The Extended Diary of Samuel Sewall

Question 4: You are Samuel Sewall. You have just heard that Louisa Ellis ("A New England Nun") is no longer engaged to Joe Dagget. Anxious not to waste any time, you are in fervid pursuit of her. Write a series of diary entries detailing your courtship of Miss Ellis. Be sure to write in harmony with both Sewell's and Ellis' personalities.

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12/1/2010

English 240

Word Count: 1,095

*Monday, January 1, 1729.* I return to my routine. I tend to the chickens, feeding them Indian corn and water. I take time to stand about and observe the chickens, marveling at their simplicity, and apparent love of Indian corn. Amidst my observing, it comes to my attention that I am rather hungry myself. I go inside and eat cherry pie, and it was satisfying. Before resting I read Psalms 130.

*Wednesday, January 3, 1729.* I have just heard that Louisa Ellis is no longer engaged to Joe Dagget. Perhaps my loneliness can come to an end.

*Thursday, January 4, 1729.* I make plans to visit Louisa Ellis. I do my routine, eat more cherry pie and rest. Not wanting to waste time with simple gifts, I buy her a nice dress, 10s.

*Friday, January 5, 1729.* I visit Louisa Ellis on horseback. The dress got rather dusty on the ride over. I hope she doesn't mind.

I meet Louisa, she looks adequate. I present her with the dress, and she seemed rather uneasy taking it from me. I see no reason for this, it is a perfectly fine dress. I spend the evening with her, making idle chit-chat. It gets late, and Louisa suggest that I get riding home before it gets too dark. I agree, and leave her home. While walking to my horse, I look back into her window. She seems to be frantically dusting the floor where I had walked, and shaking her head at the dress. What odd behavior.

*Saturday, January 6, 1729.* I find myself thinking of Louisa off and on throughout the day as I go about my usual business. What was the reason for her strange actions the night before? I can't help but think that it might have been something I had done. Nevertheless I plan to visit her again, and perhaps bring an even better dress to show her what a capable husband I could be . . .

*Monday, January 8, 1729.* I visit Louisa tomorrow. I go to the town to browse for something to buy her. I have the wonderful idea that perhaps she is not one for fancy dresses, and decide to look for other things. I find a bakery, and buy her an apple pie. I then find a store full of interesting trinkets, and buy her what appears to be an ivory elephant. Regardless of the animal, it is pleasing to the eye. Total cost of 12s5p.

*Tuesday, January 9, 1729.* I go through my morning rituals, and feed the chickens their daily dose of Indian corn before I leave. I take horseback again to Louisa's place. Upon arriving, I notice her cleaning again. She must be anticipating my arrival, and I am flattered. I give her the gifts, and she seems delighted. We take a walk around the local lake, and talk amongst ourselves. She seems fit for a wife. I eat at her place for dinner, and we share some of the apple pie I bought. It was delicious. I ride home on horseback.

*Wednesday, January 10, 1729.* I have thoughts of my former wife, who had died 12 years ago. May God bless her soul.

*Thursday, January 11, 1729.* Visit Louisa, and present her with two loaves of bread, cost 1s2p . . .

*Friday, January 12, 1729.* Spend a day with Louisa. She tells me of her previous engagement. I am admired with her patience. 14 years is a long while to wait for marriage. This does not deter me in the slightest. I must seize the opportunity at hand, and court her in a stronger fashion, perhaps with more expensive gifts . . .

Upon leaving I notice her cleaning again. I must talk to her about this next time we meet.

*Sunday, January 14, 1729.* Church in the morning. Return home and do my routine. Feed the chickens. Soup for supper. Read the Bible before heading to bed.

*Monday, January 15, 1729.* I learn that a good friend of mine has passed away. The weather seems favorable, so I decide to go to the funeral. Yet another triumph over an old friend . . . it is sad to think of. Someday I will go too, hopefully during nice weather. I recognized nobody else at the funeral. I go home, and feed the chickens.

*January 22, 1729.* It has been a while since I have seen Louisa. I hope she still thinks fondly of me . . .

*January 23, 1729.* I ride over to Louisa's with 3 pounds of sugar almonds, 5s a pound. They have become rather expensive in just these last years . . .

After a pleasant day at Louisa's, I ride home. On the way I remember that I had realized I needed to present Louisa with better gifts to show my dedication. I shall work on this . . .

*January 24, 1729.* I go to market to find gifts suitable for Louisa. She is such a wonderful woman, nothing seems fit enough for her! I spend 50s2p, on a nice tablecloth, a silk nightgown, and a pair of shoe buckles. Tomorrow I shall ride to her place and gauge her reaction, and consider proposal.

*January 25, 1729.* I ride to Louisa's on horseback, taking great care of my gifts as to not get them dirty on the ride over. When I arrive, I meet Louisa inside, and give her the gifts one by one. She seems delighted for each and every one. I notice that the inside of her house seems unnaturally sparkling and clean, but perhaps that is just the light reflecting off of Louisa's beauty. We walk around the lake again. We come back to Louisa's and eat supper, with apple pie as a special treat. Before I leave, I propose. She says yes.

*January 30, 1729.* I tend to the chickens, and do my daily routine. I call Louisa and we discuss our wedding.

*February 5, 1729.* Louisa and I decide to get married in a month. After her previous engagement to Joe Dagget, I will make sure to not postpone the wedding any further.

*March 5, 1729.* Samuel Sewall and Mrs. Louisa Ellis were joined together in marriage by the Reverend Mr. William Cooper . . .

*March 7, 1729.* I am happy with my marriage to Louisa. I have no regret in buying such expensive gifts, as I am sure that is what led her to decide to marry me. I do my daily routine, and go to bed with Louisa.