

## THE DIARY OF GRACE EMILY MILFORD, 1881



Grace, aged 25, lived at East Knoyle Rectory with her parents Canon Robert and Emily Milford, and five of her siblings: sisters Beatrice (23), Marion 'Mai' (17), Eleanor 'Ella' (21), and Violet (9), and youngest brother Humphrey 'Huppy' (4). Her brother Lionel (26) was a master at Haileybury College, and was ordained during this year, while Theodore 'Bobbie' (19), Reggie (11) and Walter 'Seymour' (10) were at school and university. As the eldest daughter, Grace seems to have been relied on a good deal by her parents, Canon Robert and Emily Milford, both domestically and in church-related work.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1881 Grace met her future husband Charles Mackarness, at a wedding where he officiated and she was a bridesmaid. However, the marriage proposal she received this year - and turned down - was from Walter Tanner, 'WJT', whom she had written about in previous diaries and seemed to like.

The following selections omit some of the activities that Grace carried out almost every day, such as putting out stores, visiting the sick, preparing lessons, teaching night school, Mission work, Temperance work, and of course attending church services.

### **Saturday 1 January 1881**

I had a few lines from Mr Tanner; he sent New Year wishes in poetry on the inside of the same sheet, & cards to us four girls. I had only a note from Laura. It was not a satisfactory New Year's Day altogether. Stores, and clean clothes, as usual. We worked at our Sunday lessons. After lunch we sang over glees. Mother went down to the station to meet the 2.38 train, and brought back grandpapa Milford and Auntie Sarah, before whom the family were trotted out. Humphrey was wonderfully good. There was no old people's dinner in the hall, but it had to be sent. Struggled through a second Sunday lesson. Read 'Troublesome daughters'. A very successful musical evening; a duet from Lionel & Bobbie, glees, a duet from Father & Mother & solos from Auntie, Lionel, Bobbie, & us three girls, & a trio.

### **Sunday 2 January**

„, I had 2 Temperance talks with Henry Allen; the doctor recommended his taking some drink, because of his nose bleeding, but he did not at all want to ...

### **Monday 3 January**

... Grandfather most kindly gave 12£ between us; a most acceptable present: we 6 elders had £1-10-0, Reg. £1-5-0, Seymour 1£, Violet 10/- & Humphrey 5/-. Grandfather & Auntie left by the 1.35 train ... I finished 'The Story of a Fellow Soldier'; about Bishop Patteson, a noble life, the story most thrillingly told ...

### **Wednesday 5 January**

... Some of the family, myself included, worked at getting the school ready for the School feast. After lunch arranged the presents on forms-tables ... Cut up cake. We marshalled the children to church for ½ past 3 o'clock service: a short service. The rod & string with bags of sweets to be caught in the boys' mouths, was a great success; Lionel, & then Reg, held the rod ... The presents were given at the end, & all left with an orange by ½ past 6. I had Henry Allen up at home & gave him a bottle of medicine for his nosebleeding ... Stacy broke his leg & dislocated his ankle [sic] on Monday, coming from the Black Horse.

### **Thursday 6 January Mother's & Beatrice's birthday**

Mother & Beatrice had a lot of letters between them, & Beatrice some nice presents; Mother had a sovereign from Father, but our present to her was only ordered yesterday ... I finished 'Troublesome daughter', which interested me, but the bad words etc. should be left out.

### **Monday 10 January**

We four girls went out, & finally joined Reg. & Seymour at the upper Summerleaze pond, where the former was skating on a small bit of ice: home together. Most of us had a grand game of hockey in the afternoon, & got splendidly warm ... Nightschool began again, Ella, Mai, & I went out. Horrid school, with exceptions. 30 boys. There was no ink, & no pens, which added to the confusion. John Tanswell would not write – so Mai told me – so I spoke

sharply to him & said he had better go out of school if he didn't mean to work, or something of that sort, so after a little he walked out!

### **Friday 14 January**

... A specially delightful class, the boys were so interested in 'My brother Paul', which we finished; & there was no giggling, & altogether it was so nice. Beatrice spoke about the Temperance Meeting afterwards, & Father about sitting in church when they ought to stand. Sunday lesson into the small hours.

### **Friday 21 January Bobbie's birthday 19**

Another fall of snow in the night. William went down to the station to see what things were like, and brought back word that trains were running both ways. Worked, & heard Seymour his history. Lionel, Bobbie, & Reggie left for the station about 20 minutes past 12, to try & get to Haileybury<sup>1</sup>, Oxford, & Winchester, & as they didn't come back, we imagine they had a least gone part of the way. Father, Beatrice & I made our way to Upton after lunch, just going to Mary Tanswell's on the road: the lane was utterly blocked above Green, so we went by the fields; Gulliver helped B & me up the bank. Such drifts! The Corbins were very surprised to see us. We had to come back the same way, as the road Milton wards was entirely blocked near Corbin's. We got ready for a small class, & actually 12 boys appeared ... dear boys. We read them a short story.

\*Letters came about 2 o'clock: my letter was about a maid, from the Lady Superintendent of the Hip Disease Hospital. Father heard from Ella.

### **Monday 24 January**

I did some of my Missionary work, and began a comforter, & gave Violet dictation ... In the afternoon we three girls went with Father to Underhill, & some of us went to the Allens' to make arrangements for some of them sleeping out, as 9 children & the father & mother sleep in two rooms! ...

### **Tuesday 25 January**

Worked at my Missionary work. The letters came between twelve & one; Father heard from Reggie, Ballam etc, & I – besides a letter from Lionel – had a delightful one from Ella: she went to skate at Hendon & fell in with CPDM and WJT, with whom she skated for over 2 hours, sometimes with one, sometimes with the other, & finally with both, & each took off one of her skates! They wished to be remembered to us. We three went to see the old Milton folk after lunch: both Sally & Jane were 'bad'. Elizabeth Allen gave us some peppermints: the poor are most generous certainly ...

### **Friday 28 January**

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<sup>1</sup> Haileybury College, Hertfordshire, where Lionel was a master.

We three girls sat by the diningroom fire with father's oak table, and talked, and worked at our Sunday lessons. Letters came between 12 & 1, & I had a nice, long letter from Laura, & Ella had a nice letter from Florence Thorlby. Mother had a letter from Mr Tanner proposing himself here at Easter, being re-assured by Ella as to our not wishing to drop the connection etc. The thaw went on steadily. Mother had 11 women at her Mothers' Meeting. I went down to practise on the organ, & found the chancel in a terrible state from the wet. After all I have not to play on Sunday. Choir practice ... A very nice class, the boys were very interested in the story 'Wandering Blindfold'. Wrote.

### **Sunday 30 January**

... It was so strange not sitting in the chancel: Mother & Violet sat in the Wallises' seat, we 4 in the Crosses', Perry & Neil in Russell's, the maids & choir boys in the North Aisle, & the treble choir children in the section front of the Corbins' Father did not go up to the Communion table at all. Such beautiful sermons; the morning one on Prov XX.24 & the evening on "But Gallio cared for none of these things". For many reasons it was very nice sitting in that front seat ... I talked a good deal to my boys about Confirmation, but I don't know whether to any good purpose: there is to be a Confirmation this next Autumn. It was raining fast when we came out of church in the evening. Hymn singing.

### **Thursday 3 February**

... Beatrice, Mai, Miss Slaughter<sup>2</sup> & I went to see the old Milton people in the afternoon, & I took some magazines too. I alone went up to see Sally, who was very ill, but we all saw old Allen who was in great delight over a great coat Father had given him; & he was also delighted with a pair of nightsocks Mai had made him. Met Charles, & Alfred, Hitchin in White's Lane. I forgot all about soup for Sally Ford till the men had gone home, when Beatrice remembered; so I went to Holloway & gave John Scammell 4d to take a can to Milton.

### **Saturday 5 February**

Ella and I put out the stores as usual. I wrote my Sunday lesson notes in the nursery, and attended to a little of the clothes' airing. I read Geology. Ella, Miss Slaughter, and I went to Milton to look up James and George Snook who had not been to church, class, or night school for some time. We found that they had bad chilblains. Little Henry was sitting over the fire, having measles! After lunch Father and I drove to West Knoyle in the close carriage to call on Mr & Mrs Giles; he is taking Mr Inman's duty. We had rather a hot Temperance talk, chiefly Father, & Mr Giles who is much opposed to Total Abstinence. Ella and Mai had meanwhile done the three graves. I copied out a number of copies of "Peace, perfect peace". I read aloud a little to Violet, & I read 'Hereward'.

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<sup>2</sup> Governess to the younger Milford children

### **Monday 7 February**

... The death of Carlyle<sup>3</sup> was announced in the Times, and after lunch Beatrice read aloud an account of his life – also from the Times ...

### **Wednesday 9 February**

Mother heard from Isabella Bird that she is engaged to be married to Dr Bishop: we knew he had loved her, but did not know it would ever come to an engagement ... I had a nice school, but we were terribly grieved to hear (not from George himself, though he was there) that George Garrett had broken<sup>4</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time too. We girls had a regular moan over the parish.

### **Saturday 12 February**

... Father fastened up two new lamps in the church. I skimmed through 'Mrs Dobbs' dull boy'. Mai had a heavy cold, & we were afraid she was sickening for measles.

### **Sunday 13 February**

Mai was shut up in her room all day, & next morning (Monday) it was certain that it was really measles: no one went in to see her (to stay) except Father & Mother ... I played the organ, as Tanswell was at Bathampton for the christening of 'Emma Christina' Gray: the notes gave me a great deal of trouble by sticking ... I spoke to George Garrett, after evening service, about his having broken: when will people get it out of their heads that beer gives strength ...

### **Wednesday 16 February**

Mother heard from WJT. A beautiful day ... 27 boys at night school: Henry Allen didn't come in, jealous about the choir I suppose. Our 4 'choirmen' were there. A splendid band.

### **Thursday 17 February**

A good deal of our time morning & afternoon was taken up with preparations for the Temperance Tea; borrowing cups etc.... Beatrice & I went (in the morning) to Fred Snook, to ask about Henry Allen being admitted as a regular bellringer ... Temperance Tea at (nominally) ½ past 7: some 90 odd people came ... It went off very well I think.

### **Friday 18 February**

We were pretty well 'driven up' with so much to do. Most of the morning we spent in washing up tea-things; not too delightful work ...

### **Saturday 19 February**

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Carlyle 1795-1881, Scottish historian and essayist

<sup>4</sup> ie broken his Temperance pledge to abstain from alcohol

... Dr Wilkinson came to see Mai, & said she must not come down till Monday or Tuesday next week, much to her grief. In the afternoon Mother, Ella, and I went to Underhill to the Allens', where Mother had a private conference with Mrs Allen about the sleeping arrangements, & Ella & I sat with Charles (we took him pudding & a book), who was at home with both his feet bad. He was very depressed poor boy: we were glad to be able to tell him, on Dr Wilkinson's authority, that such things as he suffers from do come from bad air, too many sleeping in a room: we were so afraid he might think it came from Total Abstinence ... Ella & I did the churchyard, & the house flowers. Finished my notes. I finished 'Love & Life' by Miss Yonge.

### **Wednesday 23 February**

In an attempt to get rid of a tiresome cold, I spent my day in bed. No very exciting letters. I had a fire in my room. Read some Lyell<sup>5</sup>. Played 'Solitaire'. It snowed, and the others did not go out in the morning. They stayed indoors in the afternoon too, and I had some of them sitting with me on & off all day. I was not at all ill, nothing but this cold. I read stories in 'Templebar', a very weak, foolish magazine, of which the Browns lent Mai a good many numbers. I also read stories in the 'Monthly Packet' & skimmed the Times. Beatrice, Ella, and Miss Slaughter went down to night school. There were 31 boys. Mai read aloud from one of the copies of 'Templebar'.

### **Wednesday 2 March**

Auntie<sup>6</sup> very kindly sent us a number of photographs of herself. I had a nice letter from Laura from Oxford, where she & Kathleen are staying: they had seen & spoken to Bobbie ... I had a few lines from Ernest to say there is to be a confirmation next month & he has given in his name. He said that he is trying to be a servant of Christ, but that it is very hard: poor dear little lad ...

### **Thursday 3 March**

Humphrey came in to dinner, his great treat on night school nights, or any time we have dinner early. Night school: Ella, Mai, & I went down. 27 boys. I had 4<sup>th</sup> sums, 1<sup>st</sup> reading, and 3<sup>rd</sup> writing: the boys came in very badly ... Found Beatrice at home, having much enjoyed her visit. She spent part of today in Winchester with Margaret, & saw Reg.

### **Saturday 5 March**

... In the afternoon, though it looked threatening, Mother and I started in the open carriage to Shaftesbury. I saw several of my boys in the course of the drive, amongst them little Dick, the first time I had seen him since he went to his place at the Semley inn ...

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<sup>5</sup> Sir Charles Lyell, 1st Baronet, FRS (1797-1875) was a Scottish geologist who demonstrated the power of known natural causes in explaining the earth's history (Wikipedia)

<sup>6</sup> Mary Sumner 1828-1921, founder of the Mother's Union, wife of George Sumner, Bishop of Guildford. Beatrice had been staying with her in Alresford; Grace had missed out on the trip due to her cold.

### Sunday 6 March

Father very kindly gave Beatrice & me some shares in a National Working Boys' Company (?) ... Father preached on Watchfulness & Prayer; a nice sermon ...

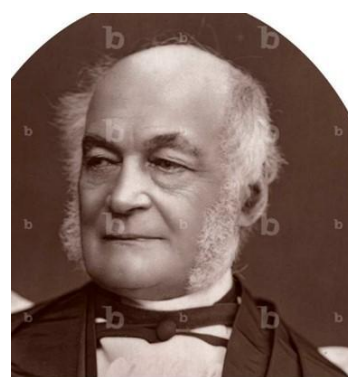
### Monday 7 March

...I read Geology. Night school ... Tilly Flower had complained to Ella that Bob & Harry had bothered her & Annie Whibberley going home from church, so Father kept them back & spoke to them – very kindly it seemed. There seems to be a sort of persecution of the new choir boys (the elder ones I suppose), so very likely they won't come again. A horrid state of things rather.

### Tuesday 8 March

Wedding day of Isabella Bird & Dr Bishop ... Father went in to Salisbury. The Bishop was sitting to Mr Richmond (W B) for his portrait.

*[unable to find the portrait mentioned online: this image is of George Moberly, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1877]*



... Night school. Beatrice, Ella, & Mai went down. 25 boys. There was some bother about coming in, & altogether Father made them a speech at the end, & the boys seem to have been vexed; things seem to be in rather a 'way' just now.

### Friday 11 March

... Father's things from the sale at Enterprise Cottage came; bats, balls, & stumps, china etc, & three prints, extremely nice ones, two of old London ... Father gave us 4 each a Lowestoft cup & saucer ... Mother read to us some of Aunt Mary's book<sup>7</sup>.

### Saturday 12 March

Stores, for Ella and me. Wrote my notes, and did some of my Mission work. Ella and I took down some flowers to the churchyard. In the afternoon Mother & I went to Shaftesbury, and after doing our shopping, paid some calls. First we went to call on Mrs Everett: she was not well, & could not see anyone: next we called on Mrs Miles of Enmore Green; she lives in a house down a steep hill opposite Hacker's: she also was out. Then to call on Mrs Boucher, who has come to live at Pensbury; she was in, & Mr & Mrs & Mabel Dyke were calling there too, so I talked to Mabel & her father till they left. I admired a bunch of violets Mabel wore, so she gave them to me. Coming back we paid a pleasant little visit to the Oldfields, & finally bought some bacon at the Sedgell Co-operative Store. So home.

### Monday 14 March

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<sup>7</sup> 'Our Holiday in the East' (1881) by Mary Sumner – travel diary including a visit to the Holy Land

The Czar of Russia<sup>8</sup> was assassinated by a Nihilist... I made out Temperance Statistics ...

### **Tuesday 15 March**

Father, Mother, & Ella went off at an early hour to London, to pay a visit to Dr Hermann Weber ... We were grieved to hear that Ella really has gout, & will have to go to Wiesbaden.

### **Thursday 17 March**

Some of us went to the Felthams', to ask what Temperance magazine Charles Feltham would take in, & to our grief & indignation we found he had broken, not long after he joined. His mother was evidently very sorry ...

### **Friday 18 March**

Mother had put an advertisement in the Guardian for information about a place for a 'very refractory girl of 15', meaning Bessie Allen, & three answers came, imagining the girl to be one of Mother's own daughters! So next week the word 'village' is to be added ...

### **Saturday 19 March**

Mother had a quantity of letters answering her advertisement in the Guardian ... We did the three graves, our little brother's, Willie Lampard's, & Miss Wigmore's, with moss & bunches of primroses. A little music in the evening.

### **Sunday 20 March**

... In the afternoon I had 8 boys ... My little Ted was not about all day, & they told me he had a bad foot: we found, next day, that he had tried to cut out a chilblain from the bottom part of his foot! ...

### **Tuesday 22 March**

Beatrice heard from both Lionel & Bobbie: Lionel told us old Dorset is dead, so another link with old Haileybury is gone. Bobbie has won the junior singles at lawn tennis, so he is Junior Champion ...

### **Saturday 26 March**

Mother had some answers from places she had written to about Bessie Allen, at least one from a place, & another from a lady sending the name of one. Saturday work. Father heard further particulars about the boys from the policement, & retailed them to us. There seem to have been very bad goings on at Green, (which certainly is an iniquitous hole), dancing till a late hour in a house there. And such accounts of the bad language of George Flower & others. We 5 went to take Edwin Allen, & the Mathewses cards with prayers on (Edwin's & Jack's

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<sup>8</sup> Alexander II

from me): we had a talk with Mrs Mathews about Albert, but she only seemed to think of the disgrace, not of the sin ...

### **Sunday 27 March**

... None of my boys thanked me for the cards I had given them: perhaps it was only natural. It was my turn to take the infants at home, & they were very good on the whole, & altogether I had quite a successful time. I took Tilly for Ella in the afternoon, & asked (as Father wished) if she had been one of those who danced, which brought out a grand refutation of the affair etc. All my boys came in the afternoon who could: Charlie was gone to Dr Wilkinson about his mother, & Joe had to stay at home. Henry Allen had entirely recovered from his ill humour; I tried the 'leave them alone' principle this time, which proved successful – after some time. Father preached a good, forcible sermon on 'But I say unto you, Swear not at all'. A good congregation.

### **Thursday 31 March**

Bessie went away for a holiday. Worked at my Sunday lesson. A bright day but a strong wind. We some of us got white flowers and moss, & Ella (who didn't come out) made a wreath, which was taken down to Mary Ann Merchant's, as her little baby was buried in the afternoon. Beatrice & I went to Holloway & Underhill with magazines & Census tracts ... Beatrice, Tanswell & I got the school ready for the Night School supper ... Early dinner. At ½ past 7 nominally, but really nearly 8 – I think – the supper began. Only 30 boys. Henry Lampard, John Tanswell, George Garrett, & Bob were absent; we knew some of the reasons. We were all there helping & Tanswell who had some supper too. There were 3 joints, a lot of vegetables, puddings etc. After supper Father made a speech, also Tanswell – who thanked us all for teaching etc. at the request of some of the boys. Then came cheering for Father, Mother, us girls, & Tanswell. So ended the supper. A fine night. And what were Albert & the 2 Georges doing meanwhile?

### **Friday 1 April**

... Poor old Hannah Lampard was taken ill in her garden & when Father went to see her in the morning she was still unconscious. Probably paralysis. An account in the Dorset paper of 'Highway Robbery'.

### **Saturday 2 April**

We four girls went down the road: Ella & I went to the Wigmores' where the poor little baby had been badly burnt. We joined the other two down the road, & heard from them that old Hannah Lampard had died a few minutes before they went there ...

### **Sunday 3 April**

... Father preached on the Census in his morning sermon, & also referred to old Hannah Lampard ...

### **Monday 4 April**

Beatrice heard from Reggie and Seymour. Dinner invitation from Mr King for Wednesday in Holy Week!\* Refused, of course. We had a little collection amongst the 'women' of the household, & some of those who came to Club, for the Zenana Mission<sup>9</sup>; a sort of thank offering for our greater blessings. Worked. We four girls & Miss Slaughter went down the village. In the afternoon we five girls and Bobbie amused ourselves on the tree, and had great fun trying to make a see-saw ... We girls and Bobbie were a long time over our diaries, talking etc.

(\* It was forgetfulness, not intentional giving a party in Holy Week)

### **Wednesday 6 April**

Miss Slaughter went away for the holidays, & at the same time Canning left for good, to 'better' herself: it was a pity she went, as she suited us. I wrote to Ernest for his Confirmation tomorrow, & sent him a card of prayers, & a book called 'Steps to Christian Manhood' ...

### **Thursday 14 April**

I accompanied Bobbie, who sang & fluted. Arranged things in the upstairs regions. Sunday lessons. We girls prepared sandwiches etc, & Bobbie, Reggie, Seymour, & Violet went for an expedition to explore the Milford river. Showers. The temporary cook left, & Holmes came as stopgap. Mother went down to the station & brought back Auntie Sarah. Lionel & we four girls went out in the village; we went to Milton for Mother. Mr Tanner came. He was to be lodged at Miss Alford's & Mai & I went down in the course of the afternoon & put some flowers in his room. The exploring party did not come till just as we were going to church, having had a grand expedition: of course they didn't come to church. Not a large congregation. A nice sermon. Mr Tanner carried my books down for me. We had a good deal of music in the evening.

### **Friday 15 April**

... I had a delightful talk about Geology etc. with Mr Tanner ...

### **Saturday 16 April**

... Worked at Sunday lessons. Mr Tanner sat in the schoolroom part of the time ...

### **Wednesday 20 April**

A very eventful morning for me. First we sang old songs – a lot of us together – in the drawingroom, & I accompanied Mr Tanner in a solo etc. We ended with 'The Angel'.

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<sup>9</sup> Wikipedia: The **zenana missions** were outreach programmes established in [British India](#) with the aim of [converting women to Christianity](#).

Presently I had a talk in the schoolroom with Mr Tanner, at least I think most of the talking was on his side. He loves me. But he won't bind me at all, I am to be perfectly free, & oh he was so nice, & honourable, & noble about it all, & to think it is all about me .... Mother, Beatrice, & Grandfather went in to Salisbury. The gentlemen played lawn tennis. I had a talk to Auntie, of course I talked to sisters too at different times.

#### **Thursday 21 April**

I was called in to speak to Father in the study, & Mother came in after a minute or so: only a short conference, Father just wanted to know about Mr Tanner & me ...

#### **Friday 22 April**

... Mother had a public letter from Mr Tanner, & a beautiful other one which she let us read afterwards: there is certainly no doubt as to his feelings for me. It is something very nice to feel that anyone cares for one like he does. I wrote a few lines to him to enclose in Mother's cover.

#### **Tuesday 26 April**

A very nice post for me: I had a nice little letter from Laura, in answer to mine when telling her about things; & I also had a few lines from Mr Tanner himself. Mother also had a nice letter from him, & he spoke so nicely about me.

#### **Friday 20 May**

... I heard from Auntie (Grdfather is much better) sending three such nice photographs of Mr Tanner, with a little note from him to us three; I was to choose, & B & M have the other 2 if they liked, which of course they did. I chose the profile, such a splendid likeness, & put it in a nice place in my book. Tried some little suits on Huppy. Letters. Showery. I wrote a very few lines of thanks to Mr Tanner: the other 2 each wrote – more than I ...

#### **Tuesday 24 May**

... Lionel preached his 1<sup>st</sup> Haileybury sermon to the boys on Sunday, & got through all right: his text was 'Beware lest thou forget the Lord'

#### **Tuesday 14 June**

Mother let me read one of Mr Tanner's letters last night. I think people in general want me to make up my mind, but it is hard.

#### **Wednesday 15 June**

Mother heard from Mr Tanner: he is going to Haileybury for Speech Day. He did not write to me, but spoke of my letter ...

#### **Monday 4 July 1881**

I had such a happy letter from Laura; she seems so happy about her engagement: I am so glad. Father, Ella, & I left for London by the 9.47 train, going as far as Sailisbury with Beatrice & Mai, & also with Alfred Gordon. At Waterloo was a well known face – Mr Tanner – Father & Ella went off to identify the luggage so he & I were left together for a few minutes. He saw us off in a cab for Paddington Hotel. There, in a private sitting room we found Mr Heywood & Mabel Heywood. Lunch for us. We 2 changed to prints & light hats & finally Father, Mr Heywood, Beresford, Mabel, Mr Peel, & we two started in a 1<sup>st</sup> class carriage for Maidenhead! There we went in 2 carriages (not Mr Peel – I suppose he walked), Mr Heywood, Father & I in one, to Skindle’s Hotel, & then went on the Thames in a steam launch, the Lotus. Such a nice boat; with light blue cushions & flag, & an awning. Mabel steered a great part of the time. We went up the river past Cookham to Marlow. It was so funny going through the locks. As we didn’t get back to Maidenhead till past 8 (we had tea – without milk – on board), we had supper there, & then we & the Heywoods came back to town after a very nice day. Beresford didn’t sleep at the Paddington Hotel.

**Tuesday 5 July 1881**

**Mr Tanner’s birthday**

... After breakfast we just caught a train by running for it, & went down to Maidenhead, where we joined Mr Peel & the ‘Lotus’ & spent the greater part of the day on board. We had some delicious cherries, bought at one of the many locks. We steamed past numerous places in the course of the day, Bray, Hampton Court, Twickenham etc. (Lunch in a field near the river.) We stopped at Windsor for some time, & did a little sightseeing. We, Father, Mabel, & Mr Peel went to the top of the round tower, & had a splendid view. Strawberries & ice cream at a confectioner’s. The heat was tremendous. There was a good breeze on the river. Most lovely reaches we passed through. Tea on board. Laleham, Thames Ditton, Surbiton etc we passed, & finally reached Richmond (where we saw the Star & Garter in the distance) & so back by train to London. Again we had a run for the train. Supper. Upstairs to bed. There was a thunderstorm.

**Thursday 7 July**

With somewhat of a scramble we finished our packing & got down to breakfast, & then all finally left Paddington – Mr Peel joining us – by the 9.10 train, & went to Taplow again. Then we went on board the Lotus, & presently steamed up the river. It was very cold. Consy was not well. We had lunch in the cabin. After a time we got to Henley, & there we got out, & Consy was taken to the house of some people she knew, to stay for the night. On again. Lovely scenery. It became much warmer. I enjoyed myself immensely steering, principally with the help of Mr Horsham the man. I got on capitally. We landed at Wengrave, & went over the church, a nice one. On past Reading till we finally reached Pangbourne, where we stopped for the night. We 3 & the 3 Heywoods put up at the ‘George’, where we got tea after waiting for ages: Mr Peel went elsewhere. Afterwards we all walked about the place in the dark. We – all but Mr Heywood – refreshed at the coffee house. I slept in a room with Mabel, to keep her company.

**Friday 29 July**

... Bobbie went down to the station & brought back Mr Tanner. Tea. Lawn tennis; Mr Tanner & I were beaten by Bobbie & Mai: good games ...

### **Saturday 30 July**

... By Mr Tanner's request we came into the schoolroom together & had a long talk; I couldn't truthfully give him any hope, but it doesn't make any difference to him as far as loving me goes ... Lawn tennis: 1<sup>st</sup> I played with the 3 children, then on the upper lawn with Mr Tanner & Ella & Bobbie. Lionel came home. We had a very merry dinner. Music. Violet had the 1<sup>st</sup> bath in the new Bathroom.

### **Sunday 31 July**

A rainy Sunday. My turn to take the infants, but in consequence of the weather there were hardly any to take. Mr Tanner came down for the opening of school ... Lionel read prayers in church morning & evening, & the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson, father preaching & reading the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson. A very Kingsley<sup>10</sup> like morning sermon, on Health. We had our walk on the hill in the evening: a lovely sunset. We had singing in the drawingroom after supper, & then in the schoolroom with the maids: Mr Tanner came too.

### **Saturday 6 August**

... Mr Tanner looked terribly sad when I said good morning to him. He left by the 9.47 train. I think he must have seen there was no hope for him, but it was very sad to feel that ~~I am the~~ ~~cause of~~ he was being as it were shut out. But though I felt most deeply for him, yet I believe I did what was right ... Lionel went in with him to Salisbury, & they went together to Old Sarum ...

### **Sunday 7 August**

I kept on thinking of poor Mr Tanner, but I feel sure I could not have given him any hope – only perhaps I wasn't as kind to him as I might have been ...

### **Friday 12 August**

Father's face was so bad, so swelled, that Mother sent for Dr Wilkinson, who took out the tooth ...

### **Sunday 21 August**

I had a horrible class in the afternoon: only Edwin & Frank said their lesson, out of 8 boys, & altogether I felt pretty miserable, & gave them a small talking to. Perhaps I ought to have kept silent, I don't think I was quite right to speak, & I am afraid it made my boys rather vexed with me – some of them ...

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<sup>10</sup> Probably a reference to Charles Kingsley, author of *The Water Babies*, who published a book of sermons in 1881

## Tuesday 23 August

... There was a good deal of rain in the course of the day: sad for the harvest. I went to the church & had a practice on the organ. My bridesmaid's dress for Laura's wedding arrived & I tried it on: very pretty ...

## Wednesday 31 August

Hermann<sup>11</sup> suggested some final duets, so he got out his 'cello again, & we played together, ending with a piano duet. Early lunch & then Lionel, Beatrice, Ella, & Tilly Dancy left in the carriage, & Bobbie & Hermann in the dogcart, for the station ... Hermann is the most dear, delightful fellow ...

## Thursday 1 September 1881 Wedding day of Laura & George Peake



*Above: Laura Ainslie and George Peake. Photos from familysearch.org*

I left by the 8.52 train for Henstridge, where I found St John: a few other of the guests came by the same train. Laura was at the window, & I went up to see her. Presently I was introduced to 'George' who seems very nice, & also to my groomsman Parry Woodcock, a great friend of the family; one of the maids helped me dress. I had my present (bridesmaid's) of a lovely fan, painted by the bridegroom. Laura dressed partly upstairs & partly in the room where I was, Kathie helped her. Such a lovely satin dress. She looked a dear little bride. There were 7 bridesmaids: Kathie & Nellie, Mary Newton, Margaret & Helen Ainslie, Lily Wilson, & I. There were a number of spectators. The wedding was nominally ½ past 11. Mr Mackarness (son of the Bishop of Oxford) married the two, assisted by Mr Smith. We bridesmaids all went into the vestry while the signing went on, & then followed the bride & bridegroom with our groomsman. (A walking wedding.) The usual kissing of the bride after we got back to the house. Then came photographing, followed by breakfast in the drawingroom; I sat by Parry & St John, a very nice place; I like Parry very much. No speeches. Laura & George left for London & were to start next day for Switzerland. A very nice pair. We bridesmaids had lovely bouquets from Mr Ainslie. Some of us went to the school to start the choir dinner. Later a party of us went to the station with some of the guests. I had a talk with Mr Mackarness, whom I liked very much. We changed our dresses & went

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<sup>11</sup> William Hermann David 1860-1929, Ella's future husband

to help at the school children's tea at the school. I was asked to stay the night & settled to do so; they were so glad. We some of us made ourselves useful in playing games with the schoolchildren in the field where there were festivities going on, races etc. This lasted till about 8. Changed back to our dresses (all but Nell) for supper. Afterwards we had singing, playing, dancing, walks in the garden etc. I accompanied Mr Mackarness in a song. My partners were Parry, Mr Ainslie, St John, Arthur, Portman (great friend of the family), Mr Mackarness, Mr Whitehead (Sherborne master), Cecil Wilson, & Maurice. I slept in Laura's room. So ended a very successful, happy day.

### **Friday 2 September 1881**

... I did not see Mr Mackarness to say goodbye to, for which I was very sorry ...

### **Sunday 4 September**

#### **My birthday**

25 years old: a quarter of a century. I had some very nice presents; amongst others 2 vols of a Commentary by (now) Archdeacon Norris – Frank's father - & a prayer book ... Perry's sister having died, he sat in the body of the church as being – I suppose – the proper thing, so the tenors did not have the support of his voice ...

### **Thursday 8 September**

... Ella, Bobbie, Reggie and I left in the dogcart for a lawn tennis party at the Hutchinsons'. A number of people came, the Beaufoy party, the Radcliffes (ie the girls, Walter, & their cousins Helen & Katie), J P<sup>12</sup>, H le B L<sup>13</sup> etc. Lawn tennis was not largely patronized. I played 2 sets [sic] with Walter v. Bobbie & Mr Crick, both of which we lost. We were very merry over the games. J P was very pleasant, but didn't play. The Earles came in a tricycle, which was a great object of attraction ...

### **Tuesday 13 September**

Father had a very nice (short) letter from Dean Bradley, whom he had written to congratulate on being made Dean of Westminster in Stanley's place. I chose the hymns, & did some Sunday lesson work. We had a choir practice between 12 & 1. Bobbie, Reg, & Seymour went to Donhead to play cricket at the Chapmans', & weren't home till past 7 o'clock. Lionel & we three girls played lawn tennis. Frank – our 6<sup>th</sup> brother<sup>14</sup> – arrived safely, brought up by Mother in the pony carriage. [Right: photo of Frank Norris from the Winchester College archives.] He, Father, Lionel & Mai played l.t. A platform was put up



<sup>12</sup> Probably the 'Mr Penrose' mentioned elsewhere.

<sup>13</sup> Henry Le Blanc Lightfoot 1850-1924, later Fellow and Bursar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who appears in several diaries and whom she evidently liked.

<sup>14</sup> 'Our 6<sup>th</sup> brother' is unexplained. Frank L Norris 1864-1945 was a friend and older contemporary of Reggie's at Winchester College. Later a missionary, and Bishop of North China.

and the school got ready for an SPG<sup>15</sup> Missionary meeting ... Early dinner. Frank & we helped clear away, to expedite matters ...

### Thursday 15 September

Another lovely day. Music. Some of the boys played l.t. Lionel & some of us marked out the lower lawn ... l.t. went on, Seymour playing in once. Before lunch Mr, Mrs, & Mabel Cunningham arrived (in the course of a driving tour. After lunch Charlie (S)<sup>16</sup> came. Jumping on the lower lawn among the boys: we looked out. A lawn tennis afternoon, some playing, some looking out. Part of the while all of us girls & Mabel etc. watched from the roof.



Seymour went back to Fonthill, driven by Reggie. Later Beatrice, Ella, Mai, Studley<sup>17</sup> [Winchester College archive photo, left] & Charlie went on to the hill, where Frank, Mabel & I joined them. Music in the evening. At about ¼ to 9 Mother, Ella, Charlie, Studley & I started for the Dr Salises', for a dance. Arrived in capital time. My 1<sup>st</sup> dance was with Charlie, my last with J P. Ella's 1<sup>st</sup> with Studley, her last with H le B L. I danced every dance but 1 (except when in at supper), & that I was engaged for, only my partner was at supper. I danced several times with J P & H le B L & our 2.

I went in to supper with H le B L & Ella with J P: both J P & H Le B L were very festive & nice. Home between 3 & ½ past after a delightful dance.

### Friday 16 September

... Glorious weather. Did some parlourmaid's work. We had some music from Mabel, Charlie etc. My 2 songs were much liked, 'Children of the City' & 'Alice'. We went up on the roof for some time, & then the boys scrimmaged about with the ladder, & on the lower lawn tennis ground Mr Hext, Barbara, George, & Crumb, came to lunch, so we were a still larger party. Afterwards we girls went on to the lower lawn, & most of us jumped. Presently we started lawn tennis on both lawns, & this went on, on & off most of the afternoon. Other folks gradually dropped in, the Radcliffes (no brothers), Mrs Mair, the Oldfields, Keatings etc. After everyone left we played 'Tiami' & Hide & Seek. I had a very nice talk at dinner with Studley: he, Frank, & Charlie are such dear boys. Music & games. Sunday lesson.

### Saturday 17 September

... Stores. We sang ballads together. Bobbie & Studley went to Fonthill riding, on Baron & Robin Grey, stayed to lunch, & came back in the afternoon. Wrote Sunday lesson notes. Charlie went away by the 12.52 train. In the afternoon Beatrice & I paid a visit to Mrs Elliott, old Allen, Sally Ford, and Susan Smith. Found l.t. going on when we got back. Father & I played afterwards v. Ella & Bobbie & were beaten. Talk in the drawingroom: Studley talked to me part of the time. All 5 boys came in the evening to Practice, which was satisfactory. We

<sup>15</sup> Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts

<sup>16</sup> Possibly Charles Warden Sergison 1867-1911, another Winchester contemporary.

<sup>17</sup> Rev. George Studley Sealy-Vidal (1862 - 1928), who was (or had been) a student at Winchester College.

played at squaring words afterwards. Reg. put his head back in prayers against the bell on the shutter, & made it ring, which was very trying for our gravity.

### **Sunday 18 September**

Early service: Studley & Frank both came. I lent Studley 'Robertson's Life'. He & Beatrice had various talks. I had 8 boys in the morning, and just made my lesson last out: little Ted said his collect so nicely. I was very pleased .... We strolled about before lunch. Father preached a beautiful sermon in the morning, & a nice one in the evening. Studley helped me get ready for my boys, & clear away afterwards ... Father had a Confirmation class in church again, so I let my boys out at about ¼ to 4. It poured with rain when we came out of evening service, but the day was fine. Studley told Beatrice how much he had liked me this time, & said he had wanted to thank me for being good to him, or kind, or something of the sort. She told me, as Studley wished. Dear boy, I am fond of him, & pleased about this. We 4 had a long talk, & weren't in bed till very late.

### **Monday 19 September**

Mother had a very nice letter from Lionel, & Father heard from Seymour. I sang 'The Children of the City' (with flute accompaniment) for Studley's special edification: he does so like it. I had a few minutes' talk with him in the study: he has so enjoyed his stay here. He left by the 10.32 train, driven down to the station by Reggie. He is such a dear fellow. Wrote. For the afternoon Mother, Beatrice, & I went to a lawn tennis party at the Hutchinsons': not a large one, but I enjoyed it. I played with a Mr Evans (youth) from Chilmark, (reading with Charles Tower) v. Carrie Brown & Mr Crick & won, & 2 setts v Beatrice & Mr Evans & won again. After tea we had a game of bowls, & ended with playing catch with the bowls. J P was very nice. We played games in the evening.

### **Tuesday 20 September**

Numerous postcards. Beatrice & I both heard from Lionel (p.c.) We spent a great part of the morning working at a covering for the schoolroom mantelpiece. Frank wrote & worked, also in the schoolroom Father and Mother went to lunch at Fontanel with the Glyns'. Bobbie went down to the station to meet the 1.35 train, & brought back Russell Steward. He is staying in Salisbury at his brother's. After their lunch we had music – a glee Russell brought, songs from him etc. Presently we all went up to the house in Holloway, & then to the brick kiln, where we saw Henry Sanger, Henry Lampard etc. We watched the former at work. After tea we had more music, glees etc, & finally Russell left in the dogcart, to catch the 7.32 train: he met & spoke to Father & Mother. Played games.

### **Wednesday 21 September**

We worked at the mantel piece & finished it. Beatrice and I went to see Mary Tanswell, & took her some soup. She was in bed & not at all well. Between ½ past 2 and 3, Father, Mother, Beatrice, Bobbie, & I started for Fonthill House, the Morrisons': we said goodbye to Reggie & Frank before we went, as they left by the 4.23 train for Winchester. All the world and his wife were at Fonthill (something like 200 people), where there was a very good band

– Fleet’s band. The Radcliffes, J P, the Towers, Groves, & Keatinges were there amongst others, also L K and W Hilton. There was a tent full of beautiful embroidery, round which I went with J P: he was very pleasant. Bobbie & I went about together most of the time. A party of us went upstairs to the boudoir & the balcony: Mrs Beaufoy & Mr Semple Cooke were there. Home to find Phil arrived safely: he came by the 4.23 train.

#### **Thursday 22 September**

Mother had such a nice (little) letter from Studley, thanking for his visit here: ‘5 days of perfect enjoyment’. He had never enjoyed a visit anywhere so much: dear boy. Invitation to Haileybury. Bobbie & Phil went out for a ride, Bob on Robin Gray & Phil on Baron. Fred Feltham came to see Father about emigration, & spoke so nicely.

#### **Sunday 25 September**

Beatrice and Bobbie heard from Hermann; Beatrice’s letter was partly remarks on Ruskin. Bobbie let us read part of his letter in the evening ... Father preached in the morning on President Garfield, USA; he died last week, having lingered on after being shot in July ...

#### **Monday 26 September**

I heard from Charlie, sending photographs of himself for Beatrice, Ella, & me: Ella & I had given him our’s. Father heard from Reg., Mother from Seymour – who has done well in his holiday task - & also from Frank, who enjoyed his visit here of course, dear lad.... Knoyle Feast: the hounds met for cubhunting. Miss S, we 4, Phil, & Huppy went on the hill before lunch ...I read ‘The golden butterfly’. Lovely day. Read. We had words to guess, with letters.

#### **Tuesday 27 September**

I had a very nice letter from Charlie Thorne: he says he often thinks of our Sunday lessons, & they help him just when it is most needful: dear little lad ... Ella, Violet, & I went to the Morrisons’ in the afternoon, where there was a large school feast, Fonthill Gifford children, Union, Chicklade, Hindon etc ...The rain kept off and the school feast was a great success. We played with the children, & finally ended by dancing Sir Roger with some of the girls. A very good band ...

#### **Wednesday 28 September**

I had a few lines from Mother. I made out a programme for the Band of Hope meeting. The drawingroom carpet was up (as also yesterday) & the outer boards were stained by Blandford. Phil and we five girls got a number of flowers, and we four each made a wreath for Sally Ford, & Violet a bunch. Old Sally was buried in the afternoon, Mr Oldfield coming to take the funeral. Ella & Phil played duets: Phil has done a good deal of playing since he came. Ella, Bobbie, Phil, & played lawn tennis. Band of Hope meeting: smaller & smaller: only 25 children. Fanny Tanswell joined. Only 2 recitations, as some of the reciters didn’t appear. Huppy came & much enjoyed the story. We sang Scotch songs after dinner. Talk.

## Tuesday 29 September

I had a very nice letter from Studley, thanking for my present of the 'Children of the City'. Also a p.c. from Lionel. Reggie, Frank, & Eddy came for leave out. They had breakfast after they came, (past 11) & then we all went up to the house in Holloway, & back by the mountain pass into our field, where we went on the log. After lunch I wrote about a place for William Smith. Some of the boys played lawn tennis. We got several bunches of violets for them – not for Eddy, as he doesn't care for flowers. Early tea, then the 3 boys left. Eddy is a very dear boy ...

## Friday 30 September

I also had a few lines from Mrs Bradby, besides my letter from Mother. Mai, Phil. I started by the 9.47 train for London: we travelled with the Oliviers to Wilton. At Salisbury we found Russell (Steward) on the platform, & had a chat with him till the train went on. At Waterloo we 2 & Phil drove to 37 Lexham Gardens – his home - , where we had lunch with Gen. & Mrs Maclagan. We just saw Mary, but she had to go to a class. After lunch we went over the house, & looked at various things, & finally (3.30) left for King's X: Phil coming with us & seeing us off: he is a most delightful, dear boy, I am so glad we have had him to stay with us again. We took a great fancy to Mrs Maclagan, she was so gentle & nice & quite set us at our ease: the Gen. we had seen & liked before. A most pleasant little visit to Kensington. At Hertford was a carriage, ordered by Lionel, in which we drove to Haileybury, to the Bradbys. We were welcomed by Mrs Bradby, Dorothy & Mabel. Tea & talk. Lionel came to dinner, a nice sociable meal. Mrs Bradby was very pleasant. Work & talk in the evening. Lionel left for chapel, but came in again for a few minutes afterwards. Half past 9 prayers! I sang afterwards. The Bradbys take one up just where they left one, which is always nice.



[Left: Rev Bradby, headmaster of Haileybury College]

## Saturday 1 October

A lovely day. Dorothy, Mai, & I went to ½ past 7 chapel: Mr Hall read prayers, & Gunner the lesson. We stopped afterwards to look at the chapel which is beautifully decorated now. I spent the morning in writing, & reading 'The Curate in charge' by Mrs Oliphant. Mai went out with Mabel & Lionel came to breakfast. In the afternoon we 2 went for a walk with Lionel down the Green Lane, on the Heath, & home round by Hailey Lane, & the Woodfield where Puntabout was going on. At intervals we saw & talked to Arkwright (S T) & Gordon Johnson. Saw a game of racquets, paid a visit to Mrs Huckle etc. Went to Lionel's rooms, which certainly are lovely, & then to tea with Mr Hall. We met Messrs. Wright & Headley in his rooms: the former seemed specially nice. Peeped into Lawrence House dormitory. Into Chapel again for a few moments, then back to the Bradbys' (Mick & Barbara are nice little girls). Made myself comfortable in my room with my book before dining time. Lionel came to dinner, and also Mr Russell to whom we did not take a fancy. Music in the evening. Mabel, Mai, & Mr Russell played, & Lionel & I sang. We went to the girls' rooms before we went to bed.

### **Monday 3 October**

Mai & I went to early Chapel by ourselves ... Lionel, Mabel, Mai & went to watch an interesting game of football in the Woodfield. Gunner, Arkwright, & Bailey were playing, amongst others, also Messrs Hall & Fenning ... A few casualties, but happily nothing very serious ... Mr Hall came to dinner, but I was not well, so went to bed while dinner was going on.

### **Tuesday 4 October**

Mai & Dorothy went to Chapel, but I didn't get up ... I wrote, read, & looked at 'Cruikshankiana' [George Cruikshank was a celebrated caricaturist] which Mr Bradby brought in for our amusement ... Mr Bradby showed us some beautiful pictures in the evening, engravings, Arundels etc.

### **Thursday 6 October**

Mai & I went to chapel for the last time ... Lionel came to breakfast, & then we said goodbye to him. Finally between ½ past 9 & 10, we 2 left Haileybury after our happy visit. Certainly it is a most delightful place, & the Bradbys are all so kind & nice & friendly. We travelled as far as Tottenham with Mrs Bradby ... At St Pancras we found our dear boy Phil, with whom we drove to 27 Lexham Gardens, where was Mrs MacLagan ... After lunch Mai, PHil, & I went out sightseeing; we went by underground part of the time, & partly walked. First to St George's Hall, Langham Place to hear Corney Grain<sup>18</sup> in 'Ye ?Olde Faire, which was very good indeed. I liked the piece before it too., we didn't wait for the 3rd piece, but went by way of a slight change (not because of it) to the Doré Gallery, which I enjoyed immensely, Phil is a delightful person to go there with. I liked best 'Christ leaving the Pretorium', 'The Dream of Pilate's Wife' and 'The Xtian Martyrs'. Back to Kensington. Tea & talk. 'Charlie' & then the Gen. appeared as we were going to chess, the former very much himself. Photographs & music in the evening. I sang & C P D M played afterwards. I looked at photographs with the Gen. first, & later with Phil ...

### **Friday 7 October**

#### **Harvest Thanksgiving at home**

Discussion of plans. We let Phil read our diaries & he let us read his, - a new investment. (I don't know that he read much of mine). I went with CPDM up to his room to see a bird he had shot, & stayed some little time. Phil & we went to the Tower, partly walking, partly by underground. It is very interesting, the jewels are very beautiful etc. (Joined Mary as we came back.) Mai & Phil played duets after lunch ... We went into the new Natural History Museum with Mrs MacLagan ... We all went to the School of Art Needlework, which is perfectly lovely. Later we went to the Albert Hall, & there Mrs MacLagan left us. We 3 went to see the

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<sup>18</sup> Richard Corney Grain, known by his stage name Corney Grain, was an entertainer and songwriter of the late Victorian era (Wikipedia)

Albert Memorial, & through Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens. Back by High Street where we did some shopping. Came in in the dusk. Tea. I worked at my Sunday lesson ...

### **Saturday 8 October**

... We went to see the Houses of Parliament which are beautiful, we were so glad to have seen them. We then went all 3 in a hansom to St James' Hall for lunch. Then in a hansom again, to the Opera Comique where we got fairly good seats for 'Patience'. Unhappily we could not stay to hear the end, but we enjoyed it very much. Lovely dresses. Tea at Waterloo, & finally our dear boy Phil saw us off by the 5. Train for home. He is the dearest boy, certainly. As far as Grateley we got on all right, but there we had to wait for more than an hour, as there had been a goods train breakdown on the line lower down. By degrees, after long waiting we got to Semley at about 10 minutes past 9, to find Mother & Ella to meet us ... So safely home after a delightful time away.

### **Monday 10 October**

I heard from Reggie: the Archbishop of Canterbury had been down to Winchester, & Salter (Head of the School) read a Latin speech, & the bells rang. The final result was a half holiday ...

### **Tuesday 11 October**

Ella heard from Lionel; it was nice to hear some Haileybury news ... School inspection. Mr Fitzroy & Mr Miner came to inspect. Representatives of the family were down there all the time; I was there the whole while. The singing in both rooms was very good. Some of the children answered very nicely in geography ...

### **Wednesday 12 October**

#### **Reggie's birthday - 16**

We three did some reading before breakfast; I read Geology then, and in the morning too. Sang. Helped pack Reggie's hamper - or rather box - with presents and eatables. Father and Bobbie went to Hindon for Mr Milles' sale ... I read Kingsley's Life. We looked over our dresses, & got some ready for dyeing. Father only bought 2 targets & some bows & arrows at the sale. Confirmation class - boys' - in the evening. Whist.

### **Sunday 16 October**

Early service, to which Frank (Webster) came ... In the afternoon I had a nice large class ... Afterwards Henry (Allen) stayed for a book, & I found out some grievous facts from him: he has broken at last, & Tom is going to a situation at a public house in London! We had a long talk together. Truly this has been a disastrous year for our CETS; so many have broken. After hearing all this we girls went for a walk with Frank as if nothing had happened. Father preached on the 10 virgins: my boys had told me he was going to, & Charles & Edwin gave me answering smiles about that & about the 'door; I had given a lesson on 'Doors' in the afternoon.

**Monday 17 October**

Father heard from Bobbie: he mentioned Hermann, Mr Lucas, Russell, & Studley, which last has safely got through his smalls. Hermann sent his love. Ella heard from Seymour; & Beatrice from Reg. who sent many thanks for all his letters : presents: Frank [Norris] sent his love ...

**Thursday 20 October****Confirmation Day**

The day seemed rather doubtful, but proved fine, though windy. I wrote out a list of the Confirmation candidates for the Bishop. Father & I went down to Church & arranged where the candidates were to sit: (some of the arrangement had to be altered later, as we could not get so many males into some of the seats as we had settled for). Our boy candidates assembled in the room, girls in the schoolroom: I gave Charlie Thorne 'Steps to Xtian Manhood'. I went to the Church & helped put the candidates in their places.

[all candidates listed]

... All our boys & Thorne came to dinner in the hall. The Bp. & Mr Townsend (who was pleasant) left soon after lunch ... Some of the boys stayed for cricket, & later some of them swang & jumped. L. T.: I swang Charles - with William's help - & then Charles asked me if I was going to have 1, & they 1 gave me such a nice 1, & Charles stopped ever so nicely (Beatrice had had 1 earlier). Finally tea in the room for Charles, Ted, William, Alfred, small William & George: Charlie had his in the kitchen. So the boys left, after an eventful day. (Between 80 & 90 candidates altogether). Backgammon with Frank (Webster). (Janie Reed - new maid - came).

**Saturday 22 October**

Mai had another letter from Mabel Bradby. I wish Dorothy would write to me. George Woodley came in to be interviewed by Frank & Avice, as he may possibly go as boy - stable & house - to Mr Richard Webster ... Frank and Avice went away, having much enjoyed their visit; Mother left them at the station & went on to Shaftesbury ...

**Tuesday 25 October**

... My letter from Dorothy Bradby was written from Oxford - Lady Margaret's.<sup>19</sup>... By degrees in the course of the day we began making the servants' hall nice: a felt drugget was put down, & the table taken away to be cut in two etc. In the afternoon Beatrice, Ella, Mai, & I went down to Leigh to the Hardings': one of the little girls had broken her wrist the other day, & Father used one of his handkerchiefs for it; but as the handkerchief was still in use we could not bring it back ...

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<sup>19</sup> Eliza Dorothy Bradby, daughter of the headmaster at Haileybury where Grace and Mai had recently stayed, was one of the first nine students - one of the original 'Bluestockings' - at Lady Margaret Hall when it opened its doors in 1879.

### Wednesday 2 November

... Father gave us a grand piece of news: viz., that the Seymour Arms was closed today, Ball's license being taken away ...

### Saturday 5 November

Very serious account of Uncle Ridley. Also a letter from Aunt Fan in which she told the sad news of Ella's engagement to Mr E Houlditch being broken off for pecuniary reasons. He is security for his brother & has to pay his debts. I am so sorry for them both ... I read 'The Newcomers' & worked at my sock. I wrote letters.

### Wednesday 9 November

A splendid character of Reggie; we were so glad. The day began dull, but cleared and turned out lovely. We thought the ploughing match began at 10, but heard afterwards it began earlier. We 5 girls & Miss Slaughter started for the match at about ¼ to 11: part of the ploughing was on the glebe, on the right hand side of the Warminster Road, & some on the left. 3 of our boys were ploughing; Henry & Edwin Allen & Jack Mathews: Henry among the head carters, & the other 2 with the boys ...

### Thursday 10 November

Mother was late for prayers, & Beatrice & Ella had breakfast in bed. Father heard from Lionel. Father, Mother & I went by an 11.40 train to Henstridge to lunch with Lady theodora. We went 1st class in an Engaged carriage. Mr Gordon & Edgar & Mr Lyon (formerly at Pensbury) came with us as far as Gillingham, where they went to a Steeple Chase. At Henstridge were 2 carriages into which we packed with a Mr Wills, Mr Sawyer, Mrs H Bennett, the ?Genges & Miss Neate & drove to the Guests'. Lady Theodora was very pleasant, & old Lady Westminster ... Lady Theodora took us over the house, which is well worth seeing, before lunch, and after lunch, & after we had seen the little Guest, we went to see the stables etc out of doors ... Found the home party had been parochialising, going to see old Allen etc. ...

*Right: Lady Theodora Guest; Theodora Grosvenor (1840 – 1924) was a [British](#) author, [anti-suffragist](#), collector and benefactor. In 1913 she sold the 15th century [Braque Triptych](#) to the Louvre. (Wikipedia)*



### Tuesday 15 November

Ella heard from Lionel, & Mother had a cover from him: he was to go yesterday to London for his examination for priest's orders. Beatrice heard from Studley, in answer to a letter she

wrote some time ago. I had a photograph of one of Laura's wedding groups: but 2/6 to pay. Charlie went out coursing. We did not go out before lunch. Beatrice & I folded & directed a number of circulars for Father. Our 1st Mission working party of this season: we began with a hymn & prayers. 2 Crosses, & 3 Bayleys besides ourselves, & Mother read aloud. Work for the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. Beatrice went to sit with Charlie part of the while, & then I took her place. I had the nearest approach to a really nice talk with him about doing good in the army. Poor ?laddie.

### **Wednesday 16 November**

Slow post. Mother, Charlie, and I went in to Salisbury, where I was photographed at Owen's. Mother and I did some shopping, and then joined Charlie at the Cathedral Hotel, where we had lunch together in an upstairs room. I played on the piano before our lunch was ready. After lunch we did some more shopping, Charlie and I together part of the time. Rainy and windy. We saw hardly anyone we knew, to speak to. Back by the 3.23 at Semley. Found Father had come by the 2.33 & walked up ...

### **Thursday 17 November**

Rather a desultory morning, partly choosing dress patterns, and looking at music, as the old tuner came, and brought a portfolio of music with him. Charlie went to a meet at West Knoyle on Robin Gray, and was out for a long time. Showery. We five girls went to the corner of the wood behind Green to see what we could, but there was very little to be seen, only a few horsemen etc. It came on to rain hard, so after a while we fled into Mary Tanswell's ...

### **Friday 18 November**

The work at Cloudes<sup>20</sup> - Mr Wyndham's - has begun at last. We three got up, and did some Sunday lesson work before breakfast. Charlie went to Upton, and had a day's shooting with John Corbin ...

*Photo: Clouds House today*



### **Saturday 19 November**

Sarah Scammell left for a situation ... I tried to help Charlie in his packing, & did a little. We three worked at Mission work. Later we 4 & Charlie went for a little walk down the village, & then to Cloudes, where we stayed some time looking on. The old house was being pulled

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<sup>20</sup> According to Wikipedia the new Cloudes House, 'designed by [Arts and Crafts](#) architect [Philip Webb](#) for [Percy Wyndham](#) and his wife Madeline .. was first completed in 1886, but an 1889 fire necessitated its rebuilding'.

down, and numbers were employed; there were loafers about too, & amongst them Ellen Hayward's husband. Sunday lesson in the afternoon. Charlie went away by the 2.33 train: he is a dear boy, but I am afraid very godless. Father & Mother went to see Mary Tanswell, & found her very ill, dying. Fred Feltham came down to say goodbye; he sails next week for Queensland. Father & Mother gave him a Bible (& a blotting book), & we 4 gave him 'Steps to Xtian Manhood'. I also gave him a letter of recommendation to Eva. He spoke so nicely about 'the scarf Miss Ella gave' him; he had not taken the ticket off & liked to look at it rather than wear it! He was altogether so nice, we were very pleased indeed with him.

### **Sunday 20 November**

Early service; three of Beatrice's girls were there. During the service they - someone - came to tell him of Mary Tanswell's death: she died on Saturday afternoon. Postcard from Lionel telling of his having got through his priest's exams all right. I had small classes both times ... Very disheartening it was. My morning lesson was fairly successful I think. Still it was not a nice Sunday, taking it all in all. Wilby was at home all day with a swelled face ... Collections for warming & lighting the church, not large. There was rain before evening service, which probably diminished the congregation. The bellows were out of order, making it very hard for George to blow, so we had no final voluntary in the evening, which was most melancholy.

### **Monday 21 November**

... Fred Feltham left Knoyle, & was to sail within a few days for Queensland, Australia. We three worked & read German. Beatrice had a telegram from Agnes Benson asking if she could come on Wednesday, to go with them to a concert in Winchester: no doubt what her answer was. We four & Miss Slaughter went to Underhill to take some soup for Mrs Arthur Feltham: Ella, Mai, & I went in, but did not see her, as she was lying down upstairs ...

### **Tuesday 22 November**

### **Father's & Mother's wedding day, 27 years**

... I finished 'The Newcomes', in which I have been very interested.

### **Wednesday 23 November**

I felt 'bad', so lay down for a time. I finished the Friday evening paper and chose the hymns. Wrote Sunday lesson first, notes ...

### **Thursday 24 November**

My photograph proofs came, not altogether satisfactory. I got the flowers, and Ella - with a very little help from Mai - made a wreath for Mary Tanswell. I wrote Sunday lesson notes. Father, Mother, Ella, Mai, and I had lunch early, and then we all went to the station to catch the 12.50 train, by which Father & Mother left for Alresford. We three did not wait to see them off, but went on to Shaftesbury, where we shopped. Mr Hilton took Mary Tanswell's funeral., & then went to see Jane Alford, after which he came up here, & sat for a long time with Ella and me. He was very pleasant ...

**Friday 25 November**

I had a long, nice letter from Beatrice: she is enjoying herself very much I think, & has seen Reg., Frank, Heywood etc. Also Consie Heywood, who is engaged to a Mr Butler, ex Winchester master - Oxford Don I believe. I wrote to congratulate her for Ella & myself. Huppy had a beautifully printed note from Frank in answer to his to him. Rainy. Ella & I took Mother's Mothers' Meeting, at least I did nearly everything. About 13 women. Coming back we paid a visit to Jane Alford. Choir children's practice. Not a nice class. 15 boys. Ella did not stay in as she didn't feel well. Henry Smart there again. Not Henry Lampard, or William Smith, to my grief. Slow story 'Dick the sailor boy'.

**Saturday 26 November****Reggie's Confirmation Day**

I had a good long letter from Mother, & a few lines from Mr Hilton sending some cards which he had promised to do. Household business. Snook & Wilby were carrying out one of the hall tables, when the former fell down the place by the cellar. Wilby came to ask me to open the door, & happily Snook escaped with a hard knock, but it might have been serious. Ella & I worked at our Sunday lessons. The day turned out wet & windy, rain coming on between 11 & 12. All the same we three went to see old Allen in the afternoon. I took the books to the Church. Ella arranged the house flowers. Read. Mission work. We sang with the children. Father and Mother came back safely: they and Beatrice had been at Reggie's Confirmation, & of course seen Frank, also Eddie. Mother brought a letter for Ella from Beatrice.

**Sunday 27 November**

A few showers, and a very high wind. Much nicer Sunday than last ... All the choir boys came both times, which was delightful: also Perry, in spite of the rumour about his objecting about John. Charles resplendent in a new coat. We had the harmonium; a very bad exchange for the organ, especially as I think some notes were flat ... 'Lo, He Comes' went very well ... Dear Reg's 1st Communion. Singing as usual in drawingroom & schoolroom. Read Kingsley's Life. Thought of Fred Feltham in the Litany. 'For those who travel by land or water'.

**Monday 28 November**

Mother heard from Reggie, and Ella from Seymour. I daily expect to hear from Laura, & am daily disappointed ....

**Tuesday 29 November**

A very interesting letter from Lionel: we were very sorry to hear that there are 3 cases of typhoid fever at Haileybury. A bad account of Uncle Ridley ... Father went in to Salisbury in the carriage, and left it there for repairs, coming back in a borrowed one ... A starry, moonlight evening. Read 'Our Mutual Friend'.

### Wednesday 30 November

I heard from Lionel about Christmas presents. I also had a very nice note from Concie. Postcard from Brighton: Uncle Ridley still living ...

### Friday 2 December

I heard from Reg. sending two dreadful little photographs of himself, & asking for Beatrice's & my new ones in return: he intends to be taken properly at Owen's ...

... A death at Haileybury of typhoid fever. A boy called Stack.

### Monday 5 December

Heard that Edwin Matthews had broken, to our sorrow ... Beatrice & Miss Slaughter went out with magazines: & brought back a report that Henry Smart is married! ,, Eclipse of the moon: we went on the church terrace to see it later, when all had left. Night school ... I spoke to Henry Smart: he is married, & showed me (in the writing, "Do you know who that is MIss?") a photograph of himself and his wife. He is a dear boy. Poor Henry Allen has been dismissed by Mr Wallis; some false charge. Father, He & we had a talk about it. John Corbin & Mr Wallis seem to have behaved badly ...

### Tuesday 6 December

Mai's birthday: she was 18. She had some nice presents, & a nice packet of letters ... I had a very interesting letter from Bobbie. Lionel was thrown out of a carriage the other day, but happily was not hurt. Father sent into Salisbury, & brought back a splendid bagatelle board, draughts etc, for a Reading Room to be started in the School. Some 20 small Band of Hope children came up, & we had a Song Practice ...

### Thursday 8 December

My photographs came. Also I heard from Bobbie, telling about Mr Tanner, who has been staying in Oxford: Bob says he is in for his final exam in January, & seems down about the world at large, or to that effect. I am very sorry, & wrote to dear old Bob about things a little ,, Between ½ past 5 and 6 we, from Father to Violet, went to Fonthill for the acting. We 4 & L K H and H Le B L had a glee practice before the acting. J P was not there, much to my disappointment. The acting was The Midsummer Night's Dream, & was delightful. So very well done. Seymour [Grace's younger brother, aged about 11] looked lovely as Titania, 'Hermia' was a little dear, & Jack Hext as a fairy ... Mr Lightfoot keep [sic] himself in the background. We sang 'Waters of Elle', 'My love's like the red ..', & 'A king there was,' ... the very highest eulogiums of dear little Seymour as to his moral character. Mr K wd. like to keep him on - free if only he cd stay<sup>21</sup>. 'The best boy in England.'

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<sup>21</sup> Seymour may have been one of the paying pupils at Gattrell's School, Fonthill Bishop, which was mainly a charity school

### **Wednesday 14 December**

Beatrice and I left home about 9 o'clock, in the carriage, for Salisbury. We went in the hired carriage, & were to come back in our own if it was ready, which it was not, unfortunately. Ella and Mai had a Band of Hope practice in our absence. We shopped very satisfactorily I think. Lunch at the Cathedral Hotel. We did not see many people we knew, but we saw & spoke to Mr & Mrs Hext and Barbara. We had our parcels sent to Bloom's & started for home from there. Back by about 6. Tea. We gave Miss Slaughter a writing case, with which she was very pleased. Wet night. Service, & not a large congregation. Charles, Wilby & Edwin, and at practice afterwards all 5 boys: we were so glad. Reading Room open.

### **Thursday 15 December**

I wrote the Friday paper. Cut Temperance ribbons. We had a Band of Hope practice; singing & dialogues. In the afternoon I worked at transposing the accompaniment of 'Far away', which Father & Mother were to sing. Tuck, Snook, & Henry Allen helped in getting the piano down to the school, and getting the room ready for the Temperance Meeting in the evening. The Infant Room was got ready for the Reading Room. Soon after 7 o'clock the CETS Meeting began. We had the harmonium as well as the piano in some of the things. Father read a very good story, & made a nice speech. Some 80 or 90 people present, some plainly coming in from the Reading Room. Henry Smart & other workmen came. Tuck was very useful. Afterwards, eventually, Mother changed to Total, & Miss Slaughter, Harriet Calford, Henry Allen, Henry Smart, Alfred Barnes (workman) & Charles Feltham as total: I trust they will keep. Jack, Edwin, Charles etc were at the meeting. Some of us went into the Reading Room. William, Harry, Alfred & many others there. Found dear old Bobbie arrived when we got back after a very nice meeting; only the 3 Bayleys gave back their cards, to our disgust.

### **Friday 16 December**

Seymour arrived safely from Fonthill, having left it for good: he had a beautiful leaving book from Mr Radcliffe - Shakespeare: a 'Lays of Ancient Rome' from Ashton, & from Walter a Christian year, & written in it 'wear the white flower of a blameless life'. In his character Mr Radcliffe said he is a boy after his own heart, & how they would miss him more than he could express. I played for Bob to sing & flute. Sunday lesson. Band of Hope practice. In the afternoon we 4 & Miss Slaughter went out in the village to various places with almanacs etc. The Crosses & others enjoyed last night so much. Practice. Class, & a bad night, as so many Fridays this year seem to have been ... We began 'Oliver Dale's decision', which interested them. Father, Bobbie, and Seymour went down to the Reading Room. Seymour played bagatelle, & Father & Bobbie chess. Sat up & worked at my S. lesson.

### **Saturday 17 December**

The children helped us put out the stores. I worked at my Sunday lesson. Harrison at the Red House died in the night; Father saw him yesterday. Father went to see several people, & to Chapel Farm for one place to find out about the Bayleys. Apparently there is no reason at all

for them leaving the CETS. Early lunch for Father, Mother, Miss Slaughter, & me, & then we went to the station, where we left Miss Slaughter, & we went on to the Gillingham Grammar School for the speeches & Prizegiving. Miss Slaughter left for good; I am sure she was very sorry ...

### **Sunday 18 December**

... Poor Edwin was taken faint & bad in church, so Beatrice took him home, & when we came back after service (& a practice) we found him sitting shivering in the kitchen. Jack & George waited for him some time, but he was too ill to go home, so after supper we got ready Lionel's bed for him. Father took him upstairs, & George & Jack put him to bed. Mother looked after him in the evening, & he was made as comfortable as possible.

### **Monday 19 December**

Little Ted had not a good night, still he got up between 8 & 9, & went home with his stepmother, whom Mother sent for: she was very grateful. Ted was anything but well. Tuck brought in 12/- odd, the money he had taken from the Reading Room. Bobbie & Mai heard from Reg. Father & Mother went to London to the Stills'. Christmas cards. Band of Hope singing & dialogue practice. We expected Mr Hilton to lunch, as he had proposed himself (when he promised to take a funeral). He didn't come, but appeared later, when we were all out but Bobbie: he had been hunting! He asked if he and Hermann might come tomorrow for some music & what time, so Bob wrote (after consulting us) & asked them to dine. We 4 & Seymour went to Milton with almanacs. The Matthews had heard from Albert some time ago. We paid a visit to my boy Edwin: he seemed better, tho' not at all well: Mrs Allen thought it was a bilious attack. Bob & Seymour went to the Reading Room. Beatrice & Ella took night-school ... B & I sat up & wrote.

### **Tuesday 20 December**

I had a terrible cold in my head. We got ready the floor in the servants' hall for decorations, by putting down dusting sheets. We got out the texts ... We expected Hermann & Mr Hilton to dinner, but though we waited for some time they did not come. A bad night. I went to bed early because of my cold.

### **Wednesday 21 December**

#### **Lionel's Priest's Ordination**

There was a postcard for Father from Reggie to say he has got his remove: so now he is in Lower VI Book, after being only one term in the division below. Bobbie rode down to Semley to see Hermann, & found that it was the weather kept them back last night: they did start though. Soon after Hermann arrived: he was as nice as ever. We were at work decorating, so he came into the hall & talked. Hannah, Nellie, & Emily, came to help. Reggie arrived safely. We had to go back to our decorations, Hermann etc. in with us on & off. At 2 o'clock came the two Crosses, & afterward the 3 recreant Bayleys ... Finally Beatrice, Ella, & Hermann went off the station: WHD to go by the 3.25 to Exeter & the other 2 by the 4.25 to Steeple Langford to stay with the Hexts & help in a concert. Decorations ...

### **Thursday 22 December**

I heard from Auntie sending us 3£: a welcome present. Not a line from Father or Mother: they were to be at Lionel's Ordination yesterday. Caleb & I cleared out a great deal of debris from the hall, & a fresh supply of evergreens was brought in. Mai & I worked at decorations. Mr Penrose came over to say goodbye: he is leaving Tisbury for ?Polterie. I think he is certainly sorry to go, & I am sure I am sorry he is going. Bob & Reggie walked down the road some way with him. Decorations ... I tied the wreaths on the battens. Father, Mother & Lionel came back safely: Mother had written a postcard, only it hadn't come. Father & Mother brought me furlined cloak to my delight, also one for Beatrice, etc. I sat up & did 1 Sunday lesson.

### **Friday 23 December**

I had cards from Fraulein & a note, & a card from Florence (Matford). We stamped envelopes etc. Decoration work: battens for me. Beatrice & Ella came back from Steeple Langford by the 10.32 train, Ella with a bad cold. Scarlet fever at Holloway, one of the little Wigmores ...

### **Saturday 24 December**

High praise of Lionel (told by Father) from the Bishop of St Albans. Beatrice, Ella, & Mai stayed in bed to breakfast. A good post. I had cards from Dorothy, Mabel, Maudie, Kathleen, Miss Slaughter, Aggie, & Dorothy Lethbridge, & a note from Mr Frew - I had returned an umbrella we accidentally took. Also a joint card from Kathie & Nellie (to me). The boys, Snook, Wilby, & I took down the decorations to the church, & worked at putting them up. Bobbie, the Snooks & I put up the battens, & the texts were put up too: they were all done before lunch, & most of the decorations too. Mai came down part of the time. Lionel, Bob, & I finished in the afternoon. I did the churchyard. House decorations. Carol singers while we were at dinner: George, John Woodley, Caleb & the 2 Tucks. Bobbie & Reggie went to the Reading Room. (We sent Eliz. Allen a woollen vest, & Bobbie sent old Allen a comforter.) The boys came mumming: Charles, George Garrett, Henry Allen ...

### **Sunday 25 December**

A lovely large Church Hymns for us from Mr Tanner: & a card. A splendid table full of presents: I had 'Work among working men', & a book of German songs from Father & Mother, & Burns additional from Father: 'Bleak House' from Lionel & Bobbie, & 'David Copperfield' from Reg & Seymour, & a needle box from Violet. I had 4 boys at my Bible class ... Letters came between 10 & 11. I had cards from [long list of names]. A full choir; but no Ted! The singing went well both times. Lionel preached in the morning, & Father in the evening. ... Such a nice visit to dear little Ted, in the firelight. Mother, Seymour, Violet & Humphrey stayed at home in the evenings, as they had colds. Very good congregations. We showed our cards & presents after supper. Singing with the maids 'Now carol we' at prayers.

**Monday 26 December****Violet's birthday, 10**

... Mother & Violet had cards from Mr Tanner, and Mother had a sad little letter: oh dear. The Hindon band came, with an admiring audience of village boys & others. Mr Lucas sent us 4, through Bobbie, a lovely silk handkerchief each, from Liberty's: we were delighted ... saw John, Joe, & George Garrett etc beating for rabbit shooting. We went to look at Cloudes. The servants had their Christmas dinner instead of yesterday. We all had tea and Violet's cake in the schoolroom. Several boys played cricket. (Two marriages: one was Bessie Burbridge & John Day; I was so thankful they should be married. Poor child, though). We played games before Violet went to bed.

**Tuesday 27 December**

I had a card from Laura & a note; I don't know why it came so late, as it was evidently written early: Mr Mackarness had been there, & asked to be remembered to me. Mrs Cunningham asked Bobbie & me to Brightwell to sing in a concert. ... Lionel went away, for a tour in Italy with Mr Bowyer [probably another Haileybury master].

**Wednesday 28 December**

I had an anonymous card with a Brighton postcard [sic], over which we puzzled our heads ...

**31 December 1881**

Two books of trios came directed to Bobbie, from WHD, evidently meant for us, as they were for female voices. Bobbie left by the 9.44 train to Sopley to stay with Mr Lucas. Stores. We worked at our Sunday lessons, & I finished mine entirely, notes & all (my 2<sup>nd</sup>) before lunch. Mother went into Shaftesbury in the afternoon. We four girls reviewed the presents for our boys & ticketed them. Later we tried over most of the trios, some very pretty ones. I read a little 'Work among working men'. In the evening was the ringers' supper to which Father, Reg. & Seymour went in. Coffee, instead of beer.

(1882 [sic] has been eventful. I have refused my 1<sup>st</sup>, & perhaps my last, offer. We have made new friends. Hermann, Frank, & Mr Lucas. My friend Laura has married, very happily I trust. Some of my dear boys have gone out in life, Charlie & Tom & Dick. I have a Bible class, no longer S S class: only God knows what good has, or has not, resulted. A disastrous year as regards breaking promises in the CETS but much to be thankful for in those who have joined or re-joined. A welcome addition to the Temperance work in Tuck & his family. Our new tenors & altos in the choir are a great success. Henry Allen has become an acknowledged singer. Winter Reading Room started: a very good thing. Two of our special boys, Albert & George Flower (& George Merchant) imprisoned, which is grievous. Another Christmas all together.)

We 4 girls, Reggie & Seymour sat up round our fire & heard the old year going out and the new year in. We read the 39.90.&103 Psalms. Thought of Lionel & Bobbie.

Letters Received

184

Letters Written

300

Abt. 116 more written than received