Grant's – some 5 of them have been sick – better now. Breakfasted at Mr. Partridge's. – went on up the river – called at Myers', Brown's – Williams', – found many sick. At 4 o'clock P. & H. reached Austin's – found a small congregation awaiting me. – preached from James 4:14 – appeared interested,



31

desired me to come again. Made an appointment for Sat. 2 weeks from tomorrow.



39

Sep. 3rd 1858 — Spent most of day at labor cutting up corn, corn very heavy. Far beyond any thing we have raised before since we came to Kan. O that we could be thankful as we ought for the abundance of good things to eat & drink which God has given us!

Had quite an interested and animated conversation this morning with Capt. B. & Mr. Ka— in relation to the different constitutional character and peculiarities of men. — courage — fear — reverence, &c —

— This eve — late — called upon by Germans to visit Mrs. Hunt — supposed to be dying — went — she was unconscious, & her eyes set, when I arrived. — prayed with Mr. H. & those present. She died a little after ten o'clock. I did not learn that she had ever made a profession of religion. Was an amiable woman — had been engaged most of summer as Sab. School teacher in the School at Indianapolis. She leaves a young babe, a few days old — her first child. Mr. H. seemed to feel his affliction deeply —

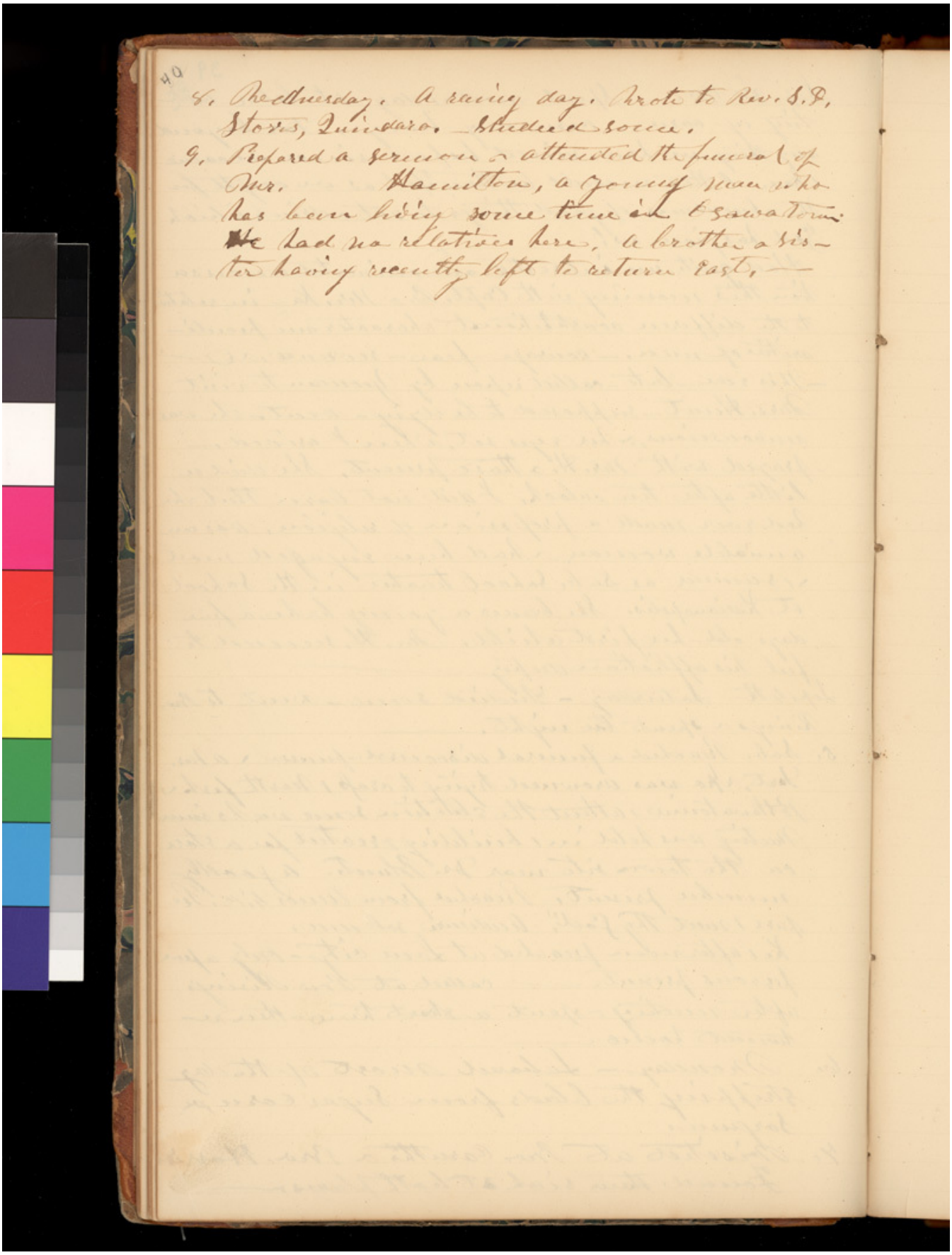
Sept 4th Saturday — Studied some — went to Bro. Rising's & spent the night. —

5. Sab. Preached a funeral discourse — funeral of Mr. Hart, who was drowned trying to cross North fork of Pottawatomie & attend the election some weeks since. Meeting was held in building erected for a store on the town site near Dr. Blunt's. A goodly number present. Preached from Amos 4:12. Prepare to meet thy God". Audience solemn.

Ke & afternoon preached at Lane city — only a few persons present. — called at Bro Rising's after meeting & spent a short time — then returned home. —

6. Monday — Labored most of the day stripping the blades from Sugar Corn for Sorgum.

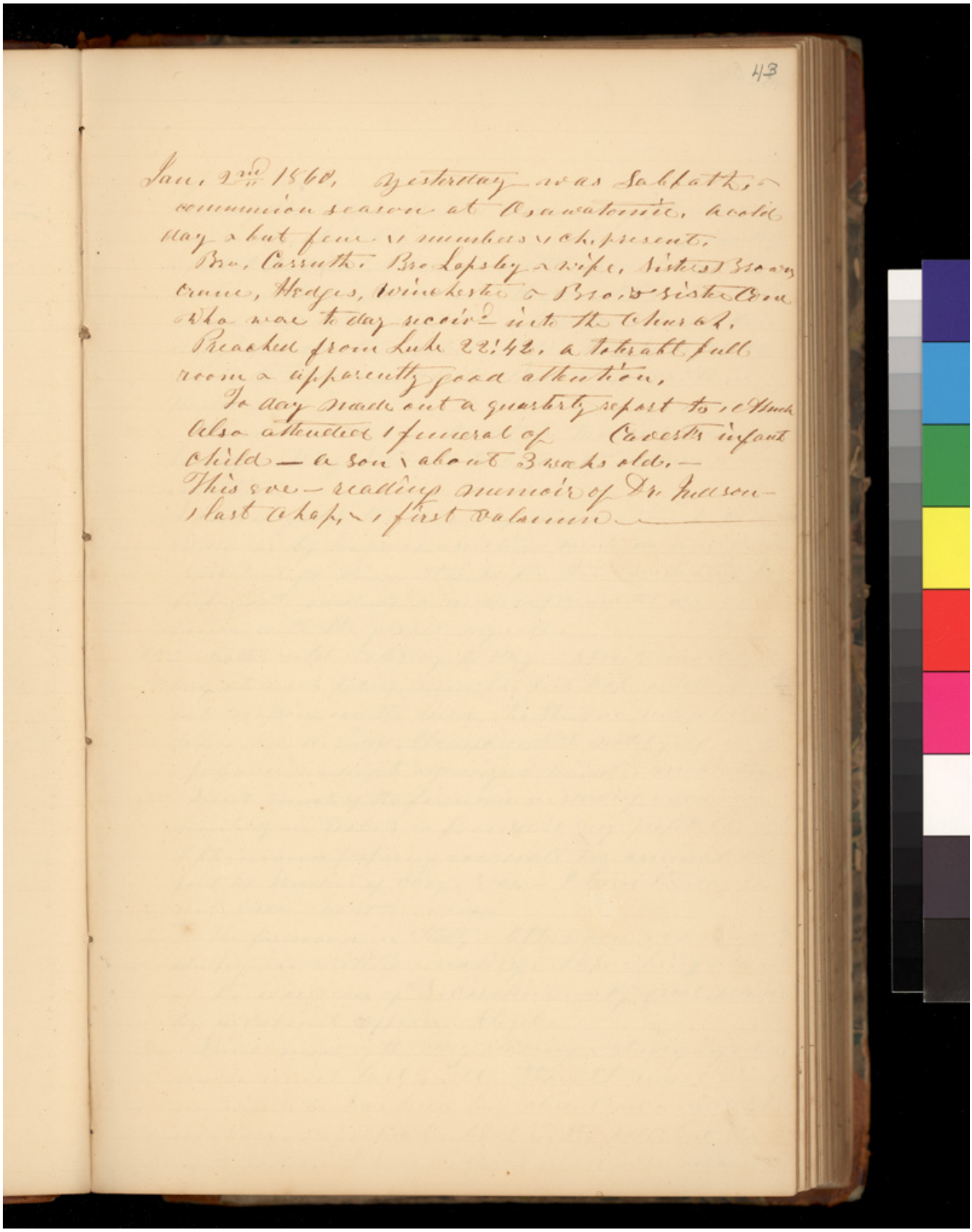
7. Visited at Bro Carruth's & Bro. Harris's. Found them sick & both plows —



40

8. Wednesday. A rainy day. Wrote to Rev. S.D. Storrs, Quindaro. Studied some.

9. Prepared a sermon & attended the funeral of Mr. Hamilton, a young man who has been living some time in Osawatomie. He had no relatives here, a brother & sister having recently left to return East, —

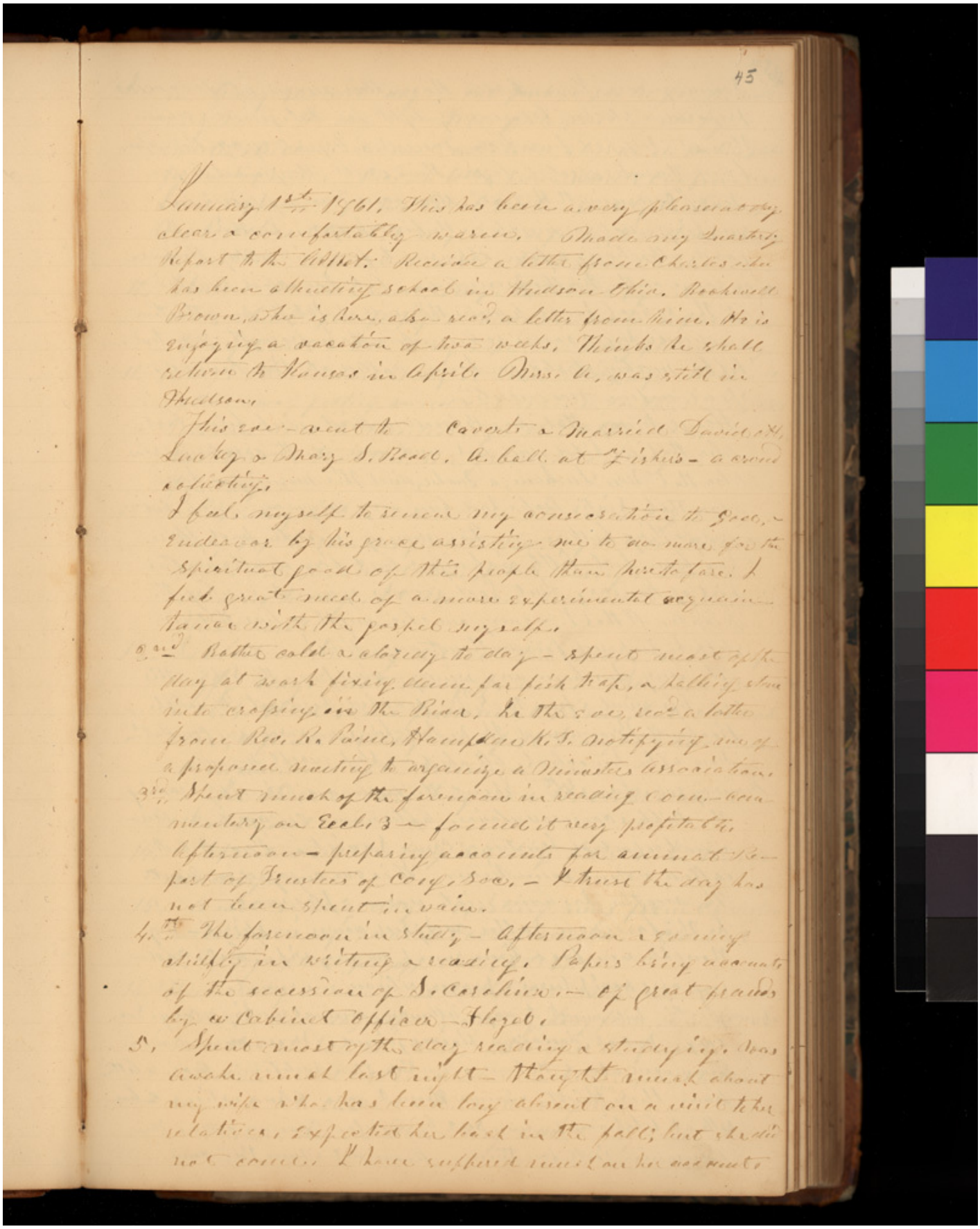


43

Jan. 2nd 1860. Yesterday was Sabbath, communion season at Osawatomie. A cold day & but few members oh present. Bro. Carruth. Bro Lapsley & wife, Sisters Brown, Crane, Hodges, Winchester & Bro. & Sister Cox who were to day received into the Church. Preached from Luke 22:42. a tolerable full room & apparently good attention.

To day made out a quarterly report to 1st Church also attended funeral of Cavers infant child — a son 1 about 3 weeks old. —

This eve — reading memoir of Dr Judson — last chap, — 1 first volume —



45

January 1st 1861. This has been a very pleasant day clear & comfortably warm. Made my Quarterly Report to the Office. Received a letter from Charles who has been attending school in Hudson Ohio. Rockwell Brown, who is here, also read a letter from him. He is enjoying a vacation of two weeks. Thinks he shall return to Kansas in April. Dorr C. was still in Hudson.

This day went to Council & Married David Lockey & Mary S. Read. A. Hall at Fishes - a crowd collected.

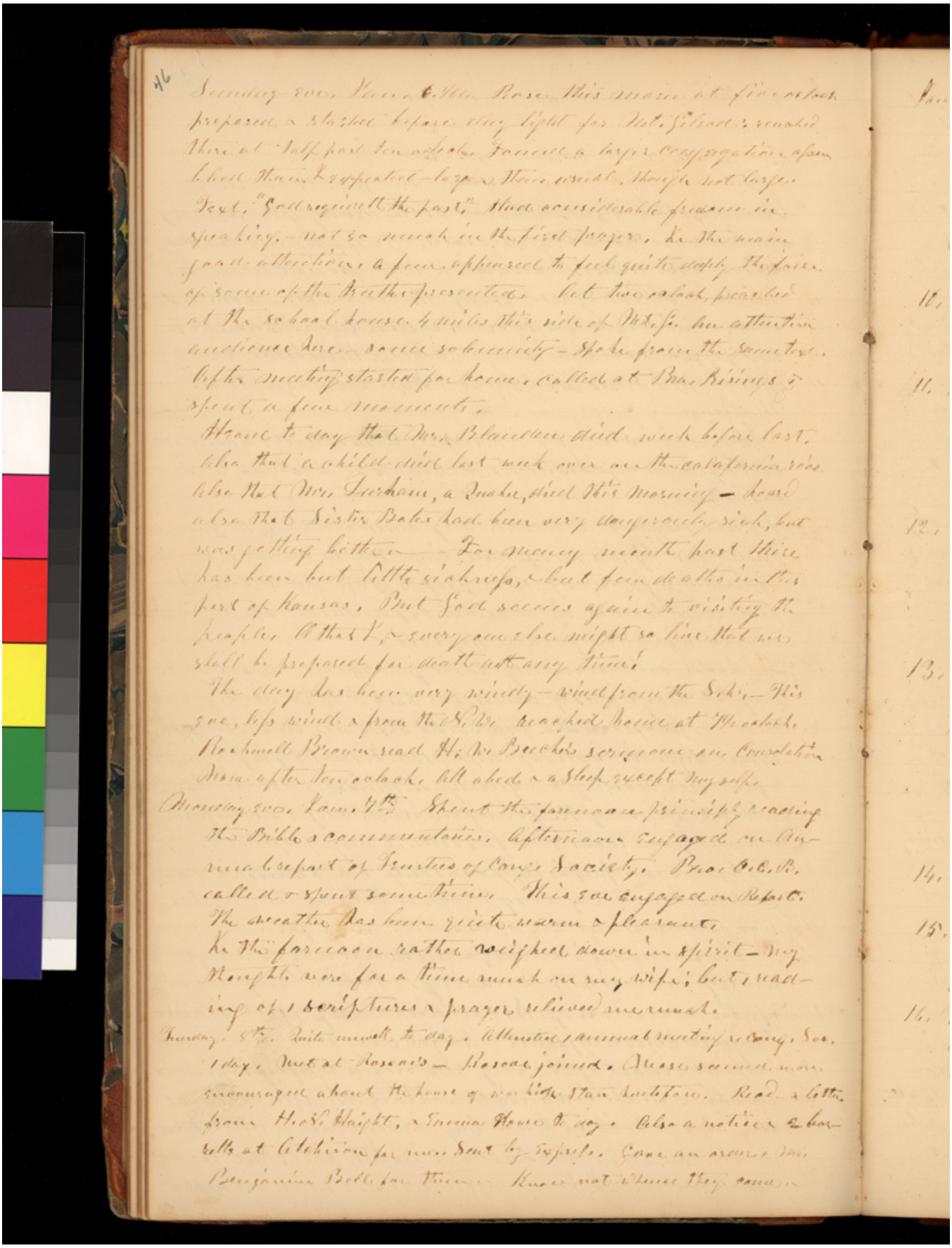
I feel myself to renew my consecration to God, endeavor by his grace assisting me to do more for the spiritual good of this people than heretofore. I feel great need of a more experimental acquaintance with the gospel myself.

2nd Rather cold & blustery to day - spent most of the day at work fixing down for fish trap, & getting stone into crossing in the River. In the eve. rec'd a letter from Rev. R. Paine, Hampton N.H. notifying me of a proposed meeting to organize a Ministers Association.

3rd Spent much of the forenoon in reading Commentary on Ecclesiastes - found it very profitable. Afternoon - preparing accounts for annual report of Trustees of Coy. Sec. - I trust the day has not been spent in vain.

4th The forenoon in study - afternoon & evening chiefly in writing & reading. Papers bring accounts of the secession of S. Carolina - of great frauds by ex Cabinet officers - Floyd.

5th Spent most of the day reading & studying. Was awake much last night - thought much about my wife who has been long absent on a visit to her relatives, & expected her back in the fall; but she did not come. I have suffered much on her account



46

Sunday 10th Rose this morn at five o'clock prepared a blanket before day light for Mr. Silcox & reached there at half past ten o'clock. Found a larger congregation assembled than expected—large & fine meal, though not large. Text, "God requireth the past." Had considerable freedom in speaking—not so much in the first prayer, & the main good attention, a few appeared to feel quite deeply the force of some of the truths presented. Left two o'clock, preached at the school house 4 miles this side of Mr. S. An attentive audience here—some solemnity—Spoke from the same text. After meeting started for home, called at Mrs. Risings & spent a few moments.

Heard to day that Mrs. Blanchard died week before last. Also that a child died last week over on the California road. Also that Mrs. Durham, a Quaker, died this morning—heard also that Sister Baker had been very dangerously sick, but was getting better—For many month past there has been but little sickness, & but few deaths in this part of Kansas. But God seems again to be visiting the people. O that I, & every one else might so live that we shall be prepared for death at any time!

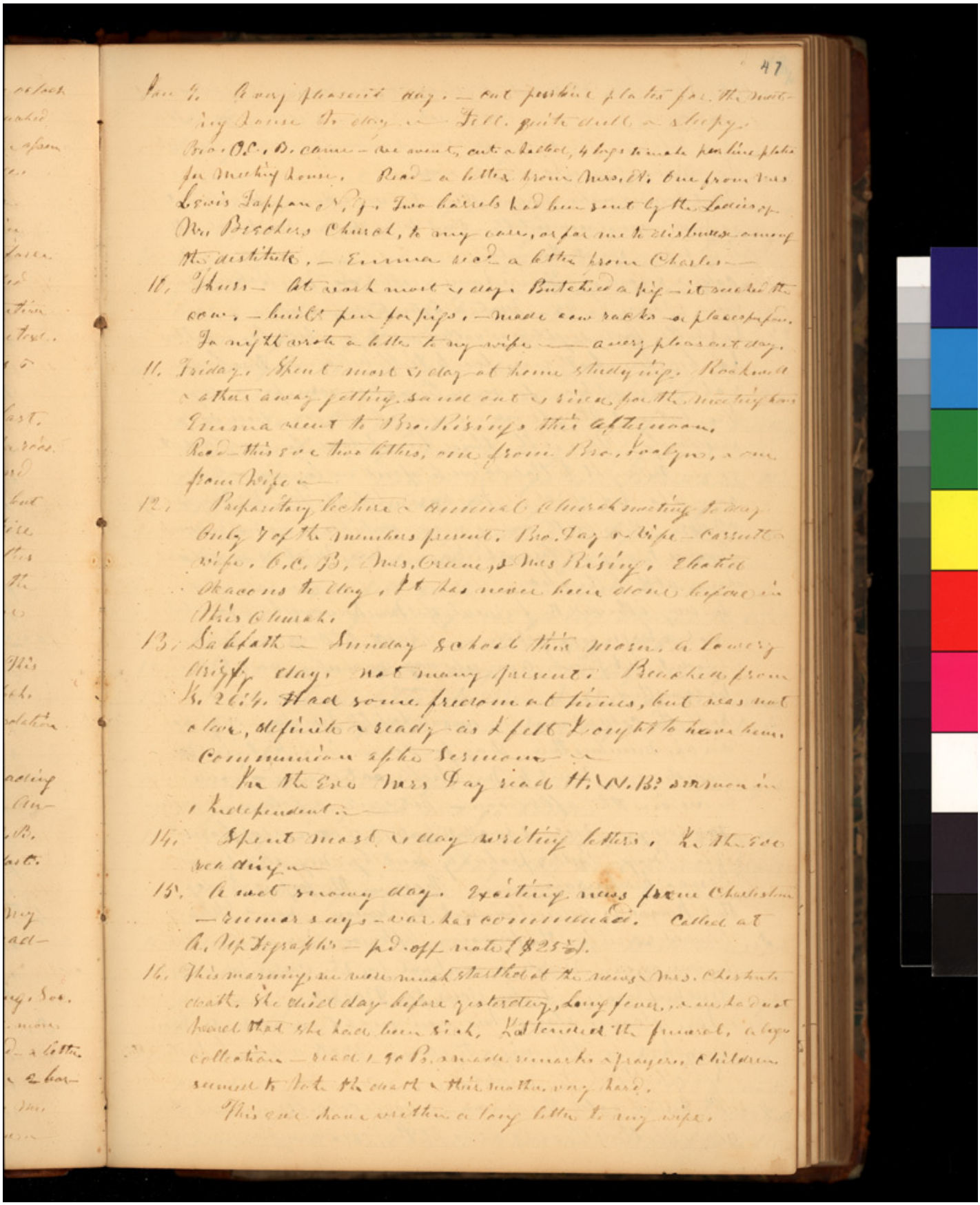
The day has been very windy—wind from the S. & W.—This eve, high wind & from the S. & W. reached home at 9 o'clock. Rockwell Brown read H. W. Beecher's sermon on Consolation. Ham. after two o'clock. All abed & asleep except my self.

Monday 10th Jan. 9th Spent the forenoon principally reading the Bible & commentaries. Afternoon engaged on Annual report of Trustees of Camp Society. Prof. C. C. R. called & spent some time. This eve engaged on Report.

The weather has been quite warm & pleasant.

In the forenoon rather weighed down in spirit—my thoughts were for a time much on my wife; but reading of the Scriptures & prayer relieved me much.

Tuesday 8th Quite unwell to day. Attended annual meeting & Camp Society. Met at Rosses—Roscoe joined. Were somewhat encouraged about the house of worship. Read a letter from Hon. S. Haight, & Emma Howe to day. Also a notice & hand bills of Celebration for me. Sent by Express. Gone on around the Benjamin Bell for Hymns. Know not where they came



47

Jan 9. A very pleasant day. — Put perkins plates for the meeting house to day — Fell quite dull & sleepy. Bro. O.C. & D. came — Bro went out a hunting, & boys to make perkins plates for meeting house. Read a letter from Mrs. H. One from Mrs Lewis Lafferty & P.J. Two barrels had been sent by the Ladies of Mr Brookes Church, to my care, or for me to distribute among the destitute. — Emma rec'd a letter from Charles —

10. Thurs — At work most of day. Butchered a pig — it weighed 80 lbs. — built pen for pigs. — made cow racks & planed some. In night wrote a letter to my wife — a very pleasant day.

11. Friday. Spent most of day at home studying. Rockwell & others away getting sand out & fixing for the meeting house. Emma went to Bro Risings this afternoon. Read this eve two letters, one from Bro Scalzo, & one from Wife —

12. Preparatory lecture & Annual Church meeting to day. Only 7 of the members present. Bro Jay & wife — Barnett wife, O.C. B., Mrs. Crane, & Mrs Rising. Elected Deacons to day, It has never been done before in this Church.

13. Sabbath — Sunday school this morn. A cowery night, & day. not many present. Preached from Ps 26th. Had some freedom at times, but was not clear, definite & ready as I felt I ought to have been. Communion after Sermon —

In the Eve Mrs Jay read H. N. No 13 sermon in Independent —

14. Spent most of day writing letters, & the rec'd one —

15. A most snowy day. Waiting news from Charleston — Rumor says — war has commenced. Called at R. M. Telegraph — pd off note ($25 1/2).

16. This morning we were much startled at the news of Mrs. Chestnuts death. She died day before yesterday, Long fever, & we had not heard that she had been sick. Attended the funeral, a large collection — Read & Bro made remarks & prayers. Children seemed to take the death of their mother very hard.

This eve have written a long letter to my wife.

