8 mo 2. 4. Fifth day. Amherst N.H.

This day I am 57 years old & truly can describe myself as weak, poor, & low – H. Hustdale & Saml Boyce are with me in my way to Weare & we are stopping at this ~~town~~ next village for a public meeting this evening. I deeply feel the completion of my half century – only 9 years younger than my loved father was when he died! Deep & numerous causes have I of humiliation in looking back on my past life – Satan has done much to perplex ~~mean~~ grieve & vex me & I see beyond expression have been the tribulations at times afflicted me – but the Lord has graciously been very graciously with me – & has abundantly helped me by his good Spirit. I have been 21 years engaged in the ministry of the gospel – & all my works have been written within the last 20 years. I believe I am permitted to look back on these labours of love with a considerable degree of satisfaction & peace. & I trust I have a good conscience as to not having intentionally ~~talked~~ the cause of Truth at any time, ~~[illegible]~~ by not faithfully witnessing for Christ. The very perplexing transactions at Manchester in regard to the Beacon – often bring me into humiliation: but I see I saw that I did not knowingly let down the precious cause of truth at that time on either side. I am aware that the seceders say & think hard things of me – but I could not sacrifice the doctrine of the immediate & sensible guidance of the Spirit, as I think they have done practically – That precious doctrine has since been abundantly confirmed to my feelings & experience, & truly in this land it has been my constant refuge – I believe not in vain. Yet I am deeply humbled before God in the recollection of many sins, faults, aberrations & follies – & can only cry for mercy – mercy – mercy. ~~Reading the~~ The conflict which I used at one time to undergo with the subject of baptism & the troubles with new materials – there is a quieting influence which surmounts it – which I reverently believe bespeaks the very truth. Thus I can cordially unite in the last words uttered to me this morning by that highly interesting & agreeable person Prof. Stuart of Andover – "One Lord, one faith, one baptism – the baptism of the Holy Ghost – I ~~[illegible]~~ do not think much of any other." It is my quietly settled