

Extracts from the diary of Grace Mackarness

1890



Cuthbert, the fourth child of Grace and Charles Mackarness, was born in April of this year.

March 1890 sees the first mention of Dr Frank Godfrey, whose eldest daughter Eileen (born 1888) would become Cuthbert's wife.

In August, Grace went on a trip to Switzerland with her parents, brothers and sisters.

Photo: Margot, Hugh and Elfie Mackarness, aged about 7, 5 and 3.

Note: Most extracts from this diary are relatively short, with more routine and repetitive sections—going to church, paying visits, 'putting out the stores', 'paying the books' etc. — omitted.

Tuesday 7 January

Everybody turned out very early, & Mr Swayne came in to say goodbye. At 8 o'clock the omnibus took the whole family & Laura, Lucy, & Alice* to the station, where we started by the 8.20 train for Knoyle — Alice for her home. Frank Haverfield came with us as far as York. When we got to King's X we parted with Alice & drove in an omnibus to Waterloo: later we had a nice walk on to the Embankment. Tea at the station & then down to Semley by the 5 o'clock by the 5 o'clock express. We arrived soon after 7.42, & found carriage & cart to meet us: & so to the dear old Rectory. Father, Mother, Beatrice, Seymour & Humphrey to greet us, & Mai in her room with a cold.



* maids and/or nannies

Beatrice Milford, Grace's sister

Thursday 16 January

Mother & Conny went to Bath for the day. Margaret & Hugh painted in the schoolroom after I had given them their Bible teaching. Seymour left after an early luncheon. Two of the Lewis boys came over from Fonthill & a vigorous game of hockey went on on the gravel. I sat on the porch & watched & also went up to the upper greenhouse where Father was.

Tuesday 21 January X Theodore's birthday

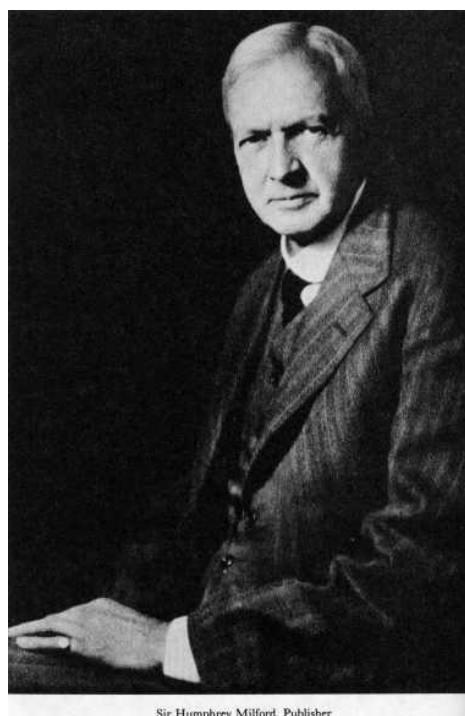
Humphrey, Margot & Hugh (under Mai's & Violet's guidance) did some tableaux in the schoolroom very prettily to us all & the maids – 'Old King Cole' & 'The Queen of Hearts'.

Wednesday 22 January

I read hard for a good part of the day a novel by Miss Whitby 'The awakening of Mary Fenwick'. The children were driven in by the rain in the morning Humphrey* showed a magic lantern in the schoolroom to some of us, but it was rather a failure. Tea & games. Music after the Grosvenors left. Games in the evening.

Margaret was not well, & stayed indoors all day. I went round to ask Aunt Jue's advice about her... I went to Dr. Taylor's, & later he came to see Margot & ordered her a hot bath &c: he thinks it is a chill and indigestion I think.

**Humphrey Milford 1887-1952, Grace's younger brother, then aged 12. This photo was taken during his time at the Oxford University Press*



Sir Humphrey Milford, Publisher

Thursday 23 January

By the 12.53 we left for Sandhurst, Humphrey travelling with us as far as Farnborough, on his way back to school. At Farnborough we got out, & drove from there to Sandhurst, where Nellie* welcomed us. We enjoyed our visit to Knole immensely. Tea, letters, unpacking. The children came down for some time before they went to bed. A quiet evening, just Randal & Nell & us two.

** Charlie's sister*

Friday 31 January

Randal went to school. About 20 minutes to 10 we all left Sandhurs, driving to Wokingham, to catch the 10.40, thereby saving a change. At Vauxhall Laura left us, for a holiday. From Waterloo we drove in an omnibus (ordered before) to King's Cross, where we had luncheon & left at 1.30. The children were very good. Tea at York, & then on to Scarborough arriving at 7.35. All nice & clean at home. Lucy & I got the children to bed by about 8.30. Mr Swayne came in while we were at dinner. I slept in the night nursery, & had a good crying fit from Elfie about 2-3 am, wanting Laura & then to come into my bed, which I refused.

Tuesday 11 February

We were very sorry to hear from Mrs Horwood that Arthur Maggs is dead of typhoid fever, his father & Lizzie having died of it too, all within a few weeks ... Dear Margot was pronounced going on well by Dr Taylor: I stayed with her both morning & afternoon when the other two went out.

Wednesday 12 February

I went into the town & got Margot some grapes, paid a call, & had tea with Mrs. Cuff. Margot seemed so weak and drowsy that Charlie – before going to practice – went for Dr. Taylor again. He found her no worse & did not seem surprised at her weakness, but he was very kind.

Monday 17 February

Dear Margot brought back both the milk & mutton broth she took, but kept down the other food she took in the day.

Tuesday 18 February

Dr Taylor came & found Margot's pulse not strong, but her temperature normal: she first had influenza & then continued fever, but now there was only weakness. He sent her quinine, which I hope will suit & strengthen her. In the afternoon Aunt Jue & Emmy came to see Margot. I read to her & showed her pictures. Soon after 4 I went to a big tea party at the Stebles'. I had Hugh & Elfie down, & then sat a little with Margot. Charlie had a boys class. Mother sent Margot a book.

Friday 28 February

Snow on the ground when we woke in the morning, & there were a good many snow showers during the day. Dr Taylor found Margot going on all right, & she was brighter & better during the day, though only up for a short time. I read to her. Litany at 12, a visit to the Lodge, where Aunt Jue took a most depressing view of the 3 children in general, & then to the Bank.

Sunday 2 March

Our dear Margot had a good day, & was bright & better. Dr Taylor brought Dr Godfrey with him (by my wish) & he thoroughly examined Margot & found no lung or chest mischief. He said she had not so great recuperative power as some children, but she is not in any danger. It is a case of atony i.e. want of tone.

Tuesday 4 March

I went to the Bank, paid the books in South St, & spent 10/- at a sale of work at the Hutchinsons' in aid of the Friendless Girls' home.

Wednesday 12 March

A delightful day. Margot got up in the morning as well as the afternoon. I sat with her & played 'Wild goose chase' a new game just sent her with a scrap book, by Mother (C.) and Maymie.

Thursday 13 March

Mrs Artindale lent Aunt Jue her Victoria, & she & I went out in it for a very nice drive to Seamer &c.

Sunday 16 March

Charlie heard from his Mother that Arthur is to be married on April 12th!* We did not know that he thought of being married so soon.

** Ada Pattenden, Arthur Mackarness' first wife, was thirteen years his senior and had an illegitimate son, Thomas Orde-Lees, later a member of Shackleton's Antarctic expedition (see Wikipedia entry for Orde-Lees). It is not known if Arthur's family knew about Ada's past.*

Tuesday 18 March

To our joy and thankfulness our dear Margot was able to have her first outing, in a Bath chair, between 11 & 12 for about ¾ of an hour: I walked by her: she thoroughly enjoyed herself.

Saturday 22 March

Dr Taylor came to see Margot, & was very satisfied with her. She went out in a Bath chair about 11, & I went with her: it was lovely out. Coming back from the gardens at the end of the Esplanade I sent away the chair about opposite Esplanade Gardens, & from there she walked home.

Saturday 29 March

Elfie's birthday . 3

Elfie had numbers of presents: she was specially charmed with the doll we gave her. The children all went out in the garden. Charlie worked at his sermon, & I at my Sunday lesson. At 2.15 I went out for a drive to Scalby taking Margot with me, & also Clara.

Saturday 5 April

Various people arrived at intervals during the morning about the decorations, but I did not do my window this time – the Bowers did it for me. I wrote &c. I went out to do shopping, & also went in to see the decorations. In the afternoon I took the Band of Hope meeting but as only 7 children turned up I did not have a long meeting. I took Margot & Hugh to see the flowers in the Church. An Episcopal chair (from Mr Hudson) arrived for the Church. Charlie had a class of boys. Choral Evensong at 7.30, when the decorations looked lovely.

Sunday 6 April – Easter Sunday

A little damp early, but it cleared up soon & we had a fine day. Charlie took the 6 o'clock Celebration, 8, & mid-day: there was a large increase of communicants on last year, over 100 more, making over 800 (814) altogether. Charlie had time for some breakfast between the 9 o'clock Celebration (put on fresh this time) & Matins. I did not go to Church till the Choral Celebration. Easter presents, cards, & letters came yesterday & today. All 3 children came to Church for the Catechising, but Elfie talked (happily not out loud) & fidgetted! I went to the Lodge at 4.30 & Charlie later. Mr Swayne came to luncheon & supper.

Friday 11 April

Charlie had a very lengthy sitting over business with the Church wardens, & did not have his luncheon till the children & I had done... Evensong & Missionary Intercession. Charlie went to the Vestry Meeting at 7.30.

Saturday 12 April

Arthur's & Ada's wedding day

Arthur & Ada were to be married today at Gosport.

Sunday 13 April

Laura took Hugh to the Catechising, but Margot was seized with an unaccountable fit of crying, so she & I stayed at home & read aloud to her.

Monday 14 April

I sat upstairs in the nursery in the evening while Charlie had all the maids for a class. Things came on in the night so Charlie got Laura up, & went for Dr Taylor who found all going on right.

Tuesday 15 April

Telegrams were sent off to Mother & Nurse Burgess. Charlie was the greatest help & comfort. Dr Taylor came several times. About 3.30 our dear little 2nd son was born. I was delighted it was a boy. Laura attended to him. The 3 children went to tea at the Lodge, but saw Baby in my room afterwards, one by one. Telegrams were sent to the 2 homes, Ella, & Nell (Min was at Oxford). Mr Reeder took Evensong & Charlie stayed with me. Nurse Burgess arrived in the evening & proved herself a treasure.

Grace's next few diary entries are very short, just a couple of lines, and nothing appears under the 'letters written' heading until Tuesday 29th April, suggesting that she was prohibited from all activity including letter-writing for two weeks after the birth. Saturday 26 April is recorded as 'my last whole day in bed'.

Monday 21 April

Seymour got a Third in Mods, & considering the great disadvantages he had from his illnesses I think it was very good.

Friday 25 April

A glorious day. Clara went away for a change, which she sorely needed: she went to Oxford, to the Home for Incurables!

Sunday 27 April

Margot & Hughie went to the Catechising. After my rest in the afternoon I got up for the first time & rolled on to the sofa, where I stayed till they were in Church in the evening. Charlie & Mother sat upstairs with me at intervals, as they do every day.

Monday 28 April

I got up both morning & afternoon for the first time. Dr Taylor came before I was up. Maymie sent a sweet little hood for the dear boy. Charlie read aloud to me in the evening from Charles Lamb's essays.

Thursday 1 May

The day turned out fine & bright. Mrs Artindale sent me some lovely wallflowers. I spend most of the day on my sofa writing, reading &c. The children went to Mrs Fox's in the afternoon & saw the May Day procession & stayed to tea. Mother did the same at Mr Swayne's. Baby had his first outing between 2 & 2.30, in the garden, while Charlie was sitting with me. The children came to see me before doing down in the evening, as well as to say goodnight. Charlie took the Intercession Service & practice. Mother & I played Halma.

Friday 2 May

I got up in the morning & spent the day on my sofa, except during my rest in the afternoon which I had on my bed. Mother took Margot for a walk on the sands & rocks: Hugh & Elfie went out too, but not with them. Aline sent me some forget me nots. The children brought in a May garland & sang to me before going down after tea, but Elfie turned shy! Charlie took Mother for a walk. I had Baby, as I generally do, once or twice a day. Charlie was with me for a nice long time in the evening.

Sunday 4 May

Nurse went to the 7.15 Celebration, so I had Baby in my bed: he was very good. I had all my things on but my dress. The chicks went out in the garden & played about. It came on foggy later. I sat in the armchair for some time. Margot & Hugh went to the Catechising. Charlie took Aunt Jue's class. Before and after his tea he sat with me, & he also came up in the evening.

Tuesday 6 May

After my rest I went downstairs for the first time, assisted by Nurse, & was established on the sofa in the drawingroom: Mother very kindly bought a pot flower for the room... All 4 children came down ... Mother & I played Halma.

Wednesday 7 May

I had my dinner in the drawingroom & waited down till Father & Violet arrived safely. We all came up together & they came in to see Baby. Charlie slept in his dressing room, nurse having the chair bed in her room.

Thursday 8 May

The children went out twice. Father & Mother went into the town, & brought back a lovely silver cup for the dear Baby.

Saturday 10 May X Christening day of Cuthbert George Milford Mackarness

I came downstairs between 10.30 & 11. Reg & Violet gave Baby a very nice Bible & prayerbook. At about 11.30 we all went to Church, & Baby was christened: he was very good, only giving a little cry once or twice. Reg & Violet* were his godparents, & Randal, for whom Mr Swayne stood proxy. Charlie & Father took the service, Father christening him ... I went in to luncheon for the 1st time. In the afternoon Mother & I had a nice little drive. Charlie visited. The others had a walk. I rested. Nurse brought Baby down during Church time, so Reg – who was with me – decamped!

**Grace's younger brother and sister*

Tuesday 13 May

Nurse went away at 9.20, Baby going up to the nursery before she went.

Wednesday 14 May

The dear home party left by the 1.20 for Swinton, it has been so nice having them.

Thursday 15 May

I found it better to stay in bed, as getting about seemed to do me harm, so there I spent my day.

Tuesday 20 May

I got up to prayers & breakfast again for the 1st time. The day was fine, but so windy that Baby could not go out. Lady Feilden sent me some lovely lilies of the valley & a piece of salmon ... Charlie had a fisher boys' class after dinner. I read.

Wednesday 21 May

I was obliged to give Kate warning, as she does not do at all.

Thursday 22 May

A glorious day. The children went out in the the garden in some of their summer things, much to their delight. I went down the town – driving both there & back – as I absolutely had not one decent dress to put on, & I had to get one at Rowntree's. In the afternoon I had Baby for a little while: he was very sweet. I went for a lovely drive to Forge Valley in the Weag's carriage, taking Elfie with me. Evensong at 5. Mrs Lee, Aline, & Edomé called after service. I sat up in the nursery while Charlie had all the maids for their class in the evening.

Saturday 24 May

The children blew soap bubbles in the garden. Charlie worked at his sermon. I had all 4 children downstairs after luncheon, and then they went for a walk, & got some lovely bluebells on Oliver's Mount.

Wednesday 28 May

We were grieved to hear from Jess Luff that Albert Stevens is dead: it must have been rapid consumption ... I went to the Litany. Charlie had a telegram telling of Julian's dangerous illness & asking that she might be prayed for. In the afternoon I went on the sands with Lucy & the children, & the chicks were very happy digging.

Friday 30 May

The children danced when they came downstairs.

Saturday 31 May

We were grieved to hear of Julian's death.

Friday 20 June

Matins at 8.30. I had a most tempting offer from Father of going to Lucerne with the family party, he franking me!* I could not make up my mind. Charlie can't go, & I hate leaving him, not to speak of the children.

**Franking, ie paying for*

Monday 23 June

I got through a good deal of my packing before breakfast ... Mr Swayne came, & drove to the station with us as he wanted to go into the town. We left at 10.45 for London & had an uneventful journey. We saw Mr McNaught at King's X. We then went to Willis' Organ Works to see about the organ, & were shown various parts of it. Then back to King's X for our luggage & finally to Wetherby Place. Maymie was in command (Min being abroad), she was very sad, as Dr Coleridge her brother was dying. Nell & Randal came for the night to Baily's Hotel & came to dinner: Charlie, B & Randal sat out in the garden after dinner.

Tuesday 24 June

I much enjoyed the Academy, though it is always rather tiring ... Charlie went to the Natural History Museum in the afternoon, but I stayed in. We left by the 4.42 from Paddington & got safely to Oxford.

Wednesday 25 June

Fine & warm. Aunt Carrie came in after breakfast. Charlie & I went in to the town about 10.30, & I went into the Undergraduates' Gallery of the Theatre for the Encaenia, Charlie getting a cap & gown & going into the Area. Stanley the African explorer had a degree given him amongst other people. The Theatre was very full.

Friday 4 July

I went to the Church with Charlie to see the reredos, which had been unpacked. Then I went to Mr Browne Mason's & had a tooth stopped: by that time it was raining fast, & I had to have a cab to go into the town & then home.

Saturday 5 July

Evensong, & then a special – very nice – service to dedicate the beautiful reredos, put up in memory of Mr Parr.

The reredos screen in St Martin's today



Tuesday 8 July

There were some sharp storms in the morning & we trembled for the GFS* Festival, however it cleared up and we had a beautiful afternoon. Service was at about 2.15, & after that at about 2.45 we started for the Falcon Inn, Whitby Moor, in 2 carriages, a party of 25 –



19 members & 6 Associates – Annie, Alice, & Lucy went from our house. We had a nice ramble on the moor before tea at the inn (a very good tea). & another afterwards, starting home again about 7.30, laden with flowers, & getting back soon after 9 after a most successful treat.

The Falcon Inn today

** Girls Friendly Society*

Wednesday 9 July

Katie came in to ask me to chaperon her & Miss Madison to the Theatre in the evening. I went to the Litany, & afterwards to Aunt Jue's. In the afternoon, I paid calls, & then went to tea with Mrs Hudson, getting in to Church for part of Evensong ... I went to the Loudesborough with Katie & her friend to see 'A pair of spectacles': it had been recommended as nice, but there was a scene with a drunken man in, as well as other things which were not nice, so the expedition was not a success.

Friday 11 July

We were delighted to get a telegram to say that Humphrey had got in to Winchester 5th on the Roll!! I sent a congratulatory telegram later.

Monday 14 July

Charlie had a private Celebration & also a funeral, but happily got to the station in good time before we started for Ganton for the C.E.T.S. * Excursion by the 1.27. Mr Vincent & I had our luncheon first,

but I took sandwiches for Charlie. We were a party of rather over 80. Sir Charles Legard's grounds were thrown open to us & we went all about in the course of the afternoon, gardens, greenhouses &c. Cricket & other games went on. Charlie had a fall at cricket & hurt his hand. Lady Legard was very friendly & kind. Excellent tea in the school provided by Rose. Maude Shore's foot was knocked by a cricket ball. The 9.15 train was late, & we had an engine which didn't work properly, so we were late home, & we 3 were not in till between 10.30 & 10.40. A very successful day.

**CETS – probably the Church of England Temperance Society*

Wednesday 16 July

Dr Taylor came & vaccinated Baby: I did not stay in the room as I was just going out, but he was down before I was gone any distance & said Baby did not even whimper. I took the other 3 chicks down on the sands – with Lucy.

Friday 18 July

Mary's Mother had spoken to me last night about the way she was treated &c, so I had to speak to all 3 downstairs servants & did not have a choice morning. Miss Sitwell called to ask me to be Secretary to the Union of Associates for the care of girls & young women: she was very nice.

Tuesday 22 July

Charlie's birthday – 40

Charlie had a nice lot of presents & letters: the children gave him a picture & I a stick.

Wednesday 23 July

Charlie & I went to an interesting lecture at the Town Hall at 8 on the Acropolis at Athens, by Mr Grant, with Magic Lantern: followed by the giving of prizes & certificates in connection with the Univ. Ext. Scheme by the Bishop of Beverly. Charlie proposed the vote of thanks.

Thursday 24 July

Poor dear Baby's arm was very bad, & he had a rash, probably caused by it. I had him up in the nursery. In the afternoon Charlie & I went into the town together & he changed the stick I gave him for another ... Alice told Charlie she wanted to stay.

Wednesday 30 July

Aunt Jue & I had a good long harp & piano practice. Mrs Artindale came in & brought flowers, & was most anxious to do anything, eventually sending strawberries, peaches, & potted lobster for sandwiches. Aunt Jue & I went to Lady Sitwell's bazaar for the King's Cliff Hospital in the afternoon.

Sunday 3 July

Margot, Hughie, & I went to the Catechising, & Hugh made several answers, much to his own confusion. Tea in the garden The children's canary was taken ill, & in spite of doctoring died in the night.

Monday 4 July

I paid one call, & then came into the garden with Elfie & Baby before taking Margot & Hugh for a picnic [sic] got up by Mrs Wormald. We went to the Quarry on Olivr's Mt. & had it there – a party of 15: it was very nice & the chicks much enjoyed themselves ... we sent all the maids to see the fireworks in the evening. Hugh was awake so we had him up to see a good many. Charlie & I sat out late.

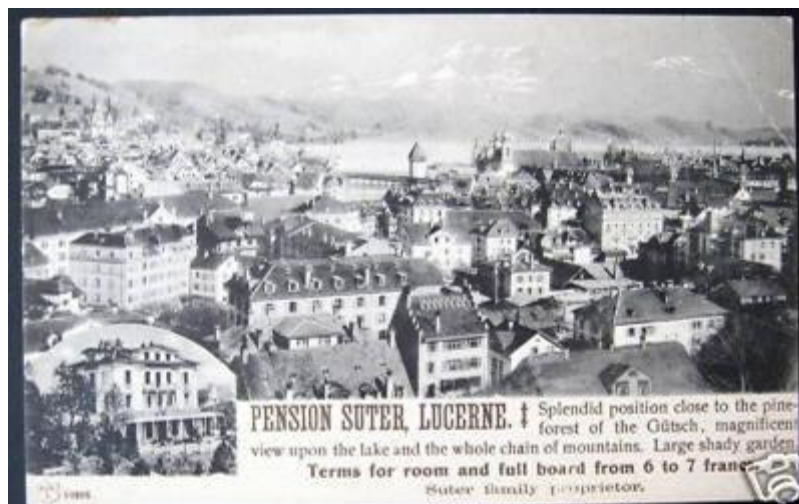
Monday 18 August

I went to Matins at 8.30. Packing &c. Goodbye to my darlings, & finally off by the 10.45 train to Kings' X on my way to Lucerne: my beloved husband saw me off – we found it sad work parting from each other. An uneventful journey in a ladies' carriage brought me to Kings' X where Harris met me, & came with me to Victoria, where I sent off a p.c. to Charlie. After some time I was joined by Hermann and Ella*. We dined & left at 8.15 for Dover, crossing by night to Calais, where we arrived in a thunderstorm. Ella & I lay down on the boat & were not ill (nor was H. On deck). On by train through the night.

**Grace's brother-in-law and sister*

Tuesday 19 August

In the small hours of the morning – between 5 & 6 we got to Reims & were glad of a wash & some breakfast. Ella left 3 of her rings there! On throughout the day till we got to Bâle [sic] between 5 & 6. There we went to the Dom Kirche but did not get in except to the cloisters. I sent my second postcard to Charlie. Dinner & finally on to Lucerne during incessant lightning, arriving between 10 & 10.30. A very steep drive brought us up to Pension Suter where we were welcomed by the entire family, & were not sorry for tea & bed. Beatrice & I shared a room on the ground floor.



Wednesday 20 August

Breakfast in the salle à manger. The entire family except Father, Mother, & Hermann, went down to the baths: it was great fun us 5 sisters all bathing together. Rainy as we came back. In the afternoon wrote, rested, and attempted a little sketching. Ella, Violet, & I had a short stroll before the evening

meal at 7. Some of the boys went to a feeble piece at the Theatre in the evening. Chat. Finally games in the saloon. Showers.

Thursday 21 August

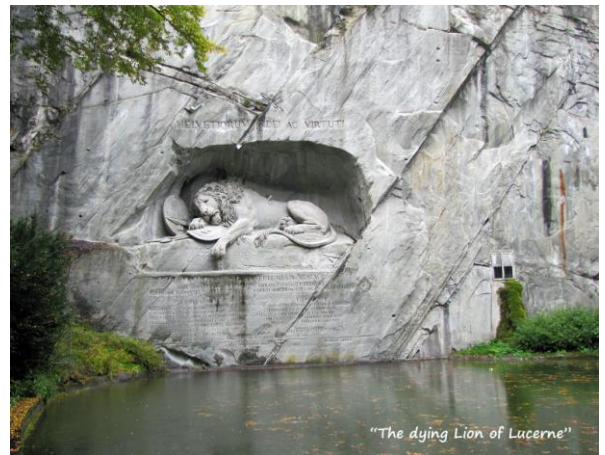
Ella went off at an early hour to Ennenda for one night to stay with Marie. Father, Lionel, Beatrice, Theodore, Hermann & I went to Flüchen by steamer down the Lake: there we had something to eat & walked back to Tellsblatte, a lovely walk by the side of the lake. The whole lake with its surroundings is most beautiful. We took the boat again at Tellsblatte & so back to Lucerne. The rest of the party except Mother went up the Burgenstock. We had only about 1 shower till after we came back. I found a sweet letter from my darling. We sang glees, rounds &c in the evening.

Friday 22 August

A lovely day. Hermann & Reg started early for Andermatt to see if it wd do for us all to there. All the rest of us but Mother & Mai started by the 7.45 boat for Weggis & from there proceeded to walk up the Rigi. Father got very done, & finally he Beatrice & I got into the railway at Kaltbad about 2 thirds of the way up, though the others did it all on foot. We had lovely views going up & at the top. Father came down by train & home by the 3.25 boat: we all walked down & came by the 4.40 boat on which were Hermann & Reg. Lionel, Seymour & Hup ran down part of the way, but just missed the 3.25 boat. Safely back after a very nice expedition, very tired. Music & games. Ella came back from Marie's. Beautiful weather. I had a bad blister on my foot.

Saturday 23 August

Another lovely day. We all (but Father) went down into the town, & most of us bathed. Shopping. Theodore, Violet, & I went to see the Lion, which is beautiful. In the afternoon rested and read, & then most of us went down the town and shopped. Mother bought a sort of portmanteau in which the things were taken back to Pension Suter. Most of us went to the Cathedral & heard an organ recital on the fine organ, which we much enjoyed. Theodore, Reg, Seymour, & Hermann went to a Bierhalle to hear the music. It came on to rain. We sisters sang a little in the salon.



Sunday 24 August

A wet morning. Lionel & I went to the 7.45 Celebration at the English Church: there was a nice number of people there. North end, & no notice taken of the Saint's Day. Some of the party went to Matins at 11 at the English Church, & some to the Sonnenberg, but I stayed at home because of the blister on my foot. I wrote letters & read. It cleared up in the afternoon and several of us sat out in the summerhouse & read &c. It came on to rain again before 5 o'clock, at which time the service was held in the English Church: we all went but Reg who made his having no umbrella or mackintosh his excuse. In the evening we all (except Father & Mother) sat in the summerhouse in the dark & sang hymns.

Monday 25 August

Some of the party were to have gone up Pilatus, starting very early, but did not go on account of the pouring rain, which went on the whole day. I had a postcard from Charlie's Mother, but no letter from my dear husband himself. A long morning spent mostly in reading. Just a little while before luncheon Reg, & then Theodore, drilled a number of us in the verandah. In the afternoon most of us went into the town in divisions: Father, Mai, & I were together. Mother brewed afternoon tea in the salon which was most acceptable. In the evening we 11 sang in the salle à manger, ending with Auld Lang Syne in which the listeners joined.

Tuesday 26 August

A beautiful day after yesterday's rain. Up in good time for finishing up packing & for writing to my dear Charlie, whom I also heard from all right. Farewell to Pension Suter & off before 10.30 – all 13 of us – by the train en route for Andermatt. A most lovely line. Arriving at Göschen we all of us (except Father, Mother & Mai) started to walk to Andermatt, & had a beautiful walk. We met Mr Clayton of Oxford at the entrance of the village. A very nice hotel – the Grant - : we all had some tea eventually & then arranged our rooms. We were charmed with the place. There was a billiard room, which was a resource for the gentlemen. A very small 'Damensaal'. 'Halma' etc. Very cold.

Wednesday 27 August

Part of the day was bright and pleasant. We sisters roamed up on to the opposite hill, where Ella & Violet sketched & the rest of us read. Luncheon at 12.30, & then all the brothers – including Hermann - & Beatrice, Violet, & I started for the S. Anna glacier. We had a good climb (with a guide), but Beatrice & I found we could not manage the whole, so Hermann most kindly turned back with us, & the rest went on. We got back about 5.45, the others not till rather after 6.30. Reading, Halmas, & a 4 ladies' game of billiards in the evening. I wrote to Charlie after I came up to bed. The organ was to be opened at S. Martin's: Dr Talbot failed through illness, so his senior curate was to come.

Thursday 28 August

The brothers (all but Hup) & Hermann started early for the Furka & we were to follow at 8, but it came on to rain so they came back & stopped in. However it cleared up, & we started about 9. On the way we met Randal, Nell, & Katie, also driving, down to Goeschenen on their way to Monte Generosa: we stopped for a few minutes. A tremendous pull up the Furka Pass: Father walked, & arrived before we did at the hotel on the top. Fine part of the way, but the rest rainy & misty. It was very cold up there. Luncheon at the hotel (we brought food), & then most of us when to see the Rhône Glacier which is perfectly lovely. Theodore drove home with us. I had a sort of note from Nell saying they wd come & see us next morning. Mai stayed upstairs in the evening. I had a p.c. from Mother (C.)

Friday 29 August

A steady downpour. The family dropped in to breakfast at intervals, all but Mai who stayed in bed. Sat upstairs in her room & Ella's & wrote &c. Mother & Beatrice went to call on some people called Scott at the Bellevue Hotel, but most of us stayed indoors. Nell & Katie could not up [sic] from

Goeschenen because of the weather, but Randal walked up in the afternoon & stayed for a time. Billiards, reading &c. I read to Mai after dinner in the evening for a while. & she, Violet & I & eventually Ella, Played Yes No. Reg & Seymour came into Beatrice's & my room & talked till late. The rain turned to snow.

Saturday 30 August

A white world when we got up in the morning. Ella had a telegram to say that Marie had a little son. Wrote up in Mai's room: she was up, but did not come down. The day turned out lovely & the snow thawed gradually. Billiards before & after luncheon. Father & Mother went out in Andermatt. The rest of us, all but Mai, went for a lovely walk to Oberalp through the snow: we got wet but thoroughly enjoyed our walk – about 10 miles altogether. Part of the way we took splendid short cuts through the snow.

Sunday 31 August

We all (but, of course, Humphrey) went to the 8 o'clock Celebration at the Bellevue Hotel, taken by Mr Price, one of Mr Clayton's curates: a very different service to last Sunday – cross, lights, & E. P. Unfortunately Violet did not feel well & had to come out. Afterwards Mr Price asked Mother if any lady of the party wd play the harmonium for service, so I promised to. We as a family chose the hymns & chants, & I went on early (& Beatrice) to try the harmonium &c. A very nice, hearty service, & very good practical sermon. The afternoon turned out very wet & snowy, so Hermann kindly went to the Bellevue & said we could not come to Evensong & fetched my books, & we had a nice service in our salon instead, taken by Father. We had some music in the evening.

Monday 1 September

Steadily snowing all day long. Violet was not well in the night, and did not come down till luncheon time. Wrote. Sat in Ella's room and worked. Luncheon at 12.30 as usual here. Afterwards Lionel, Hup, and I sallied forth in spite of the weather & spent some time in choosing photographs. Back again to reading and games of billiards. Then I did a good deal of my packing. In the evening we sang glees in the hall, & then acted some tableaux, much to the interest of the people in the hotel, including a pleasant Swiss officer. Early upstairs.

Tuesday 2 September

Finished off our packing. Billiards for the last time. Luncheon early, & at about 12.45 we started for Gresschenen in two omnibuses, M. & Mme. D'Ambrosis – Italian husband & English wife – going with us. They left first, for Italy. We had some time to wait, & it was cold. Off at last, the snow disappearing en route except on the mountains. We had to change carriages at Lucerne, & at Basle had some time to wait for our train. There I came across Mr Houblon: he travelled with some of the party all night. We ladies & Hup travelled together at night – we had not a good carriage – 2nd. At Laon we had time for a hasty breakfast, & then on to Amiens, where we arrived about 8.35.

Wednesday 3 September

We went to the Hotel du Rhin, a very nice place. We ladies were glad of a wash & rest. Beatrice & I again shared a room. Déjeuner à la fourchette at 12. It was nice to come into warm weather again.

Strolled in the garden a little. A good many of us went to see the Cathedral together, a very fine building. A little shopping. Another rest before table d'hôte at 6.30. In the evening wrote.

Thursday 4 September

My birthday 34

Soon after breakfast we got ready & all went to the station, leaving for England between 10 & 11. Who should we come across at Calais but Clara! She was on the way home to England with her friend Mrs Bailward. We had to wait an hour or more longer than we ought to have done for the Paris train, as there had been a railway accident. A steady crossing, & none of us was ill. Ella & I lay down in the saloon, & Clara too part of the while. Arrived, late, in London – Charing X – it took some time to collect the luggage & have it examined, but in time we all got safely to the Temple Hotel, Arundel St, Strand, W. C. (the Arundel Hotel being full). I was headachy and done, & glad to get to bed early. (Beatrice gave me a dear little hand glass from Ober Ammergau.)

Friday 5 September

Theodore, Reg, Seymour, Violet, & Hup left for home between 10 & 11 ... We went to the National Gallery, & were gradually re-inforced by the rest of the party, except Mother. About 1 we went to a shop & had something to eat & then joined Mother at the hotel. She & Father gave me a lovely silk rug & H & E a delightful aircushion. The rest to the home party left by the 2... train. Wrote. Shopping in the afternoon. We dined at the Cavour Restaurant & then went to see 'Judah', at the Shaftesbury Theatre, a very powerful play which we enjoyed immensely. I had toothache in the night.

Saturday 6 September

Hermann, Ella, & I left by the 10.25 from King's X for Scarborough, & had an uneventful journey, except that we were shunted in a most aggravating manner at York & Seamer. My dear husband was on the platform to meet us, & we were glad to be together again. We found the dear children all well & delighted to have me back. Mother & Daisy were glad to see me too, & Aunt Jue who came in later. Miss Warren & Lady Helen Craven came in before dinner. Unpacking.

Tuesday 16 September

It was the day of dear old Humphrey's going to Winchester (Father & Hermann were going with him), & also the 1st anniversary of Charlie's dear Father's death. The children all went on the sands and were not home till late. I went to Mr Browne Mason's in the afternoon & had a tooth stopped ... After Church Nellie Craven & Elma Bruce came in & we played cricket in the garden with the chicks.

Tuesday 30 September

Charlie & I left at 8.30 for Hull for the Church Congress. We went to the service at Holy Trinity, where the Bishop of Manchester preached: there was a crowded congregation. Service began at 11 & lasted till nearly – or quite – 1. At 2 the 1st Congress Meeting began at Hengler's Circus: the Bishop of Durham (Dr Westcott) presided in the absence of the Archbishop through illness: he made a very good opening speech. The Wesleyan & then the other Nonconformist ministers gave addresses of welcome. 'Church & State' was the 1st subject, opened by a paper from Bishop Barry.

Wednesday 1 October

Off again to the Congress at 8.30 ... We went again to Hengler's Circus, & heard various speakers – Lord Nelson &c – on 'Home Reunion'. Then we went to the Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition, which was very interesting ... At the Public Rooms we went into the speakers' room & had a little talk with Uncle George & Aunt Mary*: we had only seen them on the platform before. Aunt Mary read a very good paper on the Mothers' Union ...

** George Sumner, Bishop of Guildford, and his wife Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union*

Wednesday 15 October

Some wind & a little rain, but it turned out fine ... The children all went out & saw from the Esplanade the Channel Fleet, which arrived in the morning. We had Baby in the study before luncheon. In the afternoon Annie & Alice went to see one of the ships, & went over it. Charlie had a funeral & then his girls' class. I paid calls. Laura was not well, & went to bed early, so after Evensong I undressed Baby, & superintended the others going to bed. I had Baby again after dinner & put him to sleep. Mr Hankey came in about 10 o'clock, & smoked with Charlie after prayers.

Thursday 16 October

Laura was to have gone with the Humes' Nurse and Cook to see the Fleet, but the rough weather put a stop to it, people not being allowed to go on board the ships.

Thursday 17 October

Clara came in soon after 10 & she, we, & Mrs D Waterhouse went to the Town Hall to help entertain the sailors who were to sleep there. Some of them were pretty noisy. I did some accompanying – sailors &c – but did not sing a solo – nor did Charlie. Talked to some of the men. Home rather before 12.30. Lord Londesborough sent us a lot of game.

Tuesday 21 October

My red dressing gown arrived, beautifully done up by Ella, & also a green dress of her's which will make up for Margot & Elfie.

Saturday 25 October

In the afternoon Baby went out for the first time in the perambulator.

Friday 7 November

By 7 o'clock we were at the Circus at a large political meeting, at which Mr John Morley, Mr H Harrison MP for Tipperary &c spoke: Mr Rowntree presided. It was very interesting ... Mrs Purnell died ...

Wednesday 19 November

Mr Swayne & I went to the Coffee House – Sandside – to help in an Entertainment for the opening night of the Girls' Club ... It went off well, but the girls are pretty rough. Back by 9.30. Charlie had the maids (except Laura) for a class.

Thursday 20 November

A busy time of packing &c. Mr Swayne came in to see us. Finally Charlie and I started at 10.45 for Aylesbury: we escorted a girl named Ellen Hewett – who had been at the Refuge – as far as York, & there gave her into the charge of a York nurse & saw them into the train for Derby. We had a great many changes, but finally reached Aylesbury* by the 7.12 train ... it was very pleasant seeing so many old friends.

**Charlie had been vicar at St John's Church in Aylesbury until 1888*

Sunday 23 November

Charlie & I went to the 8 o'clock Celebration, which he took, assisted by Mr Storey. Mr Munn was away, & the Vicar had a relaxed throat. Matins at 11 when Charlie preached a beautiful sermon on 'Then shall I know' &c. ... A nice Sunday, but the services don't come up to S Martin's.

Monday 24 November

Arrived at Oxford we drove to 1 Canterbury Rd, after tea we & Daisy went to Evensong at ChristChurch: the singing was lovely. Then we called on the Inces before going home. Seymour came to dinner. Music in the evening.

Wednesday 26 November

We left in a snow storm, but it soon stopped. We reached Paddington about 5.30 & drove to 8 Wetherby Place, where we found Min & the children. Bernard came in later, & Freddie came to dinner. * Chat in the evening.

** Charlie's sister Mary, her husband Bernard (later Baron) Coleridge, who was then Liberal MP for Sheffield Attercliffe, and brother Frederic Mackarness (later Liberal MP for Newbury)*

Thursday 27 November

A very cold day with attempts at snow on & off. Charlie wrote letter &c, & worked at his sermon. I wrote. Before luncheon Min & I went down to Knightsbridge & did some shopping. Charlie & I made a vain attempt to see Beatrice Monson in the afternoon & then went to S. Paul's for Evensong & met Mai (by appointment): she was staying with the Bradbys. We had some chocolate &c afterwards, & separated at the Mansion House station. I went back alone. We dined early, & B & we 2 went to see 'Ravenswood' at the Lyceum, which we enjoyed immensely. I don't care for Irving*, though.

**Acclaimed actor Henry Irving, 1838-1905*

Friday 28 November

Foggy & snowy. Charlie & B had a pipe over the fire before the latter went off to his work. Packing. We went out to get presents for the chicks &c: it was very slippery & I nearly came down twice. We left by the 12.30 Metropolitan train for King's X, & from there by the 1.30 for Scarborough, after a very pleasant little holiday. A cold journey, but mitigated by a rug & hot water tins. Tea at York, & back by the 7.35 to find all well. Baby was awake, but we did not see the other still after prayers.

Monday 1 December

We dined early & drove to Wheatcroft for the Temperance Meeting (Entertainment) taking Mr Swayne & 2 of the maids. Mr Reeder spoke. I sang 'Across the river' & accompanied Mr Swayne. A good audience.

Tuesday 2 December

Lucy Thompson & one of her cousins came & brought a delightful old dolls' dinner & dessert set for the children, which had belonged to the Thompsons. The children went to the Chrysanthemum Show in the afternoon, all 4 of them. Charlie had his boys classes. I had the GFS meeting: small but cheerful. Evensong. Mr Benson Browne (a possible curate) arrived from North Ormsby. A quiet evening.

Sunday 7 December

Margot & Elfie wore their new black velveteen frocks: Hughie was consoled for his suit not being made by wearing new red stockings!

Sunday 21 December

Elfie came to the Catechising as well as the other two (and Lucy) on the occasion of the giving of Christmas cards to all the children.

Monday 22 December

A lovely bright frosty day ... Miss Gregory came & gave all the chicks presents. The children & I stirred the Christmas pudding in the kitchen.

Thursday 25 December

Charlie helped at the 6 o'clock celebration, & was in church till after the one at 9.15: he celebrated at 7, when I was there. I looked after the chicks at 8. Present receiving on & off all day. Cold, & trying to snow, but fine part of the day. Charlie preached at 10.30 service; Margot came for the 1st time ... The Archbishop of York died: Charlie spoke of it after his sermon, & had some special prayers before the blessing ... All the children were down at dinner, though Baby only came in the course of it. Aunt Jue, Katie, Miss Levick, & Mr Swayne came to the Xmas tree & present giving. *Mr Swayne came to luncheon). Evensong & carols at 5.

Friday 26 December

X Violet's birthday

The children did their final lessons before their holidays. Matins at 10.30. Letters of thanks. I went in to the Lodge & then with Aunt Jue to see Clara. Charlie & I wanted to show the children a magic lantern (Hugh's) but it would not work. We both had tea in the nursery. As soon after 6.30 as I could I went to the school for Miss Beckwith's boys' tea: Charlie followed later. I helped in the Entertainment afterwards by playing accompaniments, & singing 2 songs. A successful evening.

Saturday 27 December

The children's first day of regular holidays. Damp, & eventually rainy ... In the afternoon Margot, Hugh, & I went with the Beckwiths (2 brothers & 1 sister) to the Aquarium to see 'Dick Whittington': Helen & George Wray came too, & Mr Austen jun.: It was a nice pantomime & the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Afterwards we went to see the seals fed, & to the very smelly monkey house. Finally back to tea at the Beckwiths'. Charlie went in the Home after dinner to read to the ladies.

Grace kept three slips of paper in her 1890 diary. One was a sketch of The Rigi in Switzerland, presumably her own; the second a transcript of part of one of Charlie's sermons; the third a newspaper cutting about a disaster in Arizona where people were swept away in a flood, after a messenger sent to warn them had got drunk and failed to deliver the message.