

1879 DIARY OF GRACE EMILY MILFORD

In January 1879, Grace was 22 years old and living at East Knoyle Rectory in Wiltshire with her family: parents (Canon) Robert and Emily, siblings Lionel (23), Beatrice (21), Ella (19), Marion 'Mai' (15), Theodore 'Bobbie' (17), Reggie (9), Walter Seymour (8), Violet (7), and Humphrey (2).



The start of the year sees an apparent romantic interest between Grace and a man she refers to as WJT, or occasionally 'Mr Tanner'. He was staying with the Milfords in early January, so must have been a family friend or relative, perhaps a clergyman. They do not seem to have met again during the year, although he is mentioned several times, and reappears in a slightly creepy encounter after her marriage! Another man whom she mentions frequently during the autumn is Henry Le Blanc Lightfoot (H Le B L.)

This, and three other diaries written by Grace before her marriage to Charles Coleridge Mackarness in 1882, are in the Dorset Heritage Centre in Dorchester. They can be viewed by appointment.

Wednesday 1 January

WJT gave us each a card, & we three girls each a book of music; mine was a book of Handel's music (he gave me my choice last night of that or Schubert's Sonatas, which he gave Ella). Cousin Charlotte sent us 2 cards. WJT, we 4 girls, Seymour & Violet, went to Upton to tell old Jemmy Woodley about the dinner, he was out, but we asked Mrs Corbin to send a message to him. WJT and Beatrice walked together all the way. Bobbie went to the station intending to go to Salisbury to see about Beatrice's and Ella's box, & WJT went with him in the pony carriage, happily they found the box was coming by the next train, so they came home. Old people's dinner, only 4 came personally. Poured with rain. We made preparations for acting a charade on the 9th. In the evening we had service; it was pouring & blowing, but there were 36 people altogether, there!

Thursday 2 January

Beatrice heard from Lionel. Father, Beatrice & Bobbie went off by the 9.45 train, Father to Salisbury, & the other two on to Alresford. WJT gave me a little book on the trois temps. We worked at charade preparations. Before lunch Mr Tanner, we three girls & Violet went for a walk to Underhill. Pleasant afternoon over charade things, WJT working at the swords. In the evening Mother, WJT, & we two girls went to Wincombe¹. The theatricals began soon, & were very good, 'Princess Ida' & 'Box & Cox'; Dick, Eleanor Stanley, George & Alfred & 3 little Gordons acted; the children were splendid. After 11 or so dancing began, my 1st dance

¹Wincombe Park, home of the Gordon family who are mentioned elsewhere in the diaries

was with WJT, my partners besides were Ashton, Mr A Dowding, Mr A Radcliffe, Fred & Mr K Gordon, Walter Grove, Mr Kennard & others. I had a delightful talk with WJT in the place by the door: we had two nice polkas together. The supper was stand up; WJT took me in, & then as he was engaged to one of the Radcliffe girls, & I to Ashton, he went & sent Ashton to me. Home by about 5, & I was in bed soon after 6! after a very pleasant evening.

Friday 3 January

After our disipation [sic] of the night before we drifted down by degrees; although prayers were about 20 minutes to 10 I was not down, in fact I was the last of the party. I tried to do accounts but got muddled over them. Played Mr Tanner's glees for him to practise – some of them. Charade preparations. As usual Mother had her Mothers' Meeting at the Reading Room. We worked at charade things in the afternoon. Between four and five we had a practice, such as it was, but very few of the girls made their appearance. Mr & Mrs Hutchinson came to call late. I had some nice talk with WJT in the schoolroom. Our boys' class in the evening, when twelve came: I had all the reading to do. We had a very nice rubber of whist; we drew for partners, & WJT & I played together against Father & Mother.

Saturday 4 January

A lovely day. We girls did our Sunday lessons in the schoolroom, while Mr Tanner carpentered in there. Between twelve & one we three girls, Mr Tanner & Violet went to Green with almanacs, & home by Milton; Mai, Violet, & I went to Mary Woodley's, & Bill came to the door. WJT & I walked together part of the way & had a good talk. Sunday lesson again in the afternoon. WJT played football with Reggie and Seymour. Beatrice and Bobbie came back safely from Alresford. Charade preparations; I helped in covering a shield. After dinner in the evening we had a little impromptu dance in the hall & other places, actually Father danced. Afterwards more charade work went on. I accompanied WJT in two songs & sang him 'Bye & bye'.

Sunday 5 January

I heard from Grandfather sending us the 1st half of a 5£ note, & directly (happily) how it was to be divided. Ella had a nice letter from Lionel. WJT came with us part of the way to school in the morning. Holy Communion: it was so nice having WJT with us then. He read the lessons both in the morning & evening. Before afternoon school we 4 girls & WJT sat round the diningroom fire, & he read aloud part of a sermon on Baptism, by Robertson, which he finished to us in the evening before church. Bobbie & WJT walked down to afternoon school with us, & afterwards they & the other boys went for a walk. My afternoon school was anything but pleasant. In the evening we had some nice singing, and afterwards Father read aloud his paper for the clerical meeting on the Royal Supremacy.

Monday 6 January

Mother's & Beatrice's birthday

Beatrice had some very nice presents, amongst others a pearl ring almost exactly like my 21st birthday one. She also had 'The Voyage in the Sunbeam' from H Arthur Heywood. At his request I collected WJT's music for him. I also wrote three labels for him. Finally he left by

the 10.32 train. We worked at charade things. Mr Hutchinson came to lunch, as he had business with Father which kept them at work for a good part of the afternoon. Mother called at Pyt House to ask after poor little Jack, who is very ill, & then went on to Donhead. We girls worked at charade preparation again. The boys had some sliding on 'Garson' which was partly flooded & frozen: they did some chemicals in the evening. Ella and I wrote to Lionel.

Tuesday 7 January

... Bobbie & Reggie made a snowman. It came on to snow, & kept on steadily all the afternoon. We had a rehearsal after lunch; not the most delightful thing in the world in cold blood. There was to be a dance at the Towers' in the evening to which Mother, Ella, & I were going, but the snow prevented us... Night of the concert at Kilve, where Mr Tanner was to sing.

Wednesday 8 January

... Owing to the snow the letters were very late: I had hoped we might have heard from WJT, but no letter came ... Worked at a policeman's helmet for the charade.

Thursday 9 January

... Mother had a letter from WJT; he enjoyed his visit to us so much, of which I had no doubt! After lunch a sleigh drove up with Mr Benett Stanford, Mr Harry Fane, & the two little Macdonalds, they came to say the roads were impassable (they had come by the fields part of the way), so they (Di & Lily) couldn't come in the evening. Between three and four we began a dress rehearsal, Beatrice & Ella arriving while we were preparing. The maids were spectators ...

Friday 10 January

I had hoped to hear from WJT about the Kilve concert, but did not do so. Spent a not too enjoyable morning over accounts & settling about dress & patterns. Bobbie & Reggie went to skate on Broadmead taking their lunch with them: Mai skated during the afternoon ...

Saturday 11 January

I had a letter from WJT of a sheet & a half, with a little private scrap (which I only showed to Mother - he didn't put private) in which he reminded me of my promise, made at the Gordons': he wrote about the Kilve concert, & sent me a programme² ... I read a little of Goulburn's 'Pursuit of holiness', at least a chapter & a bit. We played a game of proverbs & 'Yes No'.

² The diary records that Grace wrote a reply to WJT the same day. No other letters to him are recorded during the year.

Sunday 12 January

The letters came earlier, just as we were going to school. I did not have a very good morning school, & had not time to finish my lesson ...

Tuesday 14 January

Father, Mother, & Bobbie went in to Salisbury by the usual train, & as the letters had not come before they left, they got them by the way & consequently we did not see their's till the afternoon.

Bobbie heard from WJT asking him & me (if we were going to Leamington by way of town) to come down to Stratford either for the night or not: however we are not going that way. Wrote. Played. A rainy day, & we stayed indoors. Scrapbook making in the afternoon. The Salisbury party came back safely: they brought a pretty 5 o'clock tea service which we children gave Mother as a (late) birthday present ...

Thursday 16 January

Bobbie & I started by the 9.45 train for 4 Bertie Terrace, Leamington, to stay with the Trittons.

[She then describes a train journey with many stops or changes: Salisbury, Basingstoke, Reading, Banbury and Oxford – I wonder if this was by design, to avoid the stopover in Stratford that WJT had proposed!]

... Leamington, to find Seymour Tritton³ on the platform. We saw to our boxes & then drove by cab together to 4 Bertie Terrace where Col. & Mrs Tritton⁴...[poor image of this page]... Mrs Tritton & I talked ...

Friday 17 January

Prayers were nominally at 9, but really about twenty minutes past. After breakfast the two boys played flute duets to my accompaniment, Bobbie using a wooden flute of Seymour's, & then I accompanied Seymour alone. Wrote. The two boys & I went out & had a walk about Leamington, down the Parade (the principal street) etc: we saw there was skating going on in the Jephson Gardens, so after lunch we prepared our skates (at least Seymour did mine, boring holes in my boots etc) & went off to the ice & had a very pleasant afternoon. Col. Tritton came & watched the skating part of the time, & introduced me to Mr C Fosbury. I skated mostly with Seymour who gave me lessons in the outside edge. After dinner the two boys & I went in a fly to a place in the town (where we arrived early) & saw a Panorama of views of the Arctic expedition & the Russo-Turkish war; they were very good. A pleasant evening.

³ (Later Sir) Seymour Biscoe Tritton 1860-1937. Distinguished engineer, associated with railways in India etc

⁴ Augusta Tritton was the Colonel's second wife, and Seymour's stepmother. At this time she was 56, the Colonel 54, and Seymour 18.

Saturday 18 January

Woke up to find it snowing, & it kept on most of the day without stopping, so I did not go out of doors at all. I accompanied the boys in their two duets, & Seymour alone ... The boys went out together in the afternoon, & I read a good deal, sitting with Mrs Tritton in the drawingroom, & she showed me a photograph book & explained about the people. She, the Col. and I had tea, & presently the boys re-appeared. Had a pleasant evening with a good deal of music, & a Haileybury talk between Seymour & me: he is a very dear boy.

Sunday 19 January

After breakfast Bobbie, Seymour, & I adjourned upstairs to the drawingroom as usual, & I played hymns. Later we three went to morning service at the parish church, All Saints; we had a seat all to ourselves. It was a very nice service, choral, but quite simple chants, & hymns, we only objected to having no prayer before the sermon. Col. & Mrs Tritton went to another church. After lunch I believe I played hymns again, & then I went out with Col. Tritton & the boys, first to the stables to see the horses etc, & then Col. Tritton soon branched off to go to church at Lillington, & we went on for a nice walk. After we came in Bobbie went to sleep in the armchair; I read a little, then it got rather dark, & it ended in my having a nice talk with Seymour. Early dinner. We 3 went to church at Christchurch, very High, but the singing was good. Dr Nicholson looked exactly like a Romish priest, & though he preached a good sermon, he almost – if not quite – frightened me by the way he shouted & got so excited. The Col. went to another church. Tea & ?talk.

Monday 20 January

... We sang some Christy Minstrel things in which Col. Tritton joined. SBT and I had a talk in his room, I wish I could have been more of a help to him.

Tuesday 21 January **Bobbie's birthday, 17**

In the morning I wrote as usual, & then the two boys & I went to Willis' Meadows, which are flooded & frozen, & there we skated. After lunch we went to the ice again, the Col. with us, & had a good afternoon's skating; there was a band on the ice, & when they played tunes one could skate in time to, it was very nice. I skated with both the boys but got on best with Seymour. Counting B & S there were 7 Haileybury boys on the ice! Home to tea. Read. In the evening there was a dinner party; we had expected to be 14, but an extra Miss Smith made her appearance, so Seymour had to take down two ladies, Miss Rowney Dougal & me: Bobbie took the other Miss R D & I sat by him & Mrs Smith. Music & talk passed away the evening: I accompanied my boys, & sang 2 songs ... Bobbie heard from the whole family but Lionel & Humphrey. SBT gave him a silver pin.

Wednesday 22 January

A beautiful morning, so after the letter writing was over, Bobbie, Seymour & I went to the ice, & skated till it was time to go home to lunch: the Col. came on later, but came off – I believe – with us. In the afternoon Col. Tritton, the two boys & I, went again to the ice. At

my request Bobbie introduced me to Currie, one of the Haileybury boys; Bob told us afterwards he thought I was Seymour's sister. I skated down & up again with Mr C Fosbury, but he doesn't profess to skate well. I also skated with Bobbie, & had some very nice turns with SBT. The band was there again. Home for tea; idled in the dusk. Read. Seymour got a Bradshaw, & we tried to make out the trains for me on Friday. In the evening read 'Five Years' Penal Servitude': music.

Thursday 23 January

Never in my life have I spent such a day & I hope I never may again. It began nicely for me, as I had a copy of the New Ancient & Modern from Seymour 'in affectionate remembrance of' my 'kindness' as he wrote on a bit of paper. SBT said he didn't feel well, so Bob & I went alone to the ice. Col. Tritton hurried off after a hasty lunch. I didn't know why then, but afterwards Seymour came to my room & told me there had been a fearful row, which proved eventually to be principally that Bobbie was supposed to have behaved rudely to Mrs Tritton, by looking at her when he answered her, laughing etc. My crime was not having warned & reproved him, & also that we 3 whispered together etc & Seymour was accused of setting Bobbie against Mrs Tritton. Col. Tritton was terribly angry. We talked, & finally went with a note for Mr Biscoe to Emscote. After we came in I packed and helped Bob a little, & we stayed upstairs till our hands were frozen. Poor Seymour was deeply grieved about the whole thing. Finally we 3 had tea & a warm in the diningroom; Mrs Tritton was very sorry I had stayed up in the cold. A Mr Seaton came to dinner for peace's sake. Then I had it out with Mrs Tritton, and she was altogether very kind to me but I am sure much misunderstood about Bobbie. He did not come to the drawingroom all the evening. The Col. wouldn't take me down or say Goodnight but went off to his room. Poor SBT got endless rowings, but made it up with Mrs Tritton. She kindly came to my room after I had gone to bed, & told me the Col. had written to Father.

Friday 24 January

Prayers at breakfast were very late. Col. Tritton shook hands with me, but not Bobbie. Finished packing & stayed about upstairs, finally the two flies arrived: I was said goodbye to by both Col. & Mrs Tritton, but *neither* of them would shake hands with Bobbie, & so we left 4 Bertie Terrace! We all 3 went in one fly, & most of the luggage in the other. We had Currie & his sister in our carriage from Leamington, & 2 dear little girls, 6 & 9, one of whom talked & amused us all. My two boys got out at Reading & helped see for my box, & then they went on to London & Haileybury. SBT is a very dear boy. A nice guard took great care of me at Reading & Basingstoke. I had to wait at Reading, Basingstoke & Salisbury. From Basingstoke to Semley I travelled with the Jarmans. Beatrice & Ella came to meet me, & we talked pretty hard going home: & at home too I had Father & Mother to tell the story to. A nice boys' class in the evening, fourteen came.

Saturday 26 January

The expected letter from Col. Tritton arrived; its contents were not what I had expected; but it was decidedly weak, & the burden of it was that Bobbie had been rude to Mrs Tritton, & that

his conduct had been unbecoming, & what had Mrs Tritton done to offend him! Stores. I had a long confabulation with Father & Mother in the study, & later, Father read aloud in the schoolroom his letter to Col. Tritton, a very good, gentlemanly letter, & Mother presently read her's to Mrs Tritton. I wrote to the two boys, as did Mother also. Worked at my Sunday lessons. Mr Harry Fane & his uncle, Mr Jeffries, called ...

Monday 27 January

... Mother had a copy of a very interesting letter of Herbert's telling about the terrible accident on board the Thunderer ... Beatrice sent WJT a song she had copied out for him, & also one of his own which he had left behind; she wrote to him. I read some of Kingsley's essay on Froude's History of England.

Tuesday 28 January

Father heard from Bobbie, & as we had had leave before, we opened & read the letter: he told that he had written to apologise to Mrs Tritton ,,,

Wednesday 29 January

Mother heard from SBT: he spoke of my 'kindness' to him! Then there was one *most* unpleasant cover, containing a letter from Col. Tritton to Father, & a long one from Mrs Tritton to Mother with an account of Bobbie's misdemeanours; he, Seymour, & I were said to have whispered together, sometimes putting our hands before our mouths etc, when Col. Tritton was gone to his club, & only Mrs Tritton in the drawingroom. Altogether the letters, especially Mrs Tritton's caused somewhat of a family commotion. Father & Mother answered their respective letters.

Thursday 30 January

I had two very sad letters, one from SBT from the Sick Room (he had a bad sick headache); he had a cruel letter from Mrs Tritton poor boy, altho' he had written to apologise & beg her to forgive him (what for?) but he hoped perhaps the letters might have crossed. He apologised for writing so much about himself, but said I had been so kind to him, he looked upon me almost as a sister. Then Florence ?'s letter told of the sorrow in the Ellertons' family, so altogether it was a sad post. Wrote. We four girls went to Milton with some soup for Sally Ford & a magazine for Mrs Wallis ...

Saturday 1 February

Beatrice had such a nice letter from WJT; he told about his Sunday school work, etc, he is taking the Gospels as a course with his boys, so one can think of him as preparing the same as we three do ... Worked at my scrap book, which I had partly done before I went to Leamington, & finished it off. (Gave Violet her music lesson, as I also did the day before.) ...

Sunday 2 February

I had a large class of boys in the morning, & got through my lesson fairly satisfactorily: Henry Lampard reappeared, after some times absent; his work probably prevented his coming. There was a leak in the chancel just over my seat & Winnie's, so she moved further down, & I sat both times in the back seat on the opposite side, where Mother sits. It seemed so oddsitting over there, I much prefer my own place ... I read some of Goulbourn's 'Pursuit of Holiness', and also part of a sermon of Dr Pusey's on 'Unscience, not science, adverse to faith'; one has to think about it. Thaws.

Monday 3 February

Beatrice heard from Lionel from Genoa, so he is now in Italy

Monday 10 February

... The cause of the Thunderer accident is announced to be that the gun was re-loaded when the first charge was still in, having missed fire.

Friday 14 February

We had valentines from Seymour. Violet had one from WJT & there was another in her cover, a pink clove with the words written in Latin "d.d. Terra Mari", (from the earth to the sea, or something to that effect) of course being an allusion to "Sea Flowers"⁵... Ella & I went down in the close carriage to the station to meet Father, who arrived safely...Father brought back an extremely nice cruet stand & a pair of candlesticks for the drawingroom piano. Such a class, 21 boys! We had some difficulty in making room for them all. We began to read to them "Jessica"s first pages.

Sunday 16 February

Ella had a long letter from Lionel written from Rome. I had a nice letter from Seymour Tritton; he gave a favourable report of Bobbie's hand, though he said he wore a sling. .. As far as my classes were concerned I had not a pleasant Sunday. I tried the plan of changing the places of the 1st class girls & boys, so having mine in the big room, but I don't know that it was very much better. In the morning Harry Allen was flatly disobedient, Austin was troublesome, & George Garrett did not attend, so I did not give them tickets; they came again in the afternoon, but though George was quiet he said nothing so I couldn't give him a ticket, Austin was naughty & Henry vexed & angry, so it was not pleasant. A very good congregation in the evening. The stars were perfectly lovely.

Thursday 20 February

Father had sent him a nicely got up little book about Bishop Wilberforce, written by Miss Lucy Phillimore, for whom he (Father) had taken considerable trouble finding out about Sir

⁵ Perhaps a song that Grace had written – there is at least one more reference to 'Sea Flowers' in this diary

Christopher Wren⁶ etc: however Miss Phillimore rather praised Bishop Wilberforce at Grandfather's⁷ expense, & Father corrected her on one point in a very nice letter he wrote to her.

Monday 24 February

Beatrice, Ella, Mai, and I went on the hill & round by Milton; coming up near Knoyle House, as there were a number of men about, we went in to ask after Mrs Meade, but there were just about as many when we had to go past. Just at the end of lunch the doors suddenly opened & in came Reggie & Seymour with bright, rosy, faces, having run over from Fonthill⁸ in a paper chase; Reggie had come from Winchester (by invitation, with Vidal, another O.F.) being a Saints Day. They went back in the pony carriage ... A wardrobe came for the Bishop's room.

Wednesday 26 February

The weather was milder, though it tried to snow in the morning. Ella heard from Arthur Heywood jun. from Cambridge. Haileybury Confirmation, when, amongst other boys, Phil MacLagan was to be confirmed. An invitation came from Aunt Mary⁹ for Beatrice & me to go to Alresford in Easter week to help at a Temperance meeting.

Thursday 27 February

I heard again from Mrs Carey asking if we would come on the 21st if their concert was put off till then (& even offered to put it the week after), so I wrote to say we would come. Gave Violet her music. Dusted. Chose the hymns ...

Sunday 2 March

We heard that Mr King, who has taken Donhead Lodge, is a widower with one little child, & that he is neither High or Low Church, though it was reported that he was a Roman Catholic.

Tuesday 4 March

Mai heard from Bobbie: SBT sent his love.

Wednesday 5 March

... I practised on the organ, Beatrice blowing for me first, & then Charlie Thorne. Read 'Fronde Agrestes'¹⁰... I like it very much.

⁶ Wren was born in East Knoyle

⁷ Charles Sumner 1790-1874, Bishop of Winchester

⁸ 'Fonthill was first established in 1808 as a rectory-based school for young gentlemen ... It was owned by the Radcliffe family' (source: Lives of the First World War)

⁹ Mary Elizabeth Sumner nee Heywood 1828-1921, founder of the Mothers Union and wife to George Sumner, Bishop of Guildford

¹⁰ Probably John Ruskin's 'Fronde Agrestes, Readings in **Modern Painters**'

Thursday 6 March

... Gave Violet her music. Dusted. Practised. Began Carlyle's 'Past & present' again, I had read a little of it before Ella & I read German.

Friday 7 March

... Mother had advertised about two girls, & got numerous answers ... with Mai & Violet, went with some soup to the Allens'. Ella & I went upstairs & saw Mrs Allen & the baby, & found from Eliza of the awful way they sleep, 4 in one room, 9! in the other. Father made a stir about it in the afternoon, & I hope it will not go on ...

Monday 10 March

... we took a little objectless walk. I practised on the organ, Charlie Thorne blowing. Read 'Hypatia' etc. In the evening I read. Played one of Chopin's waltzes ...

Thursday 13 March

Wedding day of Prince Arthur Duke of Connaught & Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia

... Last night of night school. M, B & I went. 30 boys ... The boys sang 'We won't go home till morning' in the road after we got home.

Friday 14 March

Mother heard from WJT from Oxford in answer to a letter from her sending on one of Lionel's to him: he was in a great state of delight at Pembroke having kept its place at the head of the river in the Torpids: he had gone up to Oxford for them.

Saturday 15 March

I spent a lively day in bed with cold sore throat & headache ... Mother & sisters were very good to me, sitting with me, & reading aloud. I dozed a good deal on & off all day ...

Sunday 16 March

... Dr Wilkinson (who had been written for the day before) arrived late in the afternoon, when – immensely to our disgust – he ordered 'isolation', as the sore throat is catching, & very apt to go through a house; it is very prevalent just now, & is called 'diphtherete'. Consequently Father, Mother, & Carrie were my only visitors, though the others talked to me through the door. I was dosed with medicine [sic] & had to use a gargle which I much disliked. Beatrice & Ella had to sleep in the Bishop's room.

Friday 21 March

I had my breakfast in bed & read Carlyle afterwards. Father rode over in the morning to Tisbury on church inspection business. I got up & was at last allowed to come downstairs again to the drawingroom. The sun was out & I went for a short walk with 'Past and Present'

up & down the walk in front of the windows. I was delighted to get back to a piano ... I dined with the rest of them in the diningroom, but sleep by myself.

Monday 24 March

... Violet was dressed up, & had a bazaar; we had to pay for the things in sweets. Mother, Beatrice, & Ella went to Shaftesbury in the close carriage. Wrote. Dr Wilkinson came. In the evening I read.

Tuesday 25 March

I had a particularly nice letter from Bob, he told me of two things he had done, one to sent in his Latin prose for the Prize, & the other he had made his first speech in the Literary Society ... Seymour Tritton will not be allowed to come here next holidays; he wrote to ask his father & he said he must not come.

Thursday 27 March

I heard again from Mrs Carey asking if we would come on the 21st if their concern was put off till then (& even offered to put it the week after) so I wrote to say we would come. Gave Violet her music. Dusted. Chose the hymns. We four went to Little Lye (near Holloway) to see about little Sidney Fletcher who is very ill with inflammation of the lungs; Mai & I went up to see him.

Monday 31 March

Father had an interesting letter from Lionel about (amongst other things) his ascent of Mt Vesuvius: at the bottom he met the Hutchinsons! Beatrice heard from Reggie & Kathleen, & Mother & Ella from SBT ... We girls went to Upton & got white violets, which were made into a wreath in the afternoon to be taken to put on little Sidney Fletcher's coffin ...

Saturday 5 April Seymour's birthday 10

Mother had an anonymous letter from 'A teetotaller & Churchwoman'. Ella & I put out the stores. Did my dusting. A box of presents was sent over to Seymour, a letter from Father (the other letters went yesterday) & three bunches of white violets.

Sunday 6 April

Mother heard again from WJT thanking for the letter of Lionel's that was sent for him to read ... There was a collection after each service towards the expenses of lighting the church, which amounted to three £ odd ...

Saturday 12 April

... Reggie and Eddy went into Shaftesbury in the dogcart. We had to settle about patterns. We three worked at our Sunday lessons. Snowed on and off, principally during the afternoon ... Reggie and Eddy played bat fives in the schoolroom. Eddy is a dear boy. We had a very

merry evening dinner, telling stories about the “Koja” etc. Afterwards we played Reviens and Cartoons. Wrote.

Monday 14 April

We arrived safely at Alresford, & found the carriage waiting for us & Canon & Mrs Ernest Wilberforce¹¹, who very nicely made themselves known to us.

Tuesday 15 April

... Eventually the Wilberforces & Alan¹² left; I like Alan exceedingly, he is so good ... & then to Bighton to call on the Christians, where we were ushered into a perfect room full. We were asked to stay for lawn tennis which we did. Loulie¹³, B, Mr Conybeare & a Capt Custance – played & much later Nellie Christian & I played Edward Christian. Pleasant afternoon. Heywood¹⁴ arrived by an evening train. (Mr Wilberforce gave us young ones – each a silver penny & Loulie several.)

Wednesday 16 April

Spent a quiet morning playing, writing etc. Beatrice acted as a model for Heywood, having her arm drawn etc. After lunch we helped with the tennis courts a little, & then came in & were sitting in the drawingroom when Uncle George¹⁵ & Heywood came back with Ben Hoskyns¹⁶ & Frank¹⁷. We presently adjourned for lawn tennis, & after a while played a set, Heywood & Beatrice v. Ben Hoskyns & me, they won. Meanwhile Nellie Christian arrived (to dine & sleep). After tea Loulie, B Hoskyns, Frank & I sang, the others played tennis, but Heywood & Beatrice joined us later. Mr Scott Holland (formerly Heywood’s tutor at Christchurch) came. Mr White, lay reader (curate to be) dined, also Edith Sealy. Ben Hoskyns took me in & sat between B & me. I put him through a catechism about his people which he liked I think. Any amount of music in the evening, ending with two hymns, a very nice finish. I like BH very much. We 2 & Loulie brushed our hair in Nellie’s room.

Thursday 17 April

The gentlemen all went out for a long walk, & before they went we had a little gathering in the front hall, & Uncle George read aloud the Zulu news – most anxious account. Music ... After lunch we had great fun, and impromptu dance; I had a lovely valse with Heywood. Several people came in the afternoon for tennis & so forth ... I had one very nice set with Ben Hoskyns v. Willie Benson & Mr White. Loulie, Beatrice, Heywood & Mr Holland dined at Langtons, & the rest of us, after dinner, drove to the Town Hall (New Alresford) to an Entertainment, recitations from Shakespeare by the Grammar School boys (very well done)

¹¹ Canon Ernest Roland Wilberforce (22 January 1840 – 9 September 1907), later Bishop of Newcastle

¹² Alan George Sumner Gibson, Grace’s first cousin. Later Coadjutor Bishop of Cape Town.

¹³ Grace’s cousin Louise Sumner, daughter of George (Bishop of Guildford) and Mary Sumner

¹⁴ George Heywood Maunoir Sumner 1853-1940, Grace’s cousin. Painter, illustrator and craftsman

¹⁵ George Sumner 1824-1909, Bishop of Guildford. Heywood’s father.

¹⁶ Benedict Hoskyns 1856-1935, later Archdeacon of Hastings and of Chichester

¹⁷ Frank Webster. Probably a relative.

& music from Mr ?Ward. Frank sat between between Nellie & me, & the others behind: he laughed so much, & made remarks to me. After we had been home a little time the others came back & we talked and laughed in the drawingroom; then, going up to bed we sang on the landing, & had a regular scrimmage, even Mr Holland, only not Uncle G.

Friday 18 April

... Had a very merry breakfast (part of it). Music. Finally the whole party excepting Aunt Mary, walked up to the station; I walked from the beginning of the lower road & on to the station with Ben Hoskyns; I like him extremely. All waited to see us two & Mr Holland off, Frank & Ben were going (to Cobham & Southampton) in the afternoon. Mr Holland branched off at Winchester, he is exceedingly nice. (So ended a delightful visit) At Bishopstoke we found ourselves short of money, but a guard advanced us 6/4, so we managed all right, & returned the money in a registered letter. Found a sick household at home, colds & coughs – most of them. Mother's women's tea; we went down towards the end (B & I, Mai & Violet having gone before. Mother had a silver pencil case given her, & Violet is to have a silver thimble.

Sunday 20 April

... Before and after nursery tea we sang some of [John] Farmer's oratorio, 'Christ and his soldiers' in the schoolroom. It was quite light when we came out of church in the evening. Sang hymns. Read a sermon of Mr Holland's in the Gaurdian; it was very quaint.

Tuesday 22 April

Father went over to Fonthill to fish, & Bobbie & Reggie went with him; they came back in the afternoon with 3 nice trout. Rained. I wrote. In the afternoon I read. About a quarter to nine Mother, Beatrice, Ella & I started for a dance at Ferne; we arrived just in right time, with carriages before and behind us. A number of people came, & amongst them (late, as the fly had gone wrong) Cecil Benson, to our surprise & pleasure. My partners were Ned & Frank Gordon, Cecil Benson, Mr Beaufoy¹⁸, Mr Penrose, Mr Hinksman etc. Mr Penrose took me in to supper. The music (Southampton!) & floor were both good. I enjoyed my dances with Ned Gordon particularly & the dances with Mr Beaufoy. Beatrice & I left before Mother & Ella, as we went to Ebbesbourne; we went in a fly with Miss ?Flotman & Mr Hinksman. A very pleasant evening. Dick did not ask me to dance.



Wednesday 23 April

...It was the most terrible affair, the glees went so badly, so we practised most – or several – of them afterwards. Everything was so casual. Back to supper. Talk & to bed.

¹⁸ Mark Hanbury Beaufoy 1854-1922, later a vinegar manufacturer and Liberal MP. He introduced an 8-hour day for his employees, and helped establish the Church of England Children's Society

Friday 25 April

... My first dance was with Fred Gordon, my last a delightful one with Mr Kennard, & I also had a lovely one with Mr Beaufoy ... My cold was bad – but it was a good dance.

Saturday 26 April

... Talked over the dance more or less all day ...

Sunday 27 April

I had a very affectionate letter from Seymour Tritton; my letter had followed him about, & he only got it a few days before he wrote. He goes to his work (engineering) at Newcastle on May 1st ...

Monday 28 April

... After tea we had a set of Lancers in the schoolroom, in spite of our being one gentleman short; we got on capitally.

Tuesday 29 April

... We turned out some of the furniture from the drawingroom to make more room. The hall was prepared for acting, the curtains put up & so forth. We got a number of flowers, & we four girls arranged the glass troughs etc for the diningroom. Snook finished making two long tables for the diningroom, one of which was done and put in for us to have lunch on. After lunch the Milford family danced the Lancers & Mother played most of the time. We had a sort of semi dress rehearsal. Soon after 5 o'clock people began to arrive ... Tea & then games while we got ready for acting. The word was Knighthood; we had Saville Gordon & Freddie Oldfield ... After the acting came games & Sir Roger. Supper & then they departed & we cleared up to a great extent & went to bed very tired.

Wednesday 30 April

... Settled about dresses. Drizzled on and off in the morning and in the early part of the afternoon, so we settled not to go to the Radcliffes' for lawn tennis, as we had arranged to do if it was fine. Unpicked dresses. For the first time for ages we all had a game on the landing, first Hide & Seek, & then 'Jack above ground'. Reggie left in the course of the afternoon to go back to Winchester. I finished a game of German backgammon with Bobbie. Seymour amused himself by jumping in the schoolroom. In the evening I read 'Westward Ho'.

Thursday 1 May

Mother heard from Mr Maclagan sending a copy of a valse (which, however did not come) he has composed, the proceeds of the sale of which are to be given to the Patriotic Fund, for the widows & orphans of the soldiers who have fallen in the Zulu war. Such a May Day! Rain, which turned into a regular snowstorm lasting for hours ... Not a cheerful day for SBT to begin his engineering work at Newcastle.

Friday 18 May

... (My letter from Seymour Tritton was a very nice one)

Saturday 31 May

I had a very nice letter from WJT thanking for the photographs. ¹⁹

Tuesday 3 June

... The bell tolled in the morning for Mrs Harrison (wife of T Harrison) who died from drink. (We heard a different account afterwards.) In the afternoon trimmed hats again.

Wednesday 4 June

... the most interesting visit of all was to Mary Woodley; we sat with her a long time (& were consequently very late for lunch) hearing a full account of the terrible affair Bill & Tom were mixed up in, back in the summer; they were falsely sworn against, poor boys.

Saturday 7 June

... Father, Mother, Lionel, & Ella, arrived. Lionel is just the same as ever, not a bit changed by his tour. He has got a number of photographs. He brought us all presents; mine were a straw fan from Fiesole, a sweet little bottle, a little Venetian glass, & a lovely gold filagree [sic] brooch from Rome.

Monday 9 June

Mr Brooks²⁰ re-appeared on the scene, & worked at Father and Mother ... I had my first sitting and didn't enjoy it, though Ella & Beatrice were very good about reading to me. Ella, Mai, & I did up the little grave, & put flowers there & on Willie Lampard's. Music.

Friday 13 June

Mother heard from Heywood, talking about his coming. I sat first in the morning, then Beatrice and finally Mother ... I had my final sitting, & very glad I was that it was my last ...

Monday 16 June

... We four girls went to the Allens' to tell Eliza to come & see Mother, (only Ella & I went in), & had a very sad talk about Bessie, who is a bad child I am afraid, though not so hopeless I trust, as they make out...

Tuesday 17 June

Father heard from Bobbie: he is to act in a Greek play on Speech Day. Mother heard from Heywood thanking for a very pleasant visit. Beatrice had a sitting in the morning. Turner

¹⁹ it's not clear when, or how, Grace had sent the photographs referred to. The diary does not record a reply to this letter.

²⁰ Apparently a portrait painter

went away for a holiday. Hannah? came, for a temporary maid... Later we four went for a walk to Haddon where the view was perfectly lovely. Home through Green. Sat out in the garden and read a little.

Wednesday 18 June

A beautiful day. Father, Mai, & I, left by the 9.45 train for Salisbury for the Mission Festival. The Glyns, Actons, & Mr Oldfield went by the same train, & through their instrumentality (some of them) we went 3rd! We were disgusted ... We walked to the Cathedral with Mrs Hutchinson. Being early we two had good places. The Cathedral was not very full. Father walked in the procession. The Bp. Preached, owing to the absence of the Bp. Of Carlisle. The anthem was 'But the Lord is mindful of His own', etc & 'How beautiful are the feet'; it was lovely ... After lunch to the Council Chamber for the Missionary Meeting. The room was well filled & hot. Mr Bishop from Travancore was nervous & not interesting, but Messrs Greenstock & Hastings were good. We, & a few others, had tea at the Palace ...

Friday 20 June

We four girls went for a walk through Cloudes & amused ourselves by vaulting, & jumping each other over railings; I was very bad at vaulting, but helped Beatrice jump Ella & Mai ... Louis Napoleon, Prince Imperial, has been assegaied in Africa & killed.

Thursday 19 June

Eva says they have decided to go 'en masse' to Tasmania next year ... In the afternoon the portraits were finished as far as we were concerned, & Mr Brooks left with them by the 7.26 ... A new range was put in the kitchen.

Tuesday 24 June

Reggie brought Beatrice 'The house that Jack built' & me 'John Gilpin' both illustrated by Caldecott. Father & some of us helped Reggie work on his 'bone shaker'²¹. We marked out the courts (Reggie doing the actual marking) & began to play before lunch. Tennis after lunch.

Saturday 28 June

The petition for Sunday closing came back from Corbin's with a number of fresh names, & amongst them John ?, Bill, & Tom. Beatrice heard from Kathleen Ainslie. Ella & I did the stores, & Humphrey helped with the sugar. We worked at our Sunday lessons. A fine day but very windy. We four girls went down to Tanswell's & he signed the Petition ... We arranged flowers on the three graves in the churchyard. John Harding has partly cut the grass, very nicely. Strolled in the garden for a little after tea.

²¹ Bicycle

Tuesday 1 July

A very good post. Mother heard from WJT as also did Violet, to whom he sent a very pretty book to paint, 'Little Folks Painting book' ...

Friday 4 July

We four girls went to Underhill to the Felthams' to get the Petition back, & taking a few Underhill magazines. We found Arthur Garrett at dinner, & Nellie signed the Petition for him as he cannot write. From George Smith we got our first refusal, not from his being actually averse to it, but neutral; most apathetic he seemed. Frank signed it & Beatrice & I had a little Temperance talk with him ...

Friday 11 July

I had a long letter from SBT asking for the publication of 'Sea Flowers' if I had no objection to others singing it.

Saturday 12 July

The paper came up ... & in it was the announcement that Alan has got a 1st in Greats, the list in fact was out ... I wrote in the name of all to congratulate Alan.

Monday 14 July

... Frank Webster left by the 9.45 train taking up my racquet (at his own suggestion) to have it mended. I am sure he enjoyed his visit; & he said so to Mother ... I read in the summerhouse.

Tuesday 15 July

... In the afternoon we three went over to a tennis party at the Hutchinsons', Corbin having lent us a horse most kindly (as it would have been too much for Hendred). Father joined us there. A good many people came ... Auntie Sarah²² arrived while we were away.

Wednesday 16 July

Auntie had her breakfast in her room, as she always does (here at any rate). I gave Violet her musci. I worked at altering an evening body. I wrote in the name of us 4 to thank Heywood for 'Esmond' which he has sent us (it came yesterday with the inscription 'The Schoolroom Knoyle Rectory, from GHM Sumner'). We four girls went down the village; Ella & I went into the Post Office, while the other two went to the Reading Room.

²² Probably Sarah Elizabeth Milford, unmarried sister of Canon Robert Milford. Born 1922 therefore about 57 years old.

Thursday 17 July

A very interesting post. I had a very nice – though short – letter from Alan, in answer to my congratulatory one to him. Mother heard from Frank Webster ... We 3 girls unpicked & settled about dresses ...

Friday 18 July

There were a number of answers to invitations, several acceptances & some refusals. Wrote letters & worked at my Sunday lesson. Haymaking going on ...

Sunday 20 July

Early Communion. Rainy. Auntie Sarah actually came down to prayers and breakfast. I had not a satisfactory lesson in the morning. There was not a good congregation at church, people being afraid of the weather probably. In the afternoon I had a better school; George Garrett gave me a lovely rose; William Smith had one at first, but he divided it among some of the other boys, & did not give it to me ...

Monday 21 July

... We four girls went to various places before lunch, the furthest being the Jays' where we went to enquire after the children who were not well. We had some trouble in getting away on account of a troublesome pet lamb, till Mrs Jay came to the scene & took it away ... Half past 7 service, special; for intercession for fine weather, It was splendidly attended. Nearly all the farmers came, & it was a thoroughly hearty service. We girls strolled on the terrace.

Tuesday 22 July

... Beatrice & Ella marked out the events in spite of the weather, & just as they were finishing, Mr Penrose rode up. We girls had a chat with him in the porch, & by degrees the Lockes, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Mair, Miss Brown & Mr Crick, & finally the Andrewses, drifted in. Beatrice & Mr Crick played Mr Penrose & me & we beat them. Tea in the diningroom, & then Father & Mr Andrews played the two Tisbury curates, & we looked on & talked. Altogether it was a pleasant little party. We rolled the lawn afterward. Our portraits arrived & were criticized.

Wednesday 23 July

... All the gentlemen, except the married ones, played more or less. Fred Glyn got hit in the eye, so I took him up to Father's room & got him some warm water. I made coffee for almost all who took it. Our portraits were duly criticized. Walter Radcliffe was specially nice, & Dick was very pleasant too; he (Dick) gave me his watch to hold while he had his first set of tennis. My partners were Ashton, & Walter Medicott...

Thursday 24 July

... had some grand games of tennis before lunch. I was beaten all three sets. Rested & cooled a little before lunch. Father & Walter went down to work in the hay in the afternoon ... Later I went down to the hay field with the children.

Friday 25 July

Mother heard from Lady Rawlinson that Janet Bouverie is engaged to be married to Sir Frederic Peel – considerably older than she is. Walter Medlicott left by the 10.32 train; he is as nice as ever ...

Monday 28 July

Ella heard from Seymour & Mai from Reggie ... Mother, Beatrice & I travelled as far as Salisbury together ... & then we left Mother & travelled on to Alr4esford, where we arrived minus our box, which however came later. Uncle George & Co went off in our train to a garden party at Farnham. Aunt Mary was at home, & after lunch we practised with her, & took off dead roses in the kitchen garden. Practised & wrote. The Farnham party, viz. Uncle George, Loulie, Beresford & Consie Heywood, came back for dinner. In the evening Beresford and Beatrice played against Loulie and me at Gobang²³, & then we had some music.

Tuesday 29 July

In the course of the morning we two girls played a rather limp set of lawn tennis against the Heywoods, & then we gave it up, as it was so hot, & sat under the trees. Consy & Beatrice fetched some fans, & they two talked, & Beresford & I. Loulie came out, & later Beresford worked in the hay. Music on & off. Signor Rotoli arrived in time for lunch, & we sang more or less during the afternoon. Beresford went out fishing. After an early dinner we four girls & Rotoli (on the box) went into Winchester, where Uncle George already was. We went to the Uttertons' (where Father, Ella, & Mai were staying), & presently to the College with Mrs & Harrie Utterton. Reg. soon joined us in his gown, & was so sweet; he fetched Ella & Mai from Meads, Father appearing later from the Dinner. We heard the Band play Domum²⁴ in the school (?). Saw the Bensons & Sealys. We walked about in Meads, & talked, & heard the band play, & Domum sung. We vere introduced to Thring iii, and Bertie Heywood (a nice boy). Later saw & walked about with Eddy Maclagan. Reg. took some of us to his chambers, the cloisters etc. Had to come away sooner than I liked, & got home between 10 & 11.

Wednesday 30 July

Beatrice & I were down soon after 8 o'clock, & I had a singing lesson. We spent the morning in singing & various things. Preparations for the party in the afternoon. Sat out in the afternoon, helped do things etc. Ben Hoskyns arrived, & later Mr Marsh (Mr Radcliffe's

²³ Board game, originally Japanese

²⁴ School song of Winchester College

brother-in-law), & there was some practising. People arrived by degrees, & presently the music began, with a duet & chorus from Mendelssohn's 'Lobgesang'. In course of time I had to sing a solo, which happily I got through more or less all right, & Rotoli was pleased at my singing. The Dursts, Mrs Moberly, the Sealys, & Christians came amongst some 100 odd people. Later Harrie Utterton introduced Beatrice & me to a Miss Williams, a connection of SBT's, & we talked about him. Consy & I put on our tennis shoes, & played two sets of tennis, with Edward Christian (Consy), & a young Mr King, O. W. Then I played with an old gentleman agst. Ben & Consy. Put away things. Ben took Loulie & me in to dinner, but he hardly talked to me at all. Afterwards we sang, some most lovely things. Had a little sort of skirmish before going to bed, though not Uncle George or Rotoli.

Thursday 31 July

The day began with pouring rain, but it cleared later. I had my singing lesson first – after breakfast, & then Beatrice. Finished packing, & before, talked in the schoolroom with Consy, Ben & Beresford, taking Beatrice's place when she went down to sing. Later Aunt Mary Aunt May & Ben talked & Consy & I listened. We left by the 12.32 train, Ben not being down to say goodbye. Uncle George came to the station, & was to go to Alton. At Salisbury we met Ashton, & he looke after our boox, got us a carriage, & then came with us. At Tisbury he got out, & then came up to the window with one of the Thrings, to whom we were introduced, & then we found we had two more Thrings in with us, so we talked to them the rest of the way. At home we found Bob. Reg. & Seymour, & Thring iii etc, who left for Fonthill later. Father had gout in the foot. Presently Mother, Ella, Nellie & Ettie (who came yesterday) appeared. Later some of us played tennis. A very good character of Bobbie.

Friday 1 August

Practised singing. Wrote to Lionel. After lunch Bobbie and Mai started in the pony carriage for Fonthill, the Radcliffes', for a lawn tennis afternoon. Nellie, Ettie, and we four girls & Reggie started later in the big carriage. I wanted to make myself useful, so Walter gave me some work in getting cord out of a tangle ... Ashton & I played together ... finally we were beaten by Ella & Arthur Thring, so Ella got the prize ... A very pleasant afternoon ...

Saturday 2 August

Ettie heard from Alice Bouverie that Connie²⁵ is engaged to be married to the Hon Alister Campbell. I wrote in Nellie's cover to congratulate ...

Sunday 3 August

I had a large class in the morning, nine boys ... Before school began George Garrett gave me back his Temperance medal, because he wanted to drink sometimes, not that he liked beer, only he wanted something besides water. However I had a little talk to him & was able to persuade him to keep it still, & promised him a tin²⁶. Mr Mountain, master of the Gillingham

²⁵ Constance Pleydell-Bouverie 1854-1887

²⁶ Tin of cocoa

Grammar school came over & took the evening service; he has a very peculiar way of speaking ...

Tuesday 5 August

Ella's birthday . 19

Ella had five letters, & some very nice presents; one of the former was from Lionel. Beatrice had a letter from Miss Lucas, & in her letter she told the news that she is engaged to be married to Mr Ackroyd, of whom we used to hear when she was with us. Alice left for good; very tearful, poor girl. I made up Temperance accounts. Practised my singing exercises. I copied out part of one of Robertson's sermons. In the afternoon it rained hard. We all had a game of Hide and Seek on the landing, which ended in Bobbie's falling over Seymour at the entrance of the passage. I put my drawer upstairs tidy. Chose the hymns. I read 'Esmond'. I played Gobang in the evening; sang one song, & read.

Wednesday 6 August

Beatrice & I had a joint letter from Seymour Tritton ... Practised singing. Unpicked part of a dress. Showers ... Mai & I picked & gave Carrie some strawberries, as it was her birthday. Arranged flowers. Later we four did the three graves in the churchyard.

Thursday 7 August

Father had breakfast in bed, as he has for some time lately. Ella had her's in bed too. Bobbie, Reggie, Seymour, Violet & I left by the 10.32 train from Sherborne; I had a talk at the station with Mr Everett. Arrived at Sherborne we didn't know where to go to; we couldn't go over the Minster as there was the Bishop's Visitation going on. After some time we found a pastry cook's shop & had a frugal lunch: we then found our way on to the 'Antelope' where Bobbie ordered a waggonette, & in less than an hour's time we were on our way to Trent. Arrived there, Charles Ricketts entertained us at their house till Emma & her sister came down, delighted to see us. Presently Emma took us over the church, a very nice old place, to see the almshouses, & the Manor House (Mr Seymour's) & the garden where was Charles. The Manor House is such a nice one. Presently we all had tea & before we had quite done, a knock came at the door & Mr Tait the clergyman was ushered in. He knew Father, Mother, & Grandfather. He wanted to show us the church, so Bob & I went with him & he told us about it, & then we went to a pretty old house, where old Mrs & two Miss Staceys live. Then we just went to the Rectory to see a picture of Grandfather, were introduced to Mrs Charles Tait, & Miss Tait. Back to Emma's house & evening back to Sherborne, & so home. Emma was as nice as ever. Bob & Reg travelled to Templecombe with Arthur ?

Friday 8 August

... Bobbie & Mai went out for ride on Baron (the new horse) and Hendred, & both horses went very well ... Ella's box (birthday present) came. In the Times was the announcement of the death by drowning²⁷ while bathing of Mr Argles, one of the Haileybury masters.

²⁷ In the Thames at Cookham, according to Barnack & District Parish News website

Saturday 9 August

... I played again, a very good set with Reggie against Ella and Bobbie, when we just won. In the evening we had a game of 'Reviews'. I read 'Esmond'.

Sunday 10 August

... Father was much better than last Sunday, & took both services himself, except that Bobbie read the lessons morning and evening ... I had not a nice afternoon school as the boys – some of them – would eat nuts, & throw the shells about ...

Tuesday 12 August

... The boys & Violet went to the upper Summerleaze pond to fish, but got nothing. The boys had a bathe; having disposed of Violet on the island ... We played paper games in the evening ...

Thursday 14 August

Beatrice had a nice letter from Mrs Richmond, from Swanage; she said our house looked so horrid, & that there are few young people in Swanage this year. I read some German with Reggie. Practised singing ... The boys cut down the Pinsaps at the top of the slope by the lower lawn. I looked on part of the time, & helped pull down one bough ...

Saturday 16 August

... I tried over an Italian song which came from Rotoli, 'Dormi pure' ... There was a thunderstorm in the night, & Mai came in to our room.

Sunday 17 August

Father heard from Lionel: Early Communion to which all of went down to Mai [sic]; Bobbie had to come out before the end, as he felt faint. Rainy, but cleared later. I had a very large class, 11 boys, but I got through my lesson more or less well. In the Litany Seymour felt faint, so I took him out, went home with him, dosed & settled him on his bed, & then went back to church. Girls' book Sunday. Hannah Shute came with her book, & brought back William's medal, as he had been working in the hay & there was nothing for him to drink, so he took something thereby breaking his pledge. He had resisted the day before, & did not know he wd. have to go again, & so forth. However Father gave leave for this first offence to be overlooked, if he liked to keep on. There were two strangers at evening service, who stayed to look over the church afterwards, possibly gentlemen. We (not Father & Mother) went for a walk in the evening.

Monday 18 August

... In the afternoon Mother, Beatrice, Ella, & I went to a lawn tennis party at the Glyns' ... eventually I had two very nice sets with Mark Beaufoy (he suggested our being partners) against Mr Temple Cooke & a Miss Acton; we won both & when he said goodbye Mr

Temple Cooke said he (or they) must have his (or their) revenge on Thursday. Father, Bobbie, & Reggie left by the 7.13 train for Southampton en route for Jersey. The train left the station as we came down the hill.

Wednesday 20 August

Annie found Nero dead in the morning ... It was so wet that ... the schoolfeast is not to be till Friday.

Thursday 21 August

Mother had a postcard from Father, telling of his safe arrival in Jersey ... It came on to rain, & we girls were very hopelss about going to the Beaufoys', however Mother had the carriage, & we went, having little rain on the way, & it cleared & turned out fine, & other people came, much to our delight. We were the first to come, & not far from the last to go. A number came by degrees ... finally we had the match, the return: Mark Beaufoy & I v. Mr Temple Cooke & Miss Acton. We beat them hollow, 6 to 1. The two Actons (cousins) took Beatrice & me in to supper, & we (girls) sat at a little side table. Afterwards stood about & talked. Finally music was wanted so we looke thro' Mrs Temple Cooke's songs & found some to sing. I accompanied B in 'Darby & Joan', and 'In Shadowland' & accompanied 'Trot' Acton in one song & her cousin (my opponent) in two more. Miss Desprey accompanied herself in 'In the gloaming'. Mr Temple Cooke, we all liked specially. Home by ¼ past 9, after a very pleasant time.

Friday 22 August

Lionel's birthday 24

Mother heard from Father. An invitation from the Radcliffes for the 28th came, which made us rabid, as we already have 2 engagements that day ... In the afternoon Mother & her five daughters went over to Tisbury for the schoolfeast. First came service, a very ludicrous one & then we went back to the Vicarage, & presently came tea when of course we 4 helped. I found out my little friend of last year, James Fremantle. Then we had tea in the study ourselves, & afterwards helped at three tables on the lawn where there were prizes for the children ... There was a band as usual, one from Ansty. The girls were taken up to the asphalt tennis court where Beatrice & Mai set races & Ella stood post in the drive while I started races among the boys, helped by Mr O'Neil (locum tenens while the curates are away) & a male teacher. Later Mai & I started & superintended a game of 'Captain', on the lawn, & Beatrice & Ella played 'Drop the handkerchief' with girls & boys there too. When we had done 'Captain' we joined the other game & played till it was very dark & nearly time for the fireworks. Little James Fremantle had my hand in 'Drop the handkerchief'. The fireworks were sent off in the kitchen garden; we were in the walk & the people on the tennis ground. Supper in the study. Home by abt. ¼ past 11, after a very pleasant time.

Saturday 23 August

Capital letters from Jersey. Ella had her breakfast in bed. I put out the stores with the help of Violet & Humphrey. Practised singing. It rained. After lunch we got flowers, & Beatrice, Mai, and I did the three graves; they looked very pretty. Showery. Beatrice, Ella, & I picked

up Mother at Mrs Gray's, & then went on to Shaftesbury, where Mother dropped us at the Browns'. Dr Brown showed us his den, full of curiosities, & before that we saw Carrie Brown's studio ... After we got home I practised on the organ, as I have to play tomorrow. Mr Sikes arrived from London, to take the duty.

Sunday 24 August

Mother heard from Mrs Turner, much to our delight, asking us for Saturday next. I practised on the organ before school in the morning, Caleb blowing. Played the harmonium in school. I managed the organ more or less all right in church. I took, it because Mrs Gray was dying, and Tanswell would have found it hard to get through the service; he didn't ask me, but his wife did for him – through Mother ... Charlie Thorne was sent for candles for the organ chamber in evening service, of which I was very glad in the last hymn & voluntary ... Mr Sikes read the service quite passably, & his morning sermon was very simple: his evening rather poor.

Monday 25 August

... Mrs Gray died ... William Shute was working in a garden so Beatrice & I went to ask him what he had settled about the Temperance Society; & found he gives it up: had a little talk with him ...

Tuesday 26 August

A splendid budget from Jersey, a letter from Father, & two from each of the boys ... We got flowers, & I made a wreath, which Mother took down to be put on Mrs Gray. Ella, Violet, Humphrey & I went to Burton's & Snook's. Beatrice, Mai, & I went to the Allens' at Underhill with cocoa from me for Henry & from the other 3 for Charlies: a very satisfactory visit, both have kept. In the afternoon Mother, Ella, & I went to a tennis party at the Hutchinsons' ... It turned out quite a large party; Beaufoys, Radcliffes, Starkys, bank boys etc. Mr Penrose was there, having come back from his holiday ...

Wednesday 27 August

... Before lunch & in the course of the afternoon I read & finished 'Lady Alice', a pretty story. Sunday lessons on & off. About 6 o'clock a note from Mrs Starky came asking Mother to bring us at 8.30 to Pensbury to dance; they could not picnic on account of the wet, so she was trying to get her young neighbours to dance. Accordingly Mother & we 3 went. Mark Beaufoy was there which was very nice, also the Gordons (not Fred) Miss brown & her cousins etc, Mr Trelawny, & Mr Wilson. I danced twice & went into supper with Frank Gordon, danced once with Alfred, Miss Acton, Mr Trelawny & Walter Starky, & twice with Mark Beaufoy, & sat out the Norwegian – last but one – with him. Mrs Starky, Milly & other played. We were home by about one o'clock.

Thursday 28 August

Breakfast earlier than usual, & before ½ past 8 Ella & I started for the station in the rain – in the close carriage, & from thence went to Henstridge, changing at Templecome. No-one was there to meet us, which was very wretched, but we had only gone a very little way when Laura & Kathleen appeared. Mr Ainslie welcomed us, & by degrees we saw the rest of the family, Mrs Ainslie, Alick, St John, Nellie, Cecil, & Maurice ...

Sunday 31 August

I heard from Father from Coutances ...

Monday 1 September

Mother had a postcard from Father from Paris. A beautiful day. Mr Sikes went away. Practised singing. We arranged flowers. Ella and Mai marked out the tennis courts. We knew two of the Fonthill boys were coming, & much to our delight Hugh Carter, & Studley Vidal, the very two we wanted, came. I went to the door & welcomed them. Presently Miss Brown, Miss Action, & Miss Nash arrived, & finally Mrs Earle, & her sister Mrs Stevens, & Charlie Harvey. At lunch I sat at the end of the table, Mrs Earle one side, & Hugh Carter the other; he was very pleasant. After lunch came lawn tennis: everyone who liked played, more or less. I had several sets, & all on Hugh Carter's side. While we were at tea Mrs Beaufoy & a friend called, & came in too ...

Tuesday 2 September

Did various small things, & wrote. After early lunch, Mother & we 3 girls started for Fonthill. Singles were the order of the day, & Beatrice & I were against each other ... Later Mr Lightfoot²⁸ & I played against Beatrice & Chris Thring, & beat them. We had a very amusing sort of dinner tea, when the gentlemen – some of them – made themselves very useful, especially Harry Vidal & Frank Carter etc. Then we hurried up to dress, & finally started for the Keatings', Baverstock Rectory for a dance. We took Studley & Arthur with us, & in two other carriages came Mr Turner, Theresa, Clare, Chris – Mr Penrose, Harry, Ashton & Hugh & Willie. It was such fun having a large party of our own. The music was not at all good, keeping bad time, however that did not prevent a delightful evening. I had numbers of partners ... Hugh Carter took me in to supper, which was in a tent. The dancing was in the diningroom & drawingroom & the music in the hall. We left first of our set taking Studley & Hugh, & then we waited in Fonthill Bishop till the gentlemen's carriage came when they changed into that (S & H). (We had one very nice Lancers, principally a Fonthill clique, such fun). Home between 3 & 4 after a delightful evening.

Wednesday 3 September

We three had breakfast in bed. Another beautiful day. Sat out & read up for my Sunday lesson. Lionel went in to Salisbury. Mr Radcliffe came over with a note for me from Mrs

Turner asking us over for tennis (if we liked), dinner, & a little hop in the evening. We were only too delighted to accept. (I practised singing.) Alick²⁹ & Frank Cardew arrived by the 2.33 train, & at about 4 o'clock Alick & we 3 girls started for Fonthill. After sitting about, & having a set on the lawn with Alick v. Hugh & Beatrice, we went to the cricket ground & presently we had another set there (Harry Vidal asked me to play & we wanted a 4th), Harry & Bertha Hills, v. Alick & me. We 3 girls were ready for dinner first, & for some time we were the only ladies in a roomful of gentlemen. Mr Harry Turner took me in, & Chris was on our other side ...altogether we had a most merry dinner ... Before the gentlemen came out we ladies & the 3 little ones had some dances in the boys' room which was all ready. Presently in came the gentlemen and the regular dance began. I had the 1st with Alick, who dances very badly. It was settled that there should be changes of partner during the dances, so one had several partners for one dance. We had some walks in the garden. I danced with Walter, Mr Lightfoot³⁰, Ashton, the Thrings, Hugh, & 'Fwank', Studley etc, but best of all I liked my dances with Harry Vidal. The last was 'Auld Lang Syne' which we sang as he & I danced the whole while. We ended with 'God Save the Queen': Harry V took me to the carriage & he & Frank put on my wrap; H helped tuck us in & most of them came to see us off. I like H V very much.

Thursday 4 September

My birthday 23

I was down to ½ past 8 prayers. I had some very nice presents & 4 letters. Lionel took Alick & Frank about ... Piano tuners came ...

Friday 5 September

... In the afternoon Mother, Lionel, Alick, Ethel, & I went to a lawn tennis party at Pensbury ... It was rather a large party, most from Shaftesbury way, but Mr Lightfoot, from the other side, was there, & was exceedingly nice. He was much amused at my partner in the 1st set, Capt. Yeatman, who played very badly ... We took Mr Lightfoot home with us, had him to dinner, & he stayed & played a paper game with us afterwards.

Saturday 6 September

A telegram came saying Father & the boys would come by the 10.32 train ... After lunch we all played French cricket on the gravel, then had a game of Prisoners' base ... After dinner we had a little bit of dancing in the drawingroom before Father, Mother & Lionel came in. Ettie told a little about the Bouveries' weddings on the 3rd, Janet's to Sir Frederic Peel, & Connie to Mr Alister Campbell. Music

Monday 8 September

Father heard from Mr Pinckney – Milford Hill, Salisbury – asking one of us girls to play in the 18th on their side against Nadder Vale; Fther & Mot6her & 'her daughter' to come too.

²⁹ Probably (later Sir) Alexander Gordon Cardew 1861-1937, who held various senior administrative posts in India

³⁰ Henry Le Blanc Lightfoot 1850-1924

Lionel went off at about 8 o'clock to Tisbury, in the pony carriage, to breakfast with Mr Penrose, & go with him to play in a cricket match afterwards ... In the afternoon we played Tip & run, & rounders, in the field. Six little Jefferies, relations of the Bennett Stanfords, who were lodging at Miss Alford's, came up to spend the afternoon & have tea: small oddities.

Tuesday 9 September

... It was a very unsettled day, with a great deal of rain on & off ... The boys had cockfights in the schoolroom. We all had tea together. The boys had tugs of war on the drive ...

Thursday 11 September

Father heard from Mr Radcliffe, & in the course of his letter he said something about coming over as many as we could. Beatrice, Mai, Ethel, & I went down the road to various places ending with Mrs Cross. After lunch etc we started, two carriage loads, for Fonthill; Father driving Bobbie & Reggie in the dogcart, & we 4 girls, Ethel, & Lionel in the big carriage. Gradually a number of people came, Hexts, Towers, L. Hinkman, besides 'our own' people, Mr Penrose, & Mr Lightfoot. Mr Lightfoot & I were paired together, Ashton & I were to have been, only Mr Lightfoot had said how well he & I had got on at the Starkys', so it was settled so. We played (-on the worst of the lawn courts, on which Mr Lightfoot cannot play) against Bernard & Capt. Powell & were twice beaten. Later we moved up to the field & played out a consolation tie against Father & Mr Vandermeulen, & after a capital fight, set all, they beat us. Numbers of other sets went on. Later Lionel & I played two sets & won against Mr Penrose & May Hext ...

Friday 12 September

As Fanny – the housemaid – left yesterday we helped clear away ...

Tuesday 16 September

The boys all worked at the new tennis ground in the field. Wrote our diaries. About 10 minutes past 12 or so, we started for Fonthill, Lionel on the box of the big carriage & we 4 girls & Ethel inside, & Bobbie driving Studley & Reggie in the dogcart.. Mr Penrose & Bernard & Noel were already at Fonthill when we got there, & Mr Vandermeulen. Some games went on before lunch, I began my tie with Harry Vidal v. Beatrice & Bernard; we left off for lunch at 2 to 1, we being 2. There was a funeral at 3, so as soon as possible after lunch we started for the Lake and the Abbey, a party of about 23. (Mr Penrose had to go after lunch). It was great fun; I walked with Theresa Evelyn, Ashton etc. It was lovely by the lake. Most of the party went up the Tower, but Harry Vidal wouldn't let me go up, as I was his partner & he wanted us to win: I went into the large room though, & Walter showed me the model of the Abbey as it was. After we got back, we finished our sets & Harry Vidal & I were beaten. Two Miss Wilsons & Drummond Dowding were staying in the house. I played with Drummond Dowding v. Bob. & Studley & we were beaten. Mr Lightfoot appeared very late (he had had to go to Salisbury) but didn't play. After tea Walter & I played a set & a bit v. Ella & Harry Vidal; they beat 1 set, & then at 3 all we left off the second. Lionel & Mr

Vandermeulen won a 1st prize, & Reg. & Ashton the 2nd. We left ? before 7 after a delightful afternoon. The Radcliffes were so nice; & others too.

Wednesday 17 September

There was a sort of falling mist on & off all day ... We sang in the schoolroom, chatted & so forth; Studley singing... amongst others. Between 12 & 1 Harry Vidal made his appearance, driving over by Walter from Fonthill; Walter couldn't stay, but some of us saw him out the door. Harry Vidal joined us in the schoolroom, & later, just before lunch when there were very few besides him & me, I got him to write his name in my birthday book... Afterwards we went to the school & after a little while the children were settled at numerous tables (forms) & tea began. Reggie & Studley left by the 4.25 train; Studley is a very nice fellow. Said goodbye to HDSV at the school, but Beatrice & Ellen went up home with him & gave him some tea; Lionel also went, & walked with him as far as almost Sheep House. Coming up to the garden after the children, I found him there & said goodbye again. He is exceedingly nice. We worked hard amusing the children, Ethel helping. We had the infants & girls on the gravel, & later – as a shower come on – in the school ... Tanswell dined with us. Ella, Ethel & I dressed afterwards, & at about 8 started with Mother for a dance at the Starkys'. Arrived just in nice time; Mr Lightfoot had come. The bank boys, a few Gordons, Temple Cookes, Mark Baeufoy, & others, came. I danced with Mr Trelawney, Mr Wilson, Frank Gorden, Mr Everett, Mark Beaufoy & most of the nicest dances were with Mr Lightfoot; he was nice. There was no room for us in the 1st & only Lancers, so we sat it out very comfortably & talked on the stairs. Walter Starky took me in to supper, but I sat by Mr Lightfoot who looked after me. My last dance was a delightful one with Mr Lightfoot, & he came & handed us into the carriage. (I played a valse while supper was going on)

Thursday 18 September

Lionel went away, Bobbie going with him as far as Salisbury. He (L) was going to Haileybury, where he is now a master. Father, Mother, Beatrice, & I left for Salisbury by the 12.58 train ... At Tisbury, Mr Lightfoot, Walter, Ashton, & Mr Penrose got in; Mr Lightfoot going 2nd (as he told me he would the night before) to come with us ... we five walked up to Milford Hill, to Mr Pinckney's. We had some lunch, & then I put on my shoes & went out to try one of the courts. Mr Everett, Mr Parker, Mr Lushington, & 2 Miss Poores were playing for Mr Pinckney besides me ... Both of our pairs were beaten after a good fight, but Mr Everett & I succeeded in beating Ashton & Miss Everett 2 sets, & so won the first tie. Mr Pinckney was very kind & nice, & sent me to rest & cool in the drawingroom instead of having tea in the diningroom which was full & hot. When I was ready we went to the upper court again ... we finally left off 4 (we) to their 5 in the final set, & drove away to the station to the last train. The Miss Poores were so delighted with my play & said goodbye most cordially. Found Mr Lightfoot at the station, the Radcliffes & others. Talked etc till the train came, & then we & Mr Lightfoot, Walter & Capt Powell got into a carriage together, & had a merry time of it. I had congratulations from various people, not least from Mr Lightfoot. So home, after a delightful day, & I was not sorry to go early to bed.

Friday 19 September

They let me sleep on, so I had my breakfast in bed ...

Saturday 20 September

I had nice letters from Laura & Eva. Mother announced a plan of her's, for having a dance here next Thursday before putting the carpet down for the winter.. Stores. Sunday lessons. Father actually went out calling with Mother in the afternoon, Violet going on the box ...

Sunday 21 September

... Knoyle Feast Sunday, consequently the bells were rung for both services. There was a very good congregation in the evening, & Father preached a beautiful sermon on 'The path of the just is as the shining light' (& the rest of the verse – in Proverbs).

Monday 22 September

Mother had answers from Mr Lightfoot, Cecil Benson & others, all acceptances ... Between 10 & 11, we went up on the hill, but the meet was over, having been early, and we did not see the hounds at all ... Mother went to call at Motcombe to enquire after Lady Theodora & her little girl, & then to the station to meet Frank & Avice Webster, whom she brought back. Father came home later, having bought some things at the sale, & seen Mr Lightfoot, Ashton etc. Paper games in the evening.

Tuesday 23 September

Mother had various answers; acceptances from the Radcliffes, Mr Penrose etc, & a few refusals. Showery. We played French cricket on the gravel. Father, Ethel, & Mai went in to Salisbury. I read 'Wych Hazel'. It rained most of the afternoon, but Mother went out in the parish. I played Bat fives in the schoolroom with Seymour & then with Violet, while Beatrice looked after Frank & afterwards we played catch on the stairs ...

Wednesday 24 September

Mother had a very nice letter from Heywood, who cannot however get away for tomorrow, though he would have liked to ... Mr Locke called to ask Father to be a magistrate, which however he – rightly – declined. Games. We had prayers at 9 o'clock, & afterwards cleared the drawingroom & rolled up the matting.

Thursday 25 September

We worked hard all the morning making preparations for the evening. Ethel & Mai got flowers, & I arranged all but a few, which Avice did. Most of the party worked at the floor. Moss was put on the two chiffoniers with red geraniums in fish globes on it, & one of the school coronas festooned with ivy, was hung in the middle of the room. In the course of the afternoon we had some lawn tennis. Cecil Benson came. Tea about 6. Had a little trial dancing. Dressed. Young Foley from Salisbury arrived to play; a nice, quiet young man, & he

played very well. We had large programmes stuck about & small ones with the numbers etc on to give people. The 4 Radcliffes & Mr Lightfoot were the first to come, & we were very glad to see them. By degrees the Temple Cookes, Mark Beaufoy, 7 from Pensbury, Mr Penrose, C. Grant Dalton, Ethel & Frank Gordon, the Keatings & a few others, came. My partners were Cecil, Frank, Walter, Ashton, Mr Lightfoot, Mr Penrose, George ? (who has come back from Natal), L ?Huxman, Mr T Cooke, Mark Beaufoy etc. The last on the programme I had with Walter (3rd with him), but I had another (after all but the Fonthill party had gone) with Mr Lightfoot (a very merry polka) and a bit of a sort of schottische with Frank. It was a most successful evening & people enjoyed themselves very much. We went out in the garden between dances. Dancing began about ½ past 8 & ended between ½ past 1 & 2. A very nice dance.

Friday 26 September

Prayers were nominally at ½ past 9, so most of us were down. We helped put back the furniture. Cecil, Ella, and I rolled the tennis ground, & Frank swept away some of the dew with a broom. We had two sets, the last a specially good one ... Poor little Seymour was very tearful before he left³¹ ...

Monday 29 September

Father heard from Seymour, & Mother from Frank Webster ... Mother heard from Aunt Mary about Beresford's accident (which we had only heard incidentally mentioned before); he was shot while out shooting, but is apparently well again now ...

Tuesday 30 September

A splendid post for me, as I had nice letters from the boys, & a long one from poor Seymour Tritton telling me of his troubles; he has had a terrible row with his stepmother; but his father seems to have roused at last, & Seymour believes his opinion about our affair has changed ... Last night there was a rick on fire at Summerleaze, so in the afternoon Father & we 4 girls walked out there to see it: a number of men were working at it, & seemed very pleased for us to come & look at it.

Wednesday 1 October

... A number of patterns came, & we spent the morning over dresses & allowance ... went to the station to meet Kathleen, who arrived by the 4.25 train. Meanwhile, Father walked to Mr Allen's sale – near Pyt House - & saw Mr Lightfoot & others there. Read 'Catherine & Crauford Tait'; most interesting but terribly sad.³²

Friday 2 October

³¹ Presumably to go back to boarding school (Haileybury College). He was 8 or 9 years old.

³² Full title 'Catherine and Crauford Tait: Wife and Son of Archibald Campbell Archbishop of Canterbury'

Mother heard from Mrs Temple Cooke about Mark Beaufoy's coming to dine here next Wednesday. I wrote to her, to answer about the hour ... Kathleen, Mai, Violet & I went to Milton and Green with soups, magazines etc... Mai & I played at battledore & shuttlecock.

Sunday 5 October

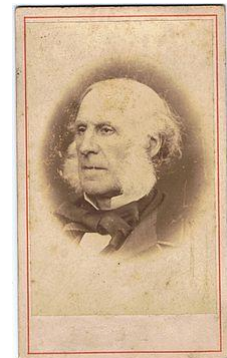
I had not a very satisfactory morning. Had a little talk with Henry Allen going to church. Communion Sunday, & there were a good number of communicants. I had not a very good afternoon school either, except that the boys were much interested in the story, 'Josey the Runaway'. Beatrice, Kathleen, Ella, Mai, and I, went for a walk on the hill between school and tea. A good evening congregation. After service I had to wait for Henry Allen's book, and much to my delight he presented me with an egg plum, wrapped up in a piece of paper! It was dark, otherwise he probably would not have had the courage to do it. Hymn singing in the evening. Read.

Tuesday 7 October

Beatrice heard from Lionel and Ella from Bobbie. Father, Mother & I went in to Salisbury by the 9.45 train, & saw Mr Hilton at the station. From Wilton we had a very full carriage, as some half dozen 3rd class passengers had to come in for want of room. Saw very few people in Salisbury that I knew. Father soon left mother & me, & we did not meet again till at the station. He had some meetings to go to. We shopped, & had lunch at the Cathedral Hotel. Called on Mrs Hammond, but they were away. Later we went to the Museum where Mother read & slumbered, & I looked at the fossils & read Geology ...

Wednesday 8 October

... Mark Beaufoy (who had been to the dog show at Warminster) dressed & dined here, & between 7 & ½ past he, Father, Mother, Beatrice & I started for Teffont Manor, the Fane de Salis', for theatricals & dancing. The setting was extremely good. The pieces were 'Meg's Diversion' & 'Cups & Saucers'. The actors were Mr & Miss Rawson, Mr Tyler, Mr Tilgate, and Alice Keatinge, & 2 de Salises.



Right: William Andreas Salius Fane de Salis (1812–1896) according to Wikipedia a British businessman, colonialist, and barrister. Teffont Manor belonged to his wife Emily Mayne.

Rowland Winn was there .. & seemed very pleased to see Beatrice, & sat by her at the acting. I sat by Tyndal Powell & Mr Parle, & Mr Penruddocke part of the time. After the acting came dancing & supper. Tyndal Powell took me in to supper. I danced with him, Rowland Winn, Mark Beaufoy, Mr Keating, etc. The Temple Cookes, Mrs Beaufoy, the Keatings, Towers, Hussyes & others were there. Home by about a qr. past 7 & talked it over with Ella.

Thursday 9 October

Prayers at 9, so the morning was not long. Invitation to the Beaufoys' dance, which we had known of before. Practised. We 5 girls went to Holloway & home by the village; between the

old turnpike & Mrs Cross' we met the Fonthill boys – much to our delight - & Ashton, running over to Sedgemoor; of course we stopped to speak: Seymour was looking very well. Further on we met & spoke to Walter. In the afternoon we four girls & Kathleen walked over to West Knoyle, stopping to poke about in the greensand quarry on our way, & getting some fossils. The Inmans were in & very pleased to see us; Mr Starky was there too. We had tea & then we girls & Mr Inman had a good game of 'Schickloss'; Mr Inman & I won. We swang in between & Mr Inman gave me a lovely swing. Later we went over the church with Mr Inman, & eventually walked home, arriving rather before ½ past 6.

Friday 10 October

Mr Penrose came over – riding – quite early, while Father was at the school; to make use of Father's Chromograph³³, & stayed some time. I gave Violet her music. Later Mr Lightfoot walked over, for various reasons. Both he & Mr Penrose have accepted the invitation to dine & sleep here on the 21st, & go with us to the Beaufoys' dance. We five girls went down the village, & coming back met Mr Lightfoot. In the afternoon we five girls and Kathleen went to the chalk pit and hunted about for fossils; we got a good many & I got some more from George White one of the men who work there ... We had an interesting talk on Political economy at dinner ...

Sunday 12 October

... The lamps in the churchyard were lighted again for the first time. I finished 'The Pursuit of Holiness'.

Monday 13 October

... I wrote to Miss Lucas, and sent her a fan from us four girls as a wedding present ... Kathleen, Mai, & I went to look at the big stone (chert, I think) in the field near Stacey's. I read in the summerhouse. After dinner we four girls and Kathleen had a discussion about dew; very interesting. Read.

Wednesday 15 October

A valse came with Alfred Foley's respectful compliments; directed to me; evidently a delicate attention to the family for their kindness to him. (not that I did anything). It was not a pretty valse though ... Ella & I kept up over 200 at battledore & shuttlecock in the diningroom. We five girls and Kathleen went for a walk, & coming back searched for fossils in the sand pit: very interesting, but the fossils are so terribly brittle .., After tea in the evening we three girls & Kathleen danced in the schoolroom, & Mai played for us.

Thursday 16 October

Some of Ruskin's books arrived, a present from Kathleen to Beatrice & me, 6 of the Fors for Beatrice, & the 1st vol of 'Deucalion' for me. Beatrice ordered 12 of his Letters to young girls, & gave us four & Kathleen each one. Kathleen left by the 9.45 train, & Beatrice & I

³³ 'an apparatus by which a number of copies of written matter, maps, plans, etc., can be made'

went down to see her off. Mark Beaufoy went by the same train, & we had a talk with him before he went. Beatrice & I played sacred duets ... Fan arrived: Mother met her, & so did Violet.

Friday 17 October

I gave Violet her music. We four girls had a talk in the diningroom on the subject of being kinder to Violet ... Beatrice, Violet, & I went to see Mary Tanswell, taking her some apple & rice. She seemed to have got to the end of everything in the clothes way, & we settled to look her out something. Practice at home as usual. Read 'Hitherto'. Worked at my Sunday lesson notes. Talked with Fan in the schoolroom, over our diaries.

Saturday 18 October

Beatrice and I heard from Helen & Stephanie Winn. Beatrice seems to have made an impression on Rowland Winn!... Mother, Fan, & I went for an afternoon's calling, 1st to the Fane de Salises', but they were out, then to the Maurice Keatinges', where we had quite a pleasant visit; then to the Andrewses', they were out, & finally to the Towers', & they were out too, at least Edith Tower was. Home by our Fonthill ... (Mother heard from Kathleen; she enjoyed her visit to us.)

Sunday 19 October

Early Communion. 16, counting Father. Two unpleasant things happened; 1st, there was a letter from Reggie to father, which ought to have come Thursday, to ask him to write to the Warden for leave out on Saturday last for Lorry Turing, Carey, & Reggie himself; of course this came much too late. The 2nd thing was that Henry Allen brought back James Lampard's card & medal, as he had broken: we were so sorry ... Father preached two very nice sermons.

Monday 20 October

Fan and we five girls went to Holloway, & Beatrice & I went to the Lampards' to find out about James. Charlotte was at home, & we had a nice talk with her; she had expected us, so we were very glad we came. James had gone over early to Warminster, & found it very cold, & ended by taking a glass of beer, so breaking his promise ...

Tuesday 21 October

I had a nice letter from SBT & he sent me a photo of himself in his working things, which I was very glad to have ... Put flowers in Mr Lightfoot's & Mr Penrose's rooms. Between 5 & 6 our two gentlemen arrived. Dressed. Dinner soon after 6, Mr Lightfoot took me in. At ½ past 7 we started for the Beaufoys', Mother, Mr Lightfoot & me inside, & Mr Penrose on the box. (The gentlemen changed places going back.) We danced in the drawingroom, which made a very nice room for it. Mark Beaufoy danced once with each of us, but Mr Semple Cooke only with Ella. I had three dances with Mr Lightfoot, 2 with Mr Penrose, & one with Howard Kennard, Fred Gordon, Mr Trelawney, a Mr ?Peeler. There were too many ladies ... Home by abt 2 after a pleasant dance. Sandwiches and biscuits in the hall.

Wednesday 22 October

... It was very nice having Mr Lightfoot & Mr Penrose in the house, though the morning was rather long ... We had prayers at about 9. We spent the morning in talk, music, & photographs; both our gentlemen were very nice. I sang 2 songs, Beatrice & I a duet, & Mr Lightfoot joined in 2 glees, & Father in one. H le B L³⁴ has a nice voice. He wrote his name in B's & my birthday books. Mr Penrose left first, but Mr Lightfoot stayed till nearly ½ past 12, & went to Sedgemoor in the dogcart, which was to take Mr Fraser from the dissenting school to the station ...

Friday 24 October

A very stupid post. Mai had a cold, & stayed in bed to breakfast. Mr Fraser went to Mere to inspect the school. I gave Violet her music. Wrote. Father had a Ruridecanel chapter; service about half past 11, & the meeting afterwards. Only Mr Radcliffe & Mr Penrose were in time for service ... Put down ideas for my Sunday lesson. Played Whist with Mother, Fan, and Mr Fraser.

Saturday 25 October

Mr Fraser went away. Ella, Humphrey & I put out the stores ... to Shaftesbury, where we stayed some time, shopping. Saw Fred Gordon to bow to. Mrs Everett was in Hooper's. It was a lovely afternoon. Lady Westminster [*Elizabeth, Marchioness of Westminster, 1798-1891; right, in a portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence*] called while we were out. Mr Seymour came ... to shoot, & Father walked with the shooters part of the afternoon. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart [*right, 1826-1903; son-in-law of the Marchioness*] was of the party. Mai had a very heavy cold on her chest & went early to bed. I sat up in her room & read to myself, & to her.



Sunday 26 October

I had a nice school – I think – on the whole, and my lesson was just the right length ... Annie Eddington had her fingers badly hurt in a machine; Peter turned it, not knowing her fingers were in it. We sang hymns after supper. Father read aloud some poems of Archbishop French's from Hand and Heart.

Monday 27 October

In the Times was a notice from Ernest Dixon saying that he would not hold himself responsible for any debts contracted in his name, without his written consent. Of course it must be Constance. It is terribly sad. Ella heard from Symout, & Mai from Reggie. Aggie told me in her letter that Lottie's engagement to Mr Ted Tanner is broken off: he seemed

³⁴ This use of Mr Lightfoot's initials suggests that he, like WJT and SBT, had become a favourite with Grace.

indifferent & careless, so she wrote & released him ... Beatrice, Violet & I went to Snook's (the plumber) with a jug of soup – he was very ill, but downstairs as usual - ; & then to see Bessie Collins with another jug of soup. I finished 'Hitherto', in which I have been very much interested.

Wednesday 29 October

I had a long letter from Laura. There was a letter from Aunt Emma to Father, most of which we girls (not Violet) & Fan had read aloud to us in the study. A terribly sad affair: Ernest has gone away abroad somewhere alone to begin life afresh, having divided the money between himself & Constance, who has apparently been going on very badly, & is now abroad. They have only been married a little over 1 ½ years ...

Thursday 30 October

Mother read aloud an account written by Uncle John of the marriage of Emily Sumner, - a distant cousin of our's - & Mr Thurlow. I gave Violet her music. Practised singing ... After lunch Ella & I kept up over 1,000 at battledore & shuttlecock.

Friday 31 October

... Coming back we went to Tanswell's, & found much to our disgust that he had evening pupils 3 nights a week, so could not manage nightschool; he had hoped perhaps there mightn't be nightschool this winter etc!

Saturday 1 November

... A very sad letter from Ernest to Aunt Emma was sent on, & Father read it to us; certainly it is a most terrible thing, only 20 months married, & now separated probably for ever ... After all it is settled that nightschool can be twice a week, as it was last year; much to our relief.

Sunday 2 November

I think my lesson was a satisfactory one. George Garrett said his collect and gospel particularly well. Communion Sunday ... Before tea in the afternoon we five girls went for a walk on the hill, and coming back we saw smoke coming across the road, which we found proceeded from some dead leaves which had been set on fire by the gate going into Cloudes: so we stamped it out, all but a few sparks, before we left it. In the evening we sang hymns. I read some of Goulbourn's 'Idle Word'. Loulie's birthday.

Tuesday 4 November

Father heard from Lionel; he sang a solo on some occasion at Haileybury, 'Goddesses Three', & was not as nervous as he had expected ...

Wednesday 5 November

There was a letter to Father from Aunt Emma, which Mother read aloud to us; she now seems to take Constance's rather than Ernest's, side ... We 5 girls went to a few places, & then on to Haddon; it was lovely altogether, the day & the view. On our way we met Mr Penrose, coming to ask Father if he might use the Chromograph; we told him he might, so he went on, but found afterwards that the ink could not be found.

Thursday 6 November

... Fan had a bad headache, & lay down most of the morning. Father had a postcard from Bobbie written with his left hand, to tell that he had dislocated his right wrist at football, but of course it was in again when he wrote ... Mother, Fan, bEatrice, & I went to Shaftesbury in the afternoon. We went to the station coming back, & found H Le B Lightfoot there, so he got our parcel (fish) & had a little talk; he was as nice as usual ...

Sunday 9 November

I had not a large class either morning or afternoon. My lesson was rather satisfactory I think. I had a little talk with Henry Allen going to church, as I often do, & promised to give him 6d to get gingerbeer next day at the ploughing match dinner. After afternoon school I kept him back for a minute to give him the money, & he was so nice about it, & didn't want to take it; however I gave it him as a present ...

Monday 10 November

Rather before 11 or thereabout Father & his five daughters started for the downs to see the ploughing match; we went by Milton, & came back by the village. It was very mild & pleasant, & the ploughing match was a very pretty sight. Henry Allen was ploughing very well, & Henry King, Bob Mathews, Harry Fletcher & others were amongst those who were trying for the prize ... Father went to the ploughing match dinner at the Seymour Arms. Henry Allen won the 1st prize, 30/- for undercarters' ploughing. James Lampard won 1st prize of the headcarters, & Small (Corbin's man) won the champion prize, 5£ for himself & a cup for his master. Sir T Grove & Lord H Thynne were at the dinner.

Tuesday 11 November

I had a cold, & was lazy enough to have breakfast in bed. A very good post, as besides my letters, Beatrice had a pencil note from Bobbie written with his left hand, & also a long, delightful letter from Studley. I wrote letters. In the afternoon we four girls went to see old Allen, & besides soup, Ella took him a pair of woollen gloves she had knitted, with which he was delighted. We saw J Corbin riding, & congratulated him abt. the Champion prize ... Mr Lethbridge, who had been shooting with Mr Seymour, came up to see the portraits; he & Mrs Lethbridge are to be done in oils by Frank Brooks. He had a talk in the drawingroom; he is a fine man. Ella, Mai, & I went to night school 26 boys; I took 1st class reading, 3rd writing & reading. Both Father & I congratulated James Lampard, & he spoke very nicely ...

Friday 14 November

... We 4 girls went to the Aaron Brockways', & as we got there, Mr Lightfoot drove up to Knoyle House; he just saw us. In the Post Office, & then for a walk on the Summerleaze road. Found, when we got home, that H Le B L had been there; the 2nd time Mother has seen him lately ...

Sunday 16 November

... When the others went to church I went home at the head of a troop of 24 little children, & took them into the schoolroom, where I had a little sort of service with them, showed them Bible pictures, told them a story, with feeble illustrations on the bacl board etc. Then at the end I took them up in to the kitchen garden, much to their delight, & on to the terrace, & then church was over, & they went home ...

Wednesday 19 November

Mr Oldfield came about ½ past 9 to examine the school in religious instruction ... Mother went to the station to fetch Miss Moberley ... at about ½ past 1 Mother, Miss Moberly & we 3 started for Tisbury for a preliminary meeting about the GFS³⁵ ... I sat by Mrs Turner who was very sweet. Nearly all lost their hearts to Miss Moberly, we amongst them. Got through a certain amount of business & settled to start a branch of the society ...

Thursday 20 November

I gave Violet her music. Between ½ past 10 & 11 it ocured [sic] to me that there was to be a meet at Knoyle, so we five girls went up on the hill & to the corner round the fir wood. We were too late for the meet but we saw more than usual, as the field & hounds were all about. We saw Fred Gorden to speak to; & George Starky called out as he galopped [sic] by. We also saw Mrs Starky & Eleanor driving ... & coming back, were overtaken by Mr Radcliffe & Clara. The latter went on to Sedgehill & Mr Radcliffe got out & walked up with us for a ruridecanal meeting at home. Mr Penrose also overtook us, & walked his horse up ...

Friday 21 November

I had 2 little Mission story books from Mr Woodward. Father heard from Aunt Emma & read us the letter. Constance has come back to England. Uncle Fred sent Father & Mother some woodcock as a silver wedding present. There was a fall of snow in the night ... Our boys' class in the evening: 15 came ... Bill, Tom, & Henry Sanger stayed afterwards to tell Father they wanted places, Tom as porter, the other two as policemen: we shall miss them terribly dear boys.

³⁵ Girls' Friendly Society, established nationally in 1875

Saturday 22 November **Father's & Mother's silver wedding day**

We gave Father & Mother two silver fruit spoons lined with gold, with which they were very pleased. Two presents, from Uncles John & George came by train yesterday, & presents from Hempsted, Hurstleigh, & Hambleton came today ...

Sunday 23 November

... There was a new stove in the infant room. Ella had her first turn of staying with the little children, & seems to have got on very well. Henry Allen had a nice greatcoat, bought – I suppose – with some of his ploughing prize money. After school in the afternoon George Garrett & Henry Allen came up about purses, & I said a little about not breaking the Temperance pledge next day at Shaftesbury fair ...

Monday 24 November

There was a letter from Lionel of congratulation for the 22nd; he had meant to write in time, but the grammar paper put it out of his head. There was postcard [sic] from Bob ... Just about the end of lunch Mr Lightfoot made his appearance; he had been asked to come over some day to lunch, so came today. He was very nice & pleasant ... Mrs Aitken called at last. I finished 'The gold of Chickaree'.

Tuesday 25 November

... We looked out some playthings for the poor little idiot Street. I gave Violet her music. We four girls worked, & read aloud from Mrs Jameson's 'Characteristics of women'. We three and Violet went for an objectless walk ... Ella, Mai, & I went down to nightschool. 35 boys, the largest we have had ... James helped keep order, rather too vigorously once.

Wednesday 26 November

... Father heard from Uncle Fred³⁶ telling the astounding news that Minnie is engaged to Major Gillies, half brother to Mrs Tom Snow. Minnie is to be married next month, and go out to India ...

Friday 28 November

Father heard from Uncle Fred asking him, Mother, & me to Minnie's wedding next month ...

Sunday 30 November

Beatrice heard from Mrs Albert Graves, asking her & Violet down to Bridport. She also heard from Studley, a delightful letter. I began the Book of Genesis with my boys, & Beatrice & Ella began it with their girls. Fairly good my lesson was. I finished 'Precept upon precept' & 'Josey' to my boys in the afternoon, & began reading them the story of the Mission cat.

³⁶ Canon Milford's brother Frederick, who with two other brothers, John and Alfred, and Thomas Snow, was a partner in Milford, Snow & Co of Exeter, 'a past constituent of NatWest' (source: Natwestgroup heritage page)

Tuesday 2 December

... Father, Beatrice, & I went in to Salisbury & had a very pleasant day ... Met Cecil Benson, who asked us to come at about 4 o'clock, to tea at his rooms ... Meanwhile H de B L had been to Knoyle skating, having tea etc, winning golden opinions. So sorry to have missed him ...

Wednesday 3 December

I heard from Theresa asking us to the acting on the 11th, but unfortunately none of us can go ... The Gillums came a day earlier than we expected, but it was Father's mistake, he had asked them ...

Thursday 4 December

... to lunch at the Keatinges' ... Mervyn sang to her guitar very prettily. She gave Beatrice some blue beads which she admired. Got home to find Theresa had written again about the acting which has had to be put off, so perhaps we can go after all. The Staceys gave us a dear little white kitten ...

Saturday 6 December

Mai's birthday. 16

Mai had some nice presents, & amongst them a watch from Father, with which she was delighted ... we three girls went down to the pond where Father & Mr Cocksedge were, and had a very pleasant time skating. The ice was very rough in parts, but quite skatable on ... Ella and I did Temperance accounts.

Monday 8 December

... Several of the chimneys were swept ... We 3 went to the upper pond, & after skating for some time Mr Cocksedge appeared: we had expected him before. Had a very pleasant time, & with his teaching, we learnt to go backwards. ... Not at all a nice nightschool ... Father had to speak about the bad behaviour of some of the boys in church.

Wednesday 10 December

Between ½ past 12 & one, we three started for Fonthill to lunch, & practise the glees. Mr Lightfoot was there; he had had a bad cold, which was not well yet ... After lunch we set to work at the glees, - we three & H Le B L - & practised steadily for a long time. Tea & talk. Left about ½ past 4 after a very pleasant time.

Friday 12 December

... Father, Mr Ainslie, Laura, & we girls went down to the lower pond & skated, Father only a little, as he let Mr Ainslie wear his. Began to learn the outside edge. Soon after lunch Mr Ainslie, Laura, Ella & I went down to the station, where Beatrice & Violet soon arrived, escorted by Mr Graves. Saw George Starky too. We had to wait till the 3.23 train, so we took a little walk, Mr Ainslie, Violet & I, & the other three behind. Laura & I had a little chat at

the station; saw the Ainslies off, & expected Sergt. Major Haskett (CETS lecturer) by the same train, but he didn't come. Oddly enough a young man of the same name did come (we looked at his box), so Ella & I accosted him, but we had to get out of it as best we could. Home. Helped get the school ready. We were in a terrible state – we girls – about Mr Haskett, but to our great relief he came by the 5.23 train. Then there were things to get ready & it seemed rather hopeless, but at last all was ready, & we had a very successful, full meeting. I took the non-members money at the door: James, William & Sam came amongst others. Mr Haskett gave a lecture with Dissolving views³⁷, on the Zulu war, & 'Buy your own cherries'; very nice. Mr Haskett seems a very nice, good man: a soldier, risen from the ranks.

Saturday 13 December

Mother heard from Mrs Hilton asking us to come early to Fonthill, so as to try over the glees beforehand. Mr Haskett went away; he is a most earnest, hardworking, Christian man, & must be doing a great deal of good ... At about a qr. to 3, Father (outside), Mother & we five girls (inside) started for Fonthill, where we arrived (after seeing, & talking to Walter Fraser by the lake) in daylight, in evening things. After waiting about, we 4 & Mr Hilton had a practice, but Mr Lightfoot didn't come in time. The pieces were 'Tom, Tom the piper's son' & 'A thumping legacy'. Seymour was a pig in the 1st, & was very good. Both pieces were very good. I sat by Capt. Dowding & Mr Hilton part of the time, & by Mr Lightfoot (instead of Mr Hilton) the rest of the time. There was a great deal of music. Miss Cooke played some pieces. We only sung [sic] 3 of the 4 glees which went very well. Beatrice sang 2 songs, & I one, & I accompanied Mr Hilton (by heart) in one & Mr Cocksedge in two. Mr Penrose, Mr Oldfield, the Towers & others were there. Capt Dowding took me in to supper, & I sat by Seymour & Violet; H Le B L was the other side of Seymour. Walter came & had a chat with me: I had a little to do with Ashton too. Walter handed me into the carriage. Mrs Turner was so grateful for the music ...

Sunday 14 December

Father heard from Reggie sending 2 tickets for concert [sic] on Monday night, & he said that Vidal had got another: he wanted us to come so much; but it could not well be managed unfortunately. Mother had a long letter from Charlie Tryon from Ceylon ... To my great delight Henry Allen presented me with his 'likeness', as we were going to church from morning school; I was pleased: he was so good in school too. Beatrice stayed with the little children. William Smith & John Scammell both asked me to write their names in their prayerbooks ...

Monday 15 December

Mai heard from Reggie. We girls spent pretty well the whole morning settling about Christmas cards. Some very pretty ones – especially packets – came from Williams; Bath, (yesterday); it is a good place ...

³⁷ 'a popular type of 19th century magic lantern show exhibiting the gradual transition from one projected image to another' - Wikipedia

Wednesday 17 December

A lovely, frosty day ... Father, Mother, Beatrice & Ella left soon after 10 for Fonthill Bishop, for the church opening. Father preached. H Le B L was there amongst others. I wrote my Sunday lesson & chose the hymns. Reggie arrived safely from Winchester. Helped him unpack. Put lunch off till ½ past 1, & Mai & I went to Holloway & Underhill with almanacs, & also took a pot of Liebig³⁸ for Henry Allen: After lunch we all went down to the ice, & eventually, Mai, Reggie & I skated ... I did not find it a pleasant nightschool. Last time before the holiday.

Thursday 18 December

We did up Christmas cards, & wrote. We had expected Mr Lightfoot to lunch & skate; but it was a wretched morning. He appeared between 12 & 1, and stayed a few minutes or so, but not to lunch ... had some skating in the afternoon, though there was a good deal of water on the pond ...

Friday 19 December

Seymour came home from Fonthill before Father, Mother & I started by the 10.32 train for Exeter. We saw Mr Penrose for a minute at Sherborne. I did a good deal of my knitting on the journey. Arrived safely at Exeter to find Uncle Fred, Aunt Fan, Fan & Minnie at the station; Major Gillies had come by the same train as we had. Sebbie Snow³⁹ was also at the station. We drove out to Matford & had lunch. Auntie came up for a little while; also Mr Edmund Snow. Father, Mother, Fan, & I walked in to Exeter & went shopping. Father & I met Grdpapa⁴⁰. Minnie joined us later. Back to Matford. Mr Edwards was staying in the house. Cecil & Archie at home. I sang in the schoolroom. Sebbie Snow came to dinner. Rather a muddling evening, in the drawingroom, schoolroom & diningroom – (where I sang again). I was not taken with Major Gillies, but they say he is very nice, & I really had almost nothing to do with him. He is very fond of Minnie.

Saturday 20 December Wedding day of Minnie & Major Gillies

Not a bright day, but fine. After breakfast worked in the morning room. Rather before 11 I went in the Rectory carriage with Mrs Porter & Archie to St Leonard's Church. I sat in the chancel & so did they. The bridegroom & his best man, Sebbie Snow, arrived in very good time, & presently came Minnie on Uncle Fred's arm, & the 7 bridesmaids, the 4 sisters, Livy Snow, Miss Rocke, & Beatrice Porter. Father married Minnie & Major George Gillies, Mr Porter helping a little. There were 2 hymns, but not many people sang, as they had not hymn books. The organist played the wedding march very well. Back to Matford to hang about till the breakfast was ready. I did some packing. Snow connections mustered strong. I wasn't introduced to the groomsmen, so felt specially out of it in the schoolroom with some of them

³⁸ Liebig's meat extract is a molasses-like black spread packaged in an opaque white glass bottle - Wikipedia

³⁹ Probably Sebastian Cousens Snow 1856-1939, banker

⁴⁰ Presumably Robert's father John Milford, banker

& the bridesmaids. I sat by Mrs Snow & Mr Edwards; the latter was very pleasant. Very few speeches. Major & Mrs Gillies were very cool & collected. In the course of the afternoon I played some sets of tennis with Mr Edwards. The 'happy pair' left amid showers of rice, & other people gradually drove away. Mr Edwards & I finished our set of tennis, & then played with him v. Fan & Father, & Fan &?, & beat them. Indoors Mr Edwards most kindly brought me up some hot water. We most of us had a little sociable tea in the schoolroom, & then Father & I drove off to the station & came home. Train very late. Found Lionel, & all the others safely at home ...

Sunday 21 December

... The day of Alan's ordination, at Lincoln ... In the afternoon I had an addition to my class, in the shape of Wilberforce Snook, who was very good. Henry Snook came to, and was in Mother's class (which Tanswell was taking). The hall was littered with holly etc, so we had to girls to change their books in the room: A nice congregation in the evening, and afterwards (though we had to wait first during a Christening) we had a practice. Did some of my Christmas Day lesson.

Monday 22 December

... Beatrice & I worked at household business. Managed to do some decoration work in the course of the morning. In the course of the afternoon 4 Bayleys, 2 Crosses, Hannah, & Winnie, came to help in the decorations ... I sat on the stairs, first with Patty, & then with Emma Bayley, to help me, tying on wreaths on the battens for the arches. Tea for the workers between 4 & 5. We 3, Father, & Lionel started about 5 or so for Tisbury to help at a Temperance meeting. We 1st at [sic] tea at Mr Penrose's (by invitation); I poured out tea. Mr Crick came in later. J P showed us his workshop, & then went on to the school We were shocked to hear (through the paper) of the sudden death of Bishop Utterton⁴¹. The CETS meeting, at least Entertainment, went off very well, but it was badly attended ...

Tuesday 23 December

Father and Bobbie went in to Salisbury by the usual train, 9.45. By degrees during the day various children came, bringing strings of leaves & berries, & (some of them) devices, for the church. Gussie brought a lovely cross. Tilly Flower brought some things too, though she was not asked (in school) like the others. Worked at decorations, tying on wreaths to the battens, up in the Bishop's room. In the afternoon the 4 Bayleys, 2 Crosses, Hannah Shute, & Amy Tanswell, came up to help, & were very useful. Mother told us the news that Emma has a daughter, born yesterday. We had tea together – we workers, Mother, & finally Bobbie – in the schoolroom, & then set to work again afterwards. Beatrice help for me, & I finished tying onto the last batten after dinner in the evening. We did our Christmas Day lessons.

⁴¹ First Suffragan Bishop of Guildford, succeeded by Grace's uncle George Sumner

Wednesday 24 December

A good many Christmas cards came ... finished the church decorations in splendid time. Some of us got evergreens for the house. We all, except Father, had tea up in the nursery; we decorated the house until nearly dinner time. Afterwards some carol singers came, Widow Feltham, Aggie & William Lampard, & George & John Woodley. Then Bobbie & Reggie came round as carol singers, & quite took in the maids, who were highly amused when they found out. (We sent some cards to the Children's Hip disease Hospital) James Lampard, & Frank Beale came with concertina & accordion.

Thursday 25 December

The bells in the morning were lovely. Looked over Xmas lessons in bed. We had the most delightful pile of presents & cards on our plates in the morning. I had Robertson's Life & letters from Father & Mother, 'Hypatia' (a 2nd copy of his own) from Lionel, a globe Shakespeare from Lionel & Bobbie, 'Rose Idylls' from Reggie, & a sort of bag, basket, for work, from Violet ... I had a nice school for a wonder (on Christmas Day): 8 boys came. I gave them each a card. A nice congregation, a number of boys. We 4 girls went to take Mary Tanswell some dinner in the afternoon, & also paid Holmes a visit ... Not so good a congregation in the evening ... We had 'Come unto me ye weary' ... I sat over our fire working till very late (muffatees).

Friday 26 December

Violet's birthday, 7

Father went off very early to Leatherhead to the funeral of Bishop Utterton. Violet had some nice books etc. Worked hard at the last of my muffatees. The letters were very late. I had cards from WJT (he sent to us 5 girls & Humphrey), Aggie, & Fräulein ... The Christmas tree came, & after lunch (after finishing my work at least) we set to work at candles etc. Mother & the 2 little ones went to West Knoyle. Hindon band came. Finished the tree, & the study was got ready. Between ½ past 6 & 7 all the boys came (except Gulliver who wasn't well), & trooped into the servants' hall, where they had a good tea. I poured out coffee – which only a few took - & Beatrice tea. As soon as tea was over we adjourned to the study, where a game of post began, which lasted a good while, & was most successful; I read out, & B E M V & Bobbie played. The boys (brothers) & I lighted the tree & after the maids had seen it, we had the boys in. They were delighted with their presents & certainly we did give them good ones. Bill, Tom & Harry Sanger had desks, William, James & Frank 'Pilgrim's Progress'es, & so on. All had muffettees: Bill, George Flower, Frank, & William Ford fell to my lot to make for: the boys were very pleased with them. There were lots of crackers & all had one or more with luggage, which made great fun. Mother came just at the last. Altogether it went off splendidly & I am sure all enjoyed themselves.

Saturday 27 December

... There was ... a letter from Miss Pearson thanking for the cards we sent to the children in the Hip disease Hospital. Beatrice & I between us gave Seymour dictation. We worked at our

Sunday lessons ... Beatrice, Ella, & Mai did the three graves. I arranged the flowers indoors when they brought some in. Actually had time to sit down comfortably & read a story.

Sunday 29 December

...I had to take Seymour out of morning church, as he felt very faint, but I came back after establishing him comfortably on his bed, & dosing him ...

Monday 29 December

A nice account from Uncle George to Uncle John of an ordination at Farnham. A note came from Mother from Mr Hilton, asking if one of her sons sang bass, wanting help in some glees on Tuesday: he made 2 mistakes in his note, so Lionel walked down to Semley to know what to sing (in a book sent) etc: we 4 went part of the way, Ella & Mai turning back before Beatrice & I did; Lionel was driven some little way in the pony cart ...

Tuesday 30 December

Mr Lightfoot's birthday

A very showery day with a high wind. Did not go out. Mother heard from Laura that St John can come to us for the Starkys' dance ... Lionel came home from Semley between ½ past 10 & ½ past 11. What he sang at was an entertainment – by invitation – for the farmers.

Wednesday 31 December

A very wet day, so stayed indoors as we did yesterday. Sent cards to WJT & to Avice ... Lionel went in to Salisbury in the morning, coming out by the 3.23 train. I wrote letters. ... In the afternoon I tried to make a small balloon from very badly given instructions. Added up our letters received and written – Beatrice & I - ; Reggie helped Beatrice, & later Bobbie helped me. Lionel, Beatrice, Ella, Bobbie, Mai, Reggie & I sat up round Lionel's fire to hear the bells ring out the old, & ring in the new year. We read the 89th, 90th, & 103rd Psalms together, verse by verse. Listened to the bells. We didn't hear the clock strike though I opened the window.

Village statistics for 1879

Births

19

Marriages

6

Deaths

22

Letters

Received

171

Written

221

110 more written than received