

# Autumnal diary

by [Mark Noll](#) in the [September 6, 2005](#) issue

For just this day I thank you, Lord—this day  
when in a new and lonely empty place  
appeared a friend with whom I could retrace  
through forty years an undeserved array  
of other moments shared, and so survey  
as back across a pathless hillside face  
a hidden net of tangled trails where grace  
had always, always canopied the way.  
The bits of furniture he left behind  
will be of course in constant, welcome use  
but they will also serve as types that bind  
with unseen ligaments of love my loose  
days here to many others far apart  
in space and time but very near in heart.