

NOTE ON THE TEXT

In this edition of *The autobiography of Edward Jarvis* the following criteria have been adopted: appropriate passages from the diaries or letters to Almira and others have been given in the footnotes; it is thus possible to see the differences between the original descriptions and the version given in the *Autobiography*. The international standard procedure recommended for transcription in critical editions has been used. To enable reference to be made to the original manuscripts, the manuscript page number is given within slashes //. Footnotes, on the other hand refer to pages or sheets in the normal way. Spelling mistakes and errors of grammar in the *Autobiography* have been corrected, and titles of books and journals italicized according to modern conventions, but quotations from the diaries and letters have not been altered. The 'List of Writings' is reproduced as Jarvis dictated it, additions are printed in square brackets.

The diaries are in Jarvis's own hand, which is often anguished to say the least. The first volume (listed as 'Autobiography') begins at Concord in February 1827, when he resolves to "put down now to ray [*sic*] what I recollect of myself actions". He goes on to recount the events of his life from his birth, on 9 January 1803, up to February 1827. The manuscript then continues as a proper diary until 30 April 1830. The second volume (listed as 'Private Journal of Edward Jarvis') takes up where the first left off, and continues till 26 June 1842. It finishes at page 191, where Jarvis writes: "I have a radical discontent in my spirit. I was not contented at Northfield from 1830 to 1832. I grew discontented in Concord during 1825 to 1832. I am not contented here. What is my difficulty? Is it within or is it outward?" At the back of this volume, on pages 333–41, there is a copy (in Edward Jarvis's handwriting) of some notes recalling his father, Francis Jarvis, written in 1839.

The two manuscript volumes form a single diary of 626 octavo pages, which was begun when Jarvis was a young man of twenty-three, and continued with various interruptions up until the age of thirty-nine.

In the notes of the *Autobiography* I use as a reference the two manuscript volumes of diaries, kept in Concord Free Public Library, and also parts of letters written by Jarvis to his wife during his journey to Britain, and to Paris, between 9 March and August 1860. They amount to a total of 105 letters, re-copied onto 981 sheets and bound in three volumes, following the same formula used for the *Autobiography*, a meticulous numbering, and indexes at the end of each column. Jarvis sometimes wrote two on the same day, and they give detailed accounts of all the events which had occurred since the previous missive. They are therefore certainly less interesting than the diaries; none the less, they give an indication of the depth of affection between husband and wife, and of the important role which Almira played in Jarvis's life.

The *Autobiography* was almost certainly dictated (judging from the type of little mistakes made in the writing) by Edward Jarvis to Almira (the handwriting appears to be hers). There is a possibility that another amanuensis could have been Jarvis's niece, or his sister, both of whom helped him in the last years of his life in the ordering of his personal papers and correspondence. This is how Jarvis himself describes matters in his introduction to 'Traditions and reminiscences of Concord' writing from Dorchester in July 1880: "these pages have been copied from my original manuscript by my wife, Mrs.

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Almira Jarvis, my sister Mrs. Lydia G. Jarvis, my niece Miss Mary H. Davis and in very small part by myself”.

MANUSCRIPTS OF EDWARD JARVIS

‘Houses and People of Concord 1810 to 1820’, by E. J., MS given to CFPL in 1915, CFPL 764 IT 1. The MS is dedicated “to the memory of my early and beloved Rev. Ezra Ripley D.D. who for sixty-three years preached to and guided the people of Concord in the way of Godliness and was a most important agent in their social and intellectual advancement, this book is affectionately dedicated by his friend, Edward Jarvis.”

‘Concord Historic House copied by Adam Talmour’, 2 maps, from the original MS. by E. J., CFPL, 18982, and 50892 ‘Journal of a journey from Louisville to New Orleans of a visit of eight days in New Orleans and return to Louisville the April 16th to May 6th 1841’, by E. J., MS. in 8, ff. 161 (167), CFPL, safe shelf 6, item 8.

Edward Jarvis Papers, Letters, CFPL, safe shelf 6, item 7.

Edward Jarvis Papers, Letters, CFPL, safe shelf 6, item 9.

‘Mortality in Concord from 1778 to 1841’, CFPL, Jarvis, 8822 see p. 224: “the following tables, exhibiting the number of deaths between several specific ages, the number of each year, the aggregate amount of their ages, average age during the 50 years commencing January 1, 1779 and ending December 31, 1828 was compiled from records carefully kept by the Rev. Dr. Ripley”. This MS is also the continuation of Lemuel Shattuck’s work: *A history of the town of Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from the earliest settlements to 1832 and of the adjoining towns, Bedford, Acton, Lincoln, and Carlisle, containing various notices of country and state history not before published*, by Lemuel Shattuck, member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Russell, Odiorne and Co., Concord, 1835.

‘Account of class of 1826’ by E. J., HUA, HUD 226.842, MS 123 folios.

Diary, vol. I, ‘Autobiography’, CFPL, safe shelf 6, item 7 (pp. 426, Concord February 1827—April 1830).

Diary, vol. II, ‘Private Journal’, CFPL, safe shelf 6 (pp.191 (357), April 1830—June 1842).

‘The Autobiography of Edward Jarvis’, indicated as “unidentified hand” (see above p. xl) and with 2 portraits, in AM 541, Harvard Houghton Library.