[WHS, Albany, to FMS, Auburn, 6 January 1831]

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11.

[Conclusion of 18310105WHS\_FMS1.]

Thursday afternoon

Jan’y 6th

Another days labor is ended \_ and I am to

write a few lines to you as the closing

instead of the opening business of the day.

No measure of importance, no debate of interest

has as yet occurred in the Legislature.

I rise in the morning with the idea that

I have nothing to do and that I shall have

a tedious day of indolence. I watch with

impatience the strikings of the clock till 11

go to the house am occupied at most two & a

half hours come home dine and after that

hour no man is allowed to be busy as ^for^ instance

after ^dinner at 2 o’clock^ I came up into my room wrote the two

first lines on this page was interrupted by a

call and continued receiving calls and dismissing

visitors until about sunset when I abandoned

all hope of writing one more line till every body

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12.

should have gone to bed so in despair I

sallied forth went with Mr Fuller[[1]](#endnote-1) of the

Senate & called on Mr S. M. Hopkins[[2]](#endnote-2) spent

half an hour with him came down to

Manchesters[[3]](#endnote-3), took ten with him smoked

and drank a glass of wine with him &

his fellow boarders, called at Crittendens[[4]](#endnote-4)

spent an hour with Mr Spencer[[5]](#endnote-5) in arrang-

ing our causes for argument in the Supreme

Court came down street and was so fortunate

as to leave my card for Mr O[[6]](#endnote-6) of the Assembly

at the American. Went across just to bid

good evening to Mr[[7]](#endnote-7) & Mrs Tracy[[8]](#endnote-8) \_ dropped into

Mr Ellis[[9]](#endnote-9) room looked in upon Maynard[[10]](#endnote-10) \_

came home ate supper and find myself in

my room at 1/2 past 11 o’clock. Now how

any man finds time to study and make

speeches is beyond my comprehension.

I want to look into the Salt laws and the

Canal laws \_and two or three other matters

besides doing up some old business but in

truth two letters from Seth Hunt[[11]](#endnote-11) lay on my

table reproaching my negligence.

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13.

Tracy & Maynard say I must make up my [mind]

never more to be worth a cent for practice

in the law Doleful prediction for a poor

man. Adieu. Heaven protect you all.

[18310107WHS\_FMS1 begins on the next line.]

[dg]

\*handNote - WSJ or JWS copy.

1. Philo Case Fuller (17870814–18550816). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Samuel Miles Hopkins (17720509–18370309). [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Elias Manchester (17580815­–18460314). **Could not find definitive birth and death dates.** [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Crittenden’s identity unknown. A Crittenden is mentioned on pg. 235 of Seward’s *Autobiography*; later, on pg. 521, Seward says that John J. Crittenden (1786–1863) became United States Attorney-General in 1841. It is unclear whether the Crittenden mentioned earlier in the biography and in this letter, living in Albany in the 1830s, is the same Crittenden as the Attorney-General – I could find no evidence that John Crittenden was in Albany in 1831. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. John Canfield Spencer (17880108­–18550517). [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. “Mr O” identity unknown. Assemblymen in the 54th Session of the New York Assembly whose last names began with “O”: Gideon Ostrander, Thomas Ottley, Oran G. Otis. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. AHT. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Harriet Foote Tracy, née Norton (18000309–187603). [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. John Ellis (17710522–18460410). [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. William Hale Maynard (17861123–18320828). [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Seth Hunt – more data unknown. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)