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## **Mary Henry Diary, 1864-1868**

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 04:05:12

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[[underline]]1865[[/underline]]  
[[underline]]Jan[[/underline]]

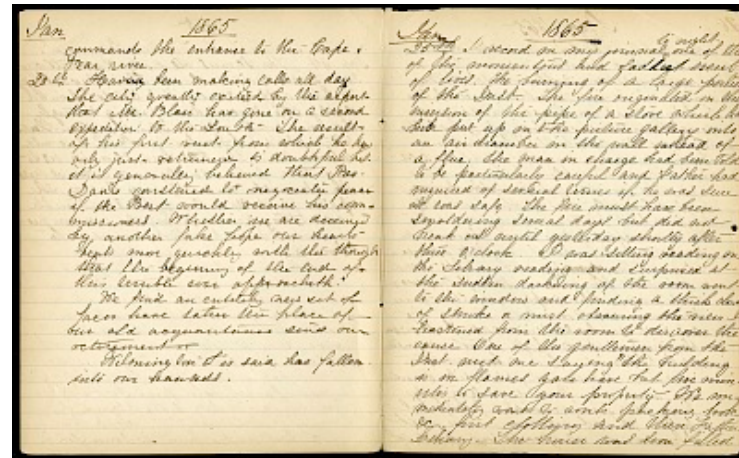
commands the entrance to the Cape Fear river.  
20th Hav~~ing~~ been making calls all day  
The city greatly excited by the report  
that Mr. Blair has gone on a second  
expedition to the South. The result of his first visit from which he  
has only just returned is doubtful but it is generally believed that Pres.  
Davis consented to negotiate peace if the Prest would receive his  
commissioners. Whether we are deceived by another fake hope our  
hearts beats more quickly with the thought that the beginning of the end  
of this terrible war approacheth.

We find an entirely new set of faces have taken the place of our old  
acquaintances since our retirement.

Wilmington ~~it~~ is said has fallen into our hands. [[end page]]

[[start page]]  
[[underline]]1865[[/underline]]  
[[underline]]Jan[[/underline]]

25th I record in my journal <sup>^</sup>[[to night]] one of the momentous and  
saddest events of lives. The burning of a large portion of the Inst. The  
fire originated in the ~~insersion?~~ of the pipe of a stove which had been  
put up in the picture gallery into an air chamber in the wall instead of a  
flue. The man in charge had been told to be particularly careful and  
Father had inquired of several times if he was sure all was safe. The fire  
must have been smoldering several days but did not break out until  
yesterday shortly after three o'clock. I was sitting reading in the Library  
reading and surprised at the sudden darkening of the room went to the  
window and finding a thick cloud of smoke or mist obscuring the view I  
hastened from the room to discover the cause One of the gentlemen  
from the Inst. met me saying "the building is in flames you have but five  
minutes to save your property. We immediately went to work packing  
books &c. first clothing and then Father's Library. The house was soon  
filled



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