

THE MARY COX 'PRIVATE JOURNAL'



Mary Cox (1844–1920)

Mary, known affectionately as 'Pollie,' was Richard Jefferies'²⁸ first cousin who lived opposite Coate Farm, at Lower Snodshill Farm where she was born on 27 December 1844. She was the daughter of William⁵³ (1809–1863) and Fanny (née Jefferies) Cox⁵ (1812–1901). William Cox was a tenant farmer on land that grew from 51 acres (1845) to 100 acres (1861). The land is now the site of a hotel and petrol station on the Marlborough Road at Coate. Mary's brothers William¹⁸ (1843–1909), James¹⁰ (1846–1925) and Tom³ (1855–1927) were playmates of their cousins, and it was James who accompanied Richard in their abortive attempt to go abroad and march to Moscow.

Mary is believed to have been romantically involved with Richard, although the 4-year age difference might make this unlikely, before his attentions turned to her younger sister Lizzie¹³ (1849–1891) and, ultimately, to Jessie Baden³² of neighbouring Dayhouse Farm who he married in 1874. Mary worked in the family dairy and continued to help her mother on the farm after her father died. She moved from Snodshill Farm to Colne Mead, West Drayton, Middlesex with

her mother in 1880 along with younger brother Tom. She looked after her mother as she aged (Fanny died in her 89th year) and then moved to Temple Farm, Roydon, Essex to help bring up the children of sister Lizzie who had died of tuberculosis aged 42. On the 1911 census Mary is recorded at Lightwater Poultry Farm, Bagshot, Surrey with her nephew Alfred Jefferies Abbey²⁷ who was a poultry farmer. Mary died on 8 March 1920, aged 76, at Meadow Cottage, Roydon, Essex.

Both Mary and her brother James¹⁰ kept diaries. Mary's eighth diary is the only one of hers known to exist and runs from 8 February 1887 to 16 October 1889. Her home was at Colne Mead when writing this diary and includes the time Richard Jefferies died. She records several trips to Swindon to visit relations and friends. Mary spends much time knitting, sewing and letter-writing.

This diary has been on loan to the Richard Jefferies Museum by Andrew Lewis, grandson of Mabel (Hall) Sewell²⁴ since 5 April 2009. The diary has been transcribed painstakingly by John Yard and his wife who first looked at the diary on a visit to the Museum in 2012. John is a great grandson of Mary's brother, Tom. The text has not been corrected in any way and John also created a spreadsheet to identify names in the diary that now have been added as endnotes. Not all references have been added. Where known photographs exist in the Richard Jefferies Society archives, these images have been added.

John Yard has been kind enough to make his transcript available to the Society and to the Museum.



Mary's 'Private Journal'

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February 8th

My new book is an improvement both in size and paper. I am very pleased with it, got it from the stores for ½d. a cold east wind today. I called on Mrs Mercer and had the account of the Parish tea expenses. Wrote to Janet² for her birthday. We are going to Dr Barry's this evening.

February 9th

Tom³ was late home so that it was nearly 8 o/c when we went to the Drs Emma & Kate were there, after tea we had cards, learnt a new game called "ghost", not much play in it but great fun & any members can join, so a good party. This morning I went up to Bells farm have one candidate for confirmation Martha Hatton, wrote a note to Mrs Harris giving her name wrote Lizzie⁴. Cold east wind still Mother⁵ would go to the Thatchers, Tom & I are going.

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February 10th

We were late home from the Thatchers it was past 12 o/c we had a very pleasant evening and such a nice tea everything so nice and they were very kind Emma, Kate and Walter Barry and Dr & Mrs Barry so a good party of us. As I was at work today. I was suddenly taken with rheumatism in my back & legs & 'tis with difficulty I move about. Frank Thatcher came in to say goodbye this evening he is off tomorrow to Gravesend for two years he brought me a lovely bunch of Cyclamen so kind of him.

February 11th

I am a sort of cripple cannot move much am taking care. Heard from Lizzie⁴ & Emilie⁶ sent me an apron the vicar called this afternoon finished third pair of drawers for Lizzie⁴.

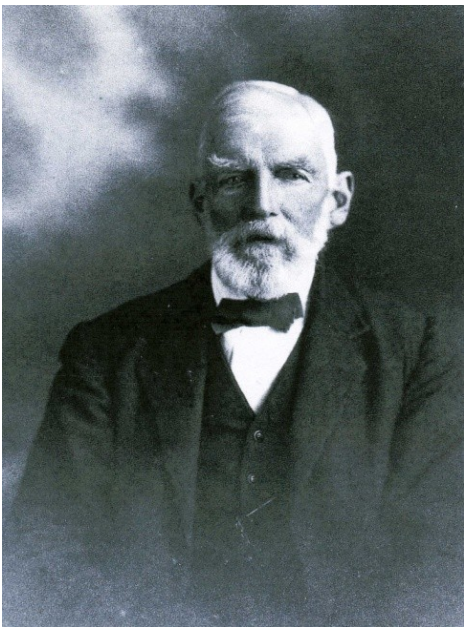
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February 12th

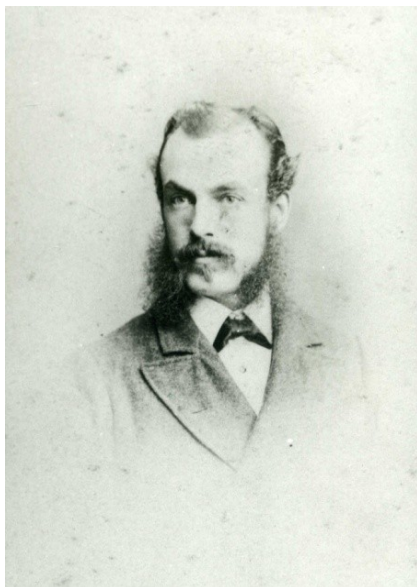
Better but still a bit lame I am just keeping warm & not doing anything. Wrote to Emilie thanking her for her present and enclosing valentines for the children asking her to give them. Finished Lizzie's other drawers only have to put the lace on two pairs.

February 13th

Sunday I am better but still feel it so have not been out today the wind is still cold more N.E. today and high, so mother did not go out either.



Mary's sister Lizzie, brothers: James above,
William and Tom (with wife Sarah) below



February 14th

Dull and cold, though not so bitter I keep by the fire & am careful but feel better. Wrote Mrs Looker for her birthday. When Tom³ came home tonight he told us of such a sad thing, Mr Charles Thatcher met with a terrible accident today had his right hand crushed in the threshing machine we are so sorry for him it has quite upset us hearing of it.

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February 15th

Finished off the third pair of drawers for Lizzie⁴ have two pairs ready for sending tomorrow & finished Tom's second night shirt. Tom³ came home from town tonight with James Thatcher so heard all the particulars of his brother's accident, he has just a tiny stump of a thumb and first finger left the two middle ones are quite gone & a stump of a little finger poor man it is sad for him he is going on as well as they can expect. he had three Drs Dr Barry, Dr Ferris & Dr Thompson to perform the operation removing the crushed bone etc. and dressing the hand I am still a prisoner & though better do not lose the rheumatism so keep warm as possible & only do needlework.

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February 16th

Wrote Lizzie a long letter & sent her parcel & May⁷ "Little Snowflakes from Uncle Tom. Finished Tom's third night shirt and began making new wrist bands for the shirt am putting wrists and front to a shirt. Tom called to enquire for Charles Thatcher saw his wife & he is doing as well as they could wish feels able to get up but the Drs keep him in bed. Mother heard from Lizzie⁴ they are all well but not suited with a maid yet I am sorry.

February 17th

Made our feather broom today it looks so nice hope we shall find it useful and the parcel from the stores came this morning so I partly cut out Will's¹⁸ two nightshirts and began one. Mrs Dr Barry and her baby came to tea he was such a good boy they left soon after tea. I began cover for the sofa cushion crocheted double berlin wool.

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February 18th

Finished cutting out Will's¹⁸ nightshirts and am working away trying to finish one tomorrow wrote Willie Sewell⁸ for his birthday tomorrow. A nasty day damp & foggy & rain in the morning my poor legs feel the change. Finished fronting Tom's shirt & Tom put a stick to our feather broom hope we shall find it useful.

February 19th

Did part of the washing this morning to ease Monday. Heard from Lizzie⁴ her parcel arrived & they are all right & heard from Janet² she heard from Em⁹, they are better & she tells me Mrs Hobbs has a son, she also says Willie will call but he has not so suppose he was prevented & Janet² tells me Dr Willie Sewell has a daughter making a pigeonⁱ pair. Finished Will's⁸ nightshirt.

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February 20th

Sunday and again a day at home for me though I am much better but Mother & Tom think I am best at home it is foggy & I think cold. Mother and Tom went to church this morning & the latter for a walk this afternoon & this evening he wrote to Willie Abbey¹² & began to James¹⁰ the Fresco mail goes this week.

February 21st

Our washing day & such a bright lovely day all dried splendidly sheets, flannels & all ready to iron but I'm very tired & my legs tell me I stood for more than was good for them hope I shall not be the worse for it. Finished off Lizzies 4th pair of drawers.

February 22nd

My legs & back did pain so in the night I feared I should be the worse for my work but am not today & we have done the ironing 'tis not so fine today but mild. Wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵ heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ so kindly enquiring for us & sorry to hear I have rheumatism.

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February 23rd

I wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ last night & Tom³ posted today I began Wills¹⁸ second nightshirt Mother went to church this morning I was afraid to venture the wind being high & half inclined to damp. I got Mother to go & pay Mrs Mercer we made 10/- for our subscription to the teas am glad that is done. Wrote Willie Abbey¹² to send with Tom's. mother heard from Lizzie she has a maid engaged, had excellent character with her trust she will turn out a good girl, one drawback is she is deaf do hope not very & lizzie tells us one sad bit of news & that Alfred Pyne died Sunday, the vicars eldest son & such a nice young man "The flower of the Flock" they called him I am sorry to hear it. Tom also wrote James¹⁰ this mail.

ⁱ two siblings, one male and one female.



The three Jefferies' sisters, September 1891.

Left to right: Mary's mother Fanny Cox, Aunt Martha Hall and Aunt Eliza Sewell.

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February 24th

Finished Will's¹⁸ nightshirt and began the cover for the sofa cushion crimson & black double berlin wool.

February 25th

Tom³ has decided to go to Roydon¹³ tomorrow so we made some mince pies to send & he is taking their hamper with parsnip, celery and things I had ready to send.

February 26th

Tom had to go early this morning to catch the 8.13 train do hope he will get on alright and enjoy his trip to Roydon. I went out yesterday & called on Mrs Thatcher she is sadly keeping to her bed today. I went for a walk it was so lovely such splendid sunshine. A letter came for Tom from Frank Bacon so I wrote a note and sent it on to Roydon¹³ to him.

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February 27th

Sunday I went to school & to church am much better though not quite rid of it yet. This afternoon Mrs Beecher called she has a cold.

February 28th

Foggy morning lovely after but such a white frost again. I went and helped with the clubs today but we had few went to Mrs Swifts & bought shirting gave 8¾ d for 1½ yds for Mother to make me a slip body. Began the bracket though I have not done my cushion. Tom came home tonight with such a nasty cold quite sadly he seemed they were all nicely at Roydon & he did so enjoy the stroll yesterday. Went to the Lee & to the Hamlet Lizzie's new maid comes in today do trust she will suit.

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March 1st

Tom³ is not at all well seems out of sorts as well as a cold. Such a fog again and a frost.

March 2nd

Fog & frost again but lovely after 12 o/c Lizzie⁴ heard from James¹⁰ last week sent the letter for us to see a nice cheerful letter. We went to church at 5 o/c today very few there.

March 3rd

I had such a nice chatty cheerful letter from Aunt Sewell¹¹ am sorry to hear Em's⁹ mother's¹⁴ help is a failure. Flo⁶¹ is home with her baby so excited over Jack's⁴¹ employment must run home to talk it over. I finished my cushion and it looks nice I am very pleased with it began a pair of wool slippers for Mrs Smiths²¹ Bazaar. Tom is not half well complains now of indigestion these fogs are not good for him it was the same today frost & fog and bright afternoon. Planted the first potatoes.

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March 4th

Had a long cheerful letter from Lizzie her maid is so deaf they have to work to make her hear otherwise they like her & they hope she may improve as she gets used to them. Wrote to Mrs Smith. Fog & frost again but the fog did not lift today. I am getting along nicely with my bracket and it is very pretty but large for the wood so Tom means to make a larger top for it. Made the button holes in my slip body & now it's done.

March 5th

Wrote to Lizzie heard from Mrs Smith & wrote her a few lines as I found I had not sent the finish of my letter yesterday & I wanted to say how sorry I was to hear she is poorly & obliged to have the Dr. East wind so did not go out. Sent

Emilyⁱⁱ to enquire for Mrs Burkin she is going on alright & did so enjoy my gruel I sent her two more pies. Wrote Mary Abbey¹⁵.

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March 6th

Sunday went to school & church Mother came to the second part of the service to the sacrament. Tom stayed in all day he had a wretched cold in his head do trust he will be better tomorrow. I took Jack for a walk and went to church again this evening but it's a cold wind.

March 7th

Washing day & quite a March drying. I wrote Em to wish her boy¹⁶ happy returns 'tis his birthday tomorrow & Percy Abbey's¹⁷ today. After an early tea I went out paid the baker & Miss Haynes & took my magazines round Drayton only had them today starching and folding done before tea.

March 8th

Tom stayed home today feeling so unfit for work & is better for it. The fowl house had the felt put on it today. We did our ironing and I planted potatoes under wall by bees.

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March 9th

Did some more gardening & began my cardboard screens for upstairs fire places. Tom is better & gone to work today.

March 10th

Went to Bell's farm & saw Mrs Burkin she is going on nicely now & the baby. After tea went to Yiewsley and Mr Saunders has not any wheat get but will get us some & I took Mrs Haynes her book & paid the butcher and grocer's account.

March 11th

Heard from Em⁹ Aunt Hall¹⁴ has been quite ill, is better so Mother wrote her today & I put in a note asking her about a knitting pattern. Mother heard from Lizzie⁴ & I heard from Mary Abbey she would like a pair of socks for her boy now I want some yarn. We had half a pig today to cure the bacon ourselves.

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March 12th

Such a change in the weather yesterday was lovely rain in the night & such a cold wind today & threatens for snow so I have not been out. I made up the cosy for the bazaar all but the cord round that I have to get.

ⁱⁱ Emily Selby appears to be the maid at Colne Mead. Possibly born 1867, Tonbridge, Kent.

March 13th

Sunday cold day but fine and bright such a frost last night. Went to school & all three of us to church & I went for a walk with Tom this afternoon.

March 14th

A very sharp frost again last night so not much gardening could be done. I put in the parsley seed & finished Tom's row of potatoes went to the room & took the club money then went to see the rest in my district & called on the Thomsons, the mother is so like Aunt Sewell¹¹ I fell in love with her. they would like the magazine. After tea I went to Thatcher's farm. Will¹⁸ came about 5.30 he is well.

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March 15th

Another change this morning quite a deep snow & so still the trees are a picture and it has snowed all day sometimes such large flakes at others fine but it is so deep. I bottled some orange wine have three dozen bottled now. We had young Hobbs in this evening to knock the snow off the shrubs he did it very well. I fried snow pancakes Tom did enjoy them he was very tired tonight but seems better.

March 16th

Such a fine day the sun has melted a lot of the snow. We made 28 oranges & 3 lemons into marmalade. Kate Barry called about the book covering & we have now fixed next Tuesday. I wrote Aunt Sewell. I am making a doily netting a border and it looks very well want Mother to do some. Wrote Gertie Bridgeman¹⁹.

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March 17th

Fine but cold oh dear! How tired I am of the cold. I went out for an hour this afternoon called on Mrs Radcliffe to tell her next Tuesday is now arranged for the books but felt it so cold it has not improved me. Bought a bit of oatmeal cloth & cut out & began a pinafore for Em's boy. A large vestry meeting on the drainage scheme tonight.

March 18th

It was a big vestry and unanimous in rejecting the proposed schedule. Heard from Lizzie she has had a batch of invalids Mr Abbey¹², Arthur²³ & baby²⁷, all better now I'm glad to hear & she tells Alfred Higgins has lost his wife of fever in India, only married last summer it is sad & Annie Chapman has had a fall & hurt her back they trust not seriously. She is to come to the Hamlet when able. Len also sent us a letter from Willie Abbey to read. I wrote Lizzie⁴. Finished

Em's⁹ pinafore. That dear Tom brought me some yarn tonight so now I can begin the socks for Mary's boy.



Mary's cousin Em (Emilie Sewell) with (clockwise) Mabel, Willie Sewell, Daisy Kenny and Kathy.

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March 19th

Wrote Em⁹ and sent the boy's pinafore & pattern. Began Percy's socks hope soon to send them. So cold still and such a lot of snow about still patiently waiting for some more. In the paper today is the death of Mr Rolph vicar of Chiseldon aged 83 and old Mr Polcock late of Liddington the same age.

March 20th

Sunday went to school and church but it was so cold did not go out after east wind again. Mother stayed at home Tom is much more like himself he went to church this morning and for a walk this afternoon. Wrote to Arthur²³ & a note to Lizzie⁴ to return Willie's letter and shall be busy tomorrow.

March 21st

Washing day and such good drying again. I began a pair of socks for Percy¹⁷ Saturday have done one and begun the other. It is milder today and threatens rain. Taylor cut out the standard roses.

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March 22nd

Rain in the night but such a lovely day did our ironing this morning and this afternoon went book covering & mending Kate Barry, Mrs Radcliffe & Mrs Groves were also there and we did all we could, had not cloth for about 8, after we had done I went home with Kate and had tea. It was 7 o/c when I got home it rained a little I came home. Finished Percy's socks tonight the first pair must see how they do before I begin another pair.

March 23rd

Rain again last night so now there is not much snow left such a high wind today. Taylor brought me some clove cuttings last night I put them in & cut out my rose trees this morning. Wrote Mary and sent Percy's socks. Went to church at 5 o/c it was too rough for mother called on Mrs Mercer after service & went to Mrs Radcliffe's & begged for some chrysanthemum plants. I am glad of them.

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March 24th

Cleaned the bedrooms and gave the box room it's spring clean Tom put the book shelves up there last night and I planted the cuttings Mrs Radcliffe gave me and took some young plants off those F. Thatcher gave us last Autumn and put the dahlia root in the frame & then it came on so wet I couldn't do any more.

March 25th

Still a high wind. I went to Bell's farm this morning and did a little gardening after dinner and went at 4 o/c to the vicarage to the district visitors meeting it came on to rain so fast as we left so I went into Mrs Doc Barry's & had a chat for an hour Kate & Emma were both there Mrs Doc wants the pattern of Tom's nightshirts so I promised to let her have it.

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March 26th

I have been framing the picture we had with the Xmas graphics with ping cambric and it looks quite pretty we have it in our room. I am making the doll some shoes & a hat & apron for my May Queen. Wrote May⁷ & Lizzie⁴ and to Whiteleys, two Miss Thomson's called this afternoon they are very pleasant but do not like the way our services are conducted & decline to assist in Parish work.

March 27th

Sunday a high wind but mild & such a storm as we came home from church Mother was with us but does not seem any the worse for it. Tom went for a walk this afternoon & he & I went to church this evening, our vicar was so earnest and gave us a longer sermon than usual.

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March 28th

Went to the room & took the club moneys and called on Mrs D Barry & took her the pattern this afternoon. I planted a few potatoes & the vicar called & had tea with us, brought the catalogue & I gave him two volumes of Sunday magazine for the library. Wrote a note to Kate Barry for us to meet at the institute tomorrow and look over these books. Finished the dolls apron & shoes.

March 29th

Had an extra wash today & did the two white quilts & two blankets and it has been so lovely hot sun & just enough wind it is quite dry. Wrote to Mrs Smith²¹. Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ Em⁹ was very pleased with the pinafore but she could not write has not a maid & her boy is so sadly. Met the vicar but it was not a satisfactory affair in my opinion. Kate came home to tea with me.

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March 30th

We did a little ironing today to ease next week as we are expecting the children & Mrs Abbey then to dinner so want to finish early. Did a little more gardening and we went to church. I spoke to Mr Harris and told him the catalogue was a muddle so he wants us to meet him at the institute Friday 4 o/c and consider what to do.

March 31st

Finished off the tea cosy and it looks nice now and began the second pair of socks for Percy¹⁷ I went gardening till the rain sent me in about 3.30 & it was such a wet evening I could not go out. Wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹ and began a letter to Lizzie⁴. Mother heard from Aunt Hall¹⁴ Em's boy¹⁶ is so ill he had a fit of convulsions & they had Dr Mclean he thinks him serious and calls the throat complaint babycrow, he will need watching till his first teeth are through. Poor Em⁶ I am sorry.

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April 1st

And a stormy day with a high wind finished Lizzies letter and wrote Harold³⁸ and a post card to Mrs Smith²¹ to thank her for sending the magazines. Wonderful to relate I had our parish magazines today & delivered them in Drayton after the meeting at the institute. The vicar & Kate were there but the

meeting was not to my satisfaction I do not think it will be well managed and did not agree with several things they said but Kate supported the vicar so I felt sat upon.

April 2nd

Did as much to forward the washing as I could as I want to garden on Monday it is too damp for much today. Wrote to Whiteleys and sent Harry a chapter after this went out and paid Miss Haines. Went to Yiewsley ordered good Friday buns at Saunders & paid for them and went to the Gardeners and ordered a rose tree for Tom.

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April 3rd

Sunday and a lovely day went to church & school & to church this evening alone. Tom went a walk & was tired. Tom heard from Nellie Kirtley⁵⁹ & Mrs Smith both enclosed to me the latter wants some wool from Whiteleys so wrote & ordered it. We are in a bit of uncertainty about the children coming Tuesday. Mr Abbey¹² is getting more cows and going to serious markets & is not sure if he can get away.

April 4th

And such a nice day did the washing folded dried & mangled and went gardening put in some potatoes & the nemophila seeds. Heard from my dear brother James¹⁰ such a treat to get a letter I am glad. Tom heard from Lizzie⁴ & most likely she will bring the chicks tomorrow. Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & Ada⁴⁷ also wrote and sent Aunts photo cabinet size. Ida Tomkins & Mrs looker also wrote.

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April 5th

And such a change in the weather damp & cold wind today Mother heard from Aunt Hall¹⁴ enclosing Joe's²⁰ in which she gives an account of his disagreement with Sam Brown# the latter behaved very badly and tried Joe greatly. Aunt says they had a few lines on Saturday to say Joe is leaving has left indeed by now & was going to Paris & Alexandria to try for a situation it worries Uncle³⁴ greatly. Dear Lizzie comes with her little folks but it was only a sight we had of her & she is not looking very bright baby²⁷ is still sadly & it worries and tries her as he will not eat his food, Tom ordered a cot for Mother & they left a little before 5 o/c so I have my pets the darlings do hope they will keep well and enjoy their visit. We do miss Mother so tonight.

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April 6th

Such a high wind & so cold. The children went for a walk with Emily this morning & I took them out this afternoon but it was too cold and rough to be

pleasant. It does seem strange without Mother. Tom put the bacon up the chimney ready for us to try to smoke it I do not fancy it will do properly.



**Martha Hall (RJ's aunt) with her children
From left to right: Emily (Sewell), Joe, Fanny, Jack and Florence**

Page 27

April 6th

Such a high wind & so cold. The children went for a walk with Emily this morning & I took them out this afternoon but it was too cold and rough to be pleasant. It does seem strange without Mother. Tom put the bacon up the chimney ready for us to try to smoke it I do not fancy it will do properly.

April 7th

Heard from Mother and Lizzie⁴ the latter says her dear baby²⁷ is so sadly they have had the Doctor to him he says baby has a little bronchitis & partly his teeth poor little darling he is bothered with those teeth & I do feel anxious about him. That naughty Will¹⁸ did not meet Mother & she had part of her journey alone but says she is alright. Tom went this morning & we shall not see

him again till Monday morning, hope we shall then but feel doubtful. Planted a few more potatoes & went with my chicks to see Tommy Hobbs.

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April 8th

Good Friday my chicks have brought some things for Tommy took him part yesterday & he was pleased poor little boy. I went to church & school & my chicks met me at church. Emily took them a walk this afternoon. I wrote Lizzie last night & posted as I went to school & wrote Mother & Mrs Smith²¹ this evening. Heard from Em baby is better.

April 9th

Still very cold and threatened for rain this morning but it did not come to much. The children paid the milk a/c & posted my letters & this afternoon we did some more gardening. I finished the potatoes Tom got ready. The first row of peas are up nicely we saw yesterday & the mustard and cress is very good the children so enjoy it.

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April 10th

Easter Sunday and a very pleasant day it has been. I got up early & went to the 7 o/c celebrate it was very cold then the wind seemed to cut through me got home just about 8 o/c. We had breakfast & I did my work then went to school & my young folks met me at church they are delighted with the Easter eggs, our church was prettily decorated, such lots of flowers looked lovely. I heard from Mother & Lizzie & a P.C. from Tom the dear baby²⁷ is better. After a good dinner my little folks listened while I read the letters & we looked at pictures, talked & walked about the garden till tea. Afterwards went for a walk to Bell's farm at 8 o/c Harold³⁸ went to bed. May⁷ and Arthur²³ having supper with me and now at nearly 10 o/c we are all going to retire together.

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April 11th

Tom came last night and has been very busy all day in his garden & done a nice lot. It has been a most lovely day the air so soft quite a treat. I did some gardening this afternoon & evening. Mr Harris came to ask me to see after the surplises and go and help Miss Brown to put them in order. I cannot undertake them but have promised to see Miss Brown & help her tomorrow after service. I wrote Mother & sent her a letter from Miss Tomkins that came yesterday.

April 12th

I sent my young folks a good walk & did a small wash. Wrote to Lizzie. Went to the 5 o/c service & saw Miss Brown but we could not do anything as so few of the choir were there and Mrs Scott has undertaken to keep them in order.

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April 13th

I called at the Thatchers & invited Annie & Myrtle to come tomorrow and also on Mrs Mercer & invited Dora, then on to the Thomsons & asked Miss I to take my class which she kindly promised to do for two Sundays.

April 14th

I cut out and began a coloured pinafore for May⁷. We had our small party & merry & noisy they were it was such a cold wind they had to come in & play indoors early. I wrote to Whiteleys for some galateaⁱⁱⁱ & to Miss Packer & Jessie Brown#.

April 15th

This afternoon took my chicks a little walk & then called on Tommy Hobbs. Tom is going to see Mother this evening. We find our bacon will not do properly so Mr Brimble has it to dry by his oven hope it will turn out well.

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April 16th

Had my parcel from Whiteleys and heard from Miss Packer. Wrote Lizzie⁴. Tom says Mother is very well & is talking of going to see Lizzie so Will¹⁸ and Tom advise her go while the children are here as it will be quieter for her and Lizzie will have more time with her. I am glad of it as my pets can now stay longer.

April 17th

Sunday we went to church this morning & this afternoon. Tom took the chicks & dog a walk.

April 18th

And such a busy day it was washing day and good drying. I had done my cold starching and most of the folding by 3 o/c and fortunate I had as Mrs Ratcliffe came soon after with her two chicks & stayed more than an hour. Then I cleaned the cask ready for the ginger wine. Heard from Lizzie, Tom is poorly tonight headache & cold he heard form Mother and she is going to Roydon¹³ Wednesday.

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April 19th

Much milder today and my chicks went a walk this morning. The men came and did something to the pump but it is not much better & they are coming tomorrow to open the well. Did my ironing.

ⁱⁱⁱ a strong, twilled cotton cloth, often striped, used for play clothes, uniforms, etc.

April 20th

Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ & at last I have written Miss Packer. The men came today and opened the well and found a lot of stringy kind of weed grown up the pipe hope it is done properly now. Tom is quite poorly I am sorry & trust he will soon be better. Myrtle & Annie Thatcher came in and had such a game with my chicks & they want some violets but it was too dark to gather them tonight so I told them to come for some tomorrow. It was so warm we had tea out of doors to my chicks delight I began cutting out Harold's³⁸ galatea suit to fit it on while he is here.

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April 21st

Heard from Mrs Smith²¹ & she tells me Mr Brunsdon²² is gone bankrupt I am sorry poor man. Tom had a P.C. from Aunt Hall¹⁴ asking for the return of her letters so I wrote her & sent them. Went out & paid the baker, butcher & grocer. Annie & Myrtle came in about 3 o/c for their violets. My chicks had gone to see Tommy Hobbs so I asked them to come in to tea at 4 o/c & go for a walk with my young folks & they were delighted. Emily took them a good walk they had one misfortune Arthur²³ lost his cane in the river and was in such a way I had some trouble to comfort him. After he came home the children all had a good game Myrtle & Annie like coming in & my chicks are glad to see them. Tom is much better I am glad to say.

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April 22nd

Such a high wind so I could not walk far, but I did go to the place Arthur²³ lost his cane but it was clean gone.

April 23rd

It threatens for rain and the wind is high. We have not been far today but I took them a little walk after sending a letter to Mother and Lizzie⁴

April 24th

Sunday rain in the night & this morning Arthur²³ was not very well so I gave him a dose & only took May⁷ to church. It was fine there and back but such storms this afternoon & it looked so dark. Tom was afraid to venture with the chicks but took Arthur & May for an hour this evening Harold³⁸ stayed with me, the wind has been cold today and a fire is very comfortable still.

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April 25th

Arthur wrote to his mother & May her father so I put in a letter to Lizzie & heard from her today and Mr Abbey¹² comes for my darlings Thursday. Went to

the schools and took the club moneys and Emily took the children a walk while I had another turn gardening but it has been stormy & the ground is damp.

April 26th

Wrote to Mab²⁴ for her birthday & to Em & May⁷, sent Mab & Daisy²⁵ picture kerchiefs and I wrote to Mary Abbey and asked her to come to us for a rest and change. Tom wished me to do so.

April 27th

My chicks took some flowers to Annie & Myrtle & asked them to come in by & by to wish them goodbye they did so and stayed until my young things were in bed. Mrs thatcher is ill again so they could not go there.

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April 28th

And such a lovely day for my precious children's last day. Mr Abbey¹² came about 1 o/c and soon after 2 o/c we started they went by the 2.53 to get home in good time. I went to see them off the darlings theirs was a loving goodbye and I do miss them terribly, feel so inclined to be stupid & fret about them. Fred Hobbs took their trunk to the station. Wrote Polly Smith for her birthday tomorrow.

April 29th

I do miss my darling so dreadfully the house is painfully quiet. I wrote Lizzie and sent Arthur's²³ toothbrush and wrote Mrs Smith²¹. Had the magazines so took some of them round after tea then did a bit of gardening but I do feel to want the young sweet voices round me.

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April 30th

Busy day with me and I'm obliged to keep busy or I am too sad missing my darlings.

May 1st

Sunday went to school & church & we stayed for Holy Communion. Very cold still east wind heard from Lizzie they got home nicely Thursday & she is pleased to see them looking so well says they look as though they had been to the sea. Tom wrote to Willie Abbey & I wrote to his wife & wrote Mother. Tom intends to go & see her tomorrow. Went to church this evening, leaving Tom as housekeeper.

May 2nd

We were up early and I began washing before breakfast though it did not look promising. Such a nasty cold rain till about 1 o/c & we did more of it I am glad.

Did a bit of gardening pricked out all my phlox plants and they were tiny but were not doing well.

May 3rd

Wrote May⁷ & Lizzie⁴. Tom went to see Mother she has a cold in her head I am sorry to hear. She arranged to meet Tom at Ealing Saturday evening to come home & Tom brought the stuff for Mothers dress. Silks have gone up in price so Mother would not have one. Has a beige it is very pretty and will be very useful. Tom says I am to have a new dress & I fancied beige so as Mother has a black mixture I think I'll have a brown, Mother has velvet to trim hers I should prefer plush. Did our ironing & began spring cleaning upstairs. Emily has done her room today. It has been a damp muggy day should think things will grow now, did a bit more rockery if I may call so few stones by such a name, hope to get it high enough.

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May 4th

Wrote Mother and told her what I want for my dress for William to get it as he did mothers. We cleaned Toms bedroom today better day for our work wind fresher & it soon died.

May 5th

Another busy day & I am so tired. Well cleaned our bedroom and it has been a glorious day, so hot too, we have the stair carpets up & beat & shook, also the spare room carpets, it was nearly 8 o/c when I had done and not a bit of time for gardening today.

May 6th

Cooler today and wet. Cleaned the spare room & stairs and I did a good cooking, pastry & cakes this morning. wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Emilie Abbey⁶, had a P.C. from Arthur²³ to tell me baby²⁷ has a tooth, I am so glad.

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May 7th

A sultry day & we have been so busy polishing upstairs & putting all to rights. Mother came home tonight with Tom she has a nasty cold & is not looking so well as when she went away.

May 8th

Sunday

And so warm we went to church this morning Mother and self Tom has been so poorly all day could not go far, out of sorts & a cold. I went to Dr Barry for him on my way from church tonight but he was out will come down if home in time. I had a long dear letter from Lizzie have had a nasty headache all day & so tired.

May 9th

Had the kitchen spring cleaned today I went to the schools & took the club moneys then called on Mrs Scott & paid Mrs Thomson's 2/6 then went to see Mrs Wooster she is very sadly, then went to the Hall & saw the Bactalls & Mrs Avery then called on Mrs Thomson & on my way home went to Thatchers Farm it was 4 o/c on my return. Wrote Janet².

Page 42

May 10th

Another busy day, we turned out the dining room & had the chimney swept & spring cleaned the room. I tried to get the oil mark out of the carpet and restuffed the sofa. Mother wrote Lizzie⁴ & I put in a tiny note to wish the dear baby²⁷ happy returns did a little bit of gardening.

May 11th

Cleaned the parlours today & finished off the dining room putting away all the winter curtains and did a bit more of my garden.

May 12th

Polished the grates upstairs & down put up the white curtains & finished the parlours off oiling fire irons & doing little things. Mrs Jas Haynes came for her book & sat chatting awhile. Put in some nasturtium seeds & planted out more chrysanthemums.

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May 13th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹, Em⁹ has begun sending Mab²⁴ and Daisy²⁵ to Miss Cowells to school but Mab is quite sadly hope it is not much the matter Ken is better. Thought to go to town today about my dress &c but we have not heard from William so could not go did some gardening this morning & work this afternoon & went out this eve paid all the a/cs & called on Mrs Mercer it has been stormy or Mother was going with me to Bell's farm.

May 14th

Fine again & milder it was very cold yes' day quite humid weather today & a grand day in London the queen is going to open the people's palace in the east end. Cecil Thatcher brought me in such a nice lot of mush & six geraniums the vicar also called this eve & Mrs Michins coachman to see our bees & tell us about things. Wrote Mary Abbey & sent Percy's socks.

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May 15th

Sunday A lovely day went to school & church Mother & Tom too to the better. Our first hen has three chicks and we hope to have a fourth hope the old hen will do better than that. Mother heard from Lizzie such a long nice letter she is

better though she has had extra work made 30 lbs of butter last week, Osborn's⁴⁰ wife is very sadly again. Obligated to keep her bed and he nursed they had Dr. Butcher to see her & 'tis only weakness from making too free after the attack a month ago. Lizzie's baby²⁷ has two teeth. Tom & myself went to church this evening & I began writing Lizzie.

May 16th

Washing & good drying all folded and mangling done & I had a hour gardening so am very tired. Tonight wrote to Mrs. Smith to say I am going to send her a parcel by our maid. I wrote a few more lines & I wrote Lizzie's letter.

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May 17th

Tom heard from William yesterday sending me patterns but I do not like them so wrote him myself do hope he will suit me this time. We did our ironing and Emily cleaned her room and Tom's. I heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ Mab²⁴ has been very sadly is a little better now they had Dr. Maclean to her & I heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵ inviting me there now wrote & declined and wrote to Aunt Sewell also wrote a note to Bessie Wirdnam²⁶ sending the flannel stays and the Lid' magazine.

May 18th

Such heavy rain in the night and rain at times all day. Tom heard from James yes'day he had his parcel & is well pleased with the contents. I heard from Osborn⁴⁰ today Mary is better & I heard from Whiteleys again so sent 2s 5d. Cleaned our bedroom today. the plants have come such tiny things & in such a tiny box by parcel post. Our maid has gone home today for a fortnight I went to see her off & give the dog a run.

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May 19th

Heard from Mrs. Smith with the butter she keeps very sadly. They have altered the arrangements for the bazaar. Now 'tis to be in July but they are going to have something for the Jubilee the 15th of next month. Heard too from William for he has had the beige for my dress & May's⁷ cut. Hope we shall like both when made up. Mrs Swift will make May's they came today & fitted Mother & had Mother's home to try both on tomorrow. Will¹⁸ came down tonight but it has been so wet he could not do anything & Tom was late home it was past 8 o/c. the beehive, the bar frame as they call them came today. I cut out Arthur's²³ suit in the brown galatea & began it, but not having a maid makes a difference.

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May 20th

Another stormy day & I could not do much gardening so went on with my work & needlework. Put the camphor in the chests & with my muffler & such odd works. Heard from Emily Abbey.

May 21st

Heard from the Bessie Wirdnam thanking me for the Stays, her poor Mother is much worse. So stormy again. Heavy storms and cold wind, the hail & wind did much damage I heard, at last I have quite finished Harold's³⁸ blue galatea suit & think it looks very well. Hope it will fit him.

May 22nd

Sunday quite cold went to school & church this morning. It is home missionary today but had such a "duffer" preach this morning, his sermon was wearying. Mother and Tom went to church this evening when the lay vicar Mr.E. preached and they liked him greatly.

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May 23rd

Took the club monies today after went to see some of my people. Last evening I wrote to Lizzie & packed her up a parcel to send to Will¹⁸ for Mr. Abbey¹² to have when he goes to town.

May 24th

Tom brought my dress & Mays⁷ tonight the material I mean and I am I going to town tomorrow to get my bonnet etc.

May 25th

I took May's dress to Mrs. Swift on my way to the station & left the trimmings as I came back. I went to town by 11.22 train & return by 4 o/c did all my shopping at Whiteleys most of it they are going to send. Began writing Lizzie.

May 26th

My things have come from Whiteleys & Mother & Tom like my bonnet & jacket. I am glad. I gave £1-4-9 for my bonnet more than I wanted to give but it suits me & looks good. Cut out & just began May's blouse.

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May 27th

We had a cooking morning made cakes, rhubarb pies & cheesecakes. It has been a damp day, so I could not do gardening or for a walk therefore did some work. The machine work is done for Arthur's²³ blouse & nearly for Harold's³⁸ and May's is getting on!

May 28th

Dull but milder & not any rain 'til evening. Heard from Mrs. Smith poor Mrs. Williams died last Saturday & was buried Tuesday at Bishopstone. Mrs Swift sent May's dress. It looks very pretty. Hope it will fit.



This is the only known photograph of May Abbey as an adult. She is wearing a green silk dress that belonged to her mother Lizzie (Cox). May donated the dress to the Richard Jefferies Museum.

May 29th

Whit Sunday Heard from Aunt. She went to Mrs Miflin for me but she cannot do my dress til June 20th. I am sorry. Auntie hopes it will soon be with her. Had a P.C. (postcard) from Lizzie⁴ to say they are well. She was too busy to write. Went to school & church twice & in to Mrs. Thatcher this afternoon had a walk around her garden and a chat.

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May 30th

A dull day but fine with us & we have been helping Tom in the garden he has had a long day here & done a lot of work. Wrote Mrs. Smith. Cut out the rest of May's galatea dress & made gruel & took to Mrs Newman.

May 31st

Mrs Swift wants more of the material for Mother's dress she wrote for it & I went out to post. Our maid has returned and I am glad want more time to do my own work.

June 1st

Heard from Lizzie she is so sadly. I am going to see her tomorrow am middling myself today we washed yesterday & ironed today & expect I am over tired & Lizzies letters' a bit upset me I feel so anxious about her, Mother wants me to go & see her as well so must put off going to Swindon a few days.

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June 2nd

I am better today and off to Roydon¹³ I hope for only a few days am only taking a few things

July 15th

Returned from Roydon today bringing my dear sister & her baby²⁷ for a long visit to try and strengthen my invalid. I found dear Lizzie so ill when I got to Roydon she quite alarmed me and for a fortnight she was so seriously ill we could not tell how it would be many times I feared she would not get over it and I had to nurse her with the greatest care thank God she is spared to us and I trust will be for many years but she is still very weak utterly unable to work so was willing to leave & try what change & rest will do. Baby²⁷ is quite my boy & such a dear good child not any trouble on their journey & so happy here.

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July 16th

I seem out of the way of writing in my book 'tis so long since I did so. Lizzie seems nicely today & the journey not too much, baby²⁷ is taking to Emily nicely I am glad as I want to go to Wiltshire next week if my invalid is pretty well & baby can be more Emily's boy. Mrs looker is not strong enough to come this week hopes to early next unfortunate for her to take cold away from home she meant to leave Tonbridge Wells last Wednesday but has not been well enough. Mother has heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ Joe²⁰ came home last Friday. Aunt has not been at all well & she tells us Dick²⁸ is very ill not any hopes of him now they think we do want rain badly the ground is so dry.

Page 53

July 17th

Sunday had a full morning. Lizzie⁴ went to church this morning it tired her but she is not any the worse for it & I went this evening leaving Mother to take charge of the invalid after service went for a walk with Tom by the river and had a nice chat.



Mary's cousins: Jefferies—Richard (Dick), Harry,



Sarah (Jefferies) Billing and Charlie with his wife Louisa Reeves

July 18th

So hot again & all the rain seems gone we had a nice storm yesterday but not enough to do any good Mother heard from Mrs Looker she is coming tomorrow my sweet baby²⁷ so so good quite at home & has taken to Emily well. I went to see poor William King & his wife they are in bad trouble having lost their eldest son.

July 19th

Mrs Looker came with Tom. They met at Pad. (Paddington) Mrs L. is looking very well & is nice as ever she has written Aunt S, she will come there on Friday so I intend to go to Swindon with her.

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July 20th

Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ to say I am coming on Friday just before tea Mr. Abbey came he thought both Lizzie & baby²⁷ looking better for the change and in the evening John Cox²⁹ came for an hour or two.

July 21st

2 Lansdown Road, Swindon here I am safely arrived with the usual kind welcome from dear Auntie Sewell did not arrive until after 7 o/c made a mistake in the time of the trains and we (Mrs Looker & myself) had to wait at Roydon¹³ station for the 3-14 instead of going by the 12-45 as we ought to have done. Em & the children came in to see me the latter are well but Em looks so sadly?

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July 23rd

I have been doing Mother's business & for Mrs Smith²¹ today & wrote Mother sending her the receipts Aunt Sewell¹¹ has nasty headache today do trust it will soon get better. I went up to Longford & saw Flo's⁶¹ chicks. Her boy is a bonny little fellow. Tom & Leo too are up there for.... London today he is not much altered thought I fancy he is taller & broader in the shoulders & dark skin improves him.

July 24th

Sunday went to church twice and to Longford this afternoon. Flo's is nice baby and so good. Mab²⁴ and Daisy²⁵ were here to tea.

July 25th

A nice storm last night. Very hot this morning. Went to Mrs Miflin she will do my books next week, said goodbye to Flo⁶¹, she goes home tomorrow. Now I am off to Wick. Wrote May and sent her a singlet & a note to Emily.

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July 25th continued

Liddington Wick here I am, such a kind welcome. Mrs. Smith²¹ brought me over in the carriage with Annie Laye & Pollie Sharps they are come for the fete Wednesday. This evening Walter Wirdnam³⁰ took Pollie to Marlborough to see the torchlight procession. I am busy finishing off things for Wednesday.

July 26th

Busy day at work for tomorrow. Lizzie Norman came this evening, Mollie Reeves too is staying here. So we are a good party such a dull evening with a high wind does not promise well for tomorrow.



Liddington Wick Farm, 1870s. James and Anna Maria (Reeves) Smith seated.
Sister Jane Reeves standing.

July 27

High wind & threatening morning & two heavy storms before 1 o/c. After that it was fine. We had a busy day and are tired tonight but it was a good day considering the weather. We had our stall in the coach house and took over £4.

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July 28th

High winds still but fine today. This afternoon Mrs. Smith & myself went up to Liddington to arrange about the things left they are to stay at the rectory we had a cup of tea there & a chat. It was a fairly good day yesterday they hope to clear nearly £4 altogether. Mollie Reeves left this evening she is a nice young girl.

July 29th

Heard from Mother, says they are all better this week than last. Mrs & Ada came to see them Monday. Annie Laye & Pollie Sharps left this evening also Lizzie Norman. So now we are alone & seem so quiet. Jane & Nellie Hendry called this evening and had a long chat. They are pleasant girls & useful helpers.

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July 30th

Mrs Smith²¹ got some flannel & asked me to cut out a jacket for Jane⁵⁴ to wear in the winter. Set to & have partly made it after tea. Went to Snodshill & had a long chat with Mr. and Mrs. Woolford³¹. Both are well.

July 31st

Sunday we went to church & stayed to sacrament, the window is an improvement and is a beautiful window. Mr. Pitt told us today he has paid £42 in from the affair Wednesday. So that is good & we went to church this evening. Mr. Pitt had helped today, a Mr. Harding from Bristol, Louise Mackelyne went up with us tonight. Freddie Wirdnam is at Moorleage. He was waiting for his Aunt & is such a good boy she said.

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August 1st

And a lovely day hope Tom enjoying it. 2 Lansdown Road here I am again Mrs. Smith drove me in after tea. When I was dressing today, my dear kind friend brought me in an old watch key set with turquoise fits my watch nicely. It was given her on a birthday when she was a girl and she gave it to me for a keepsake. I refused it for her sake. I learned from Auntie, John Sewell (Janet's father) is dead. Died Saturday. Wrote to Mother tonight.

August 2nd

Nellie Miflin called this afternoon & I promised to go up tomorrow afternoon to see Aunt S. Wrote to Janet² and we called on Mrs Hall and Emilie. Wrote Mrs. Smith.

August 3rd

Heard from Lizzie the boys did their river trip & much enjoyed it. Went to Chiseldon found Aunt very well. Mrs. S rheumatism is very bad she is the same. I am very tired tonight.

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August 4th

Wrote Emily Abbey & sent her some shoes for her birthday & I wrote Lizzie. Called on Aunt Hall¹⁴ & Mrs. Brown# this morning Jessie going to Felixstowe

tomorrow. Went to Greenaways & bought an iron cost me 1/6 for it. Also P worth panier preservers. Have not quite decided about new hat but looked at some at Daniels.

August 5th

Heard from Janet² & wrote to her also Mrs Stubbing. We went to tea at north street. Got home just at 100/c. I have had a bad headache all day today.

August 6th

Heard from Emily Abbey they are well and the dear children good. I am glad to hear it. Em & her uncle came this afternoon & we had some tea. Em is very sadly and feels the heat terribly.

Page 61

August 7th

Sunday heard from Mother they will be glad for me to return home. Have been reconsidering to go to Folkestone & Mother suggests asking Miss Lizzie Reeve about a boarding house. So I wrote her today to enquire. She is visiting at Bristol. We went to church this morning and stayed to sacrament instead of a sermon. The new vicar read himself it made the service too long, and this afternoon was the flower service. Mab²⁴ and Daisy²⁵ took up a trellis frame of flowers. Aunt Hall & Mary went with them to church. Aunt heard from Jack.

August 8th

And so hot again. Put a new lock on my tallboy, it was hard work but I managed it. Called on the Misses Reynolds. Took Aunt down street to Miss Addis to see about the dress. I wore my new dress yesterday & today & like it much.

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August 9th

So hot again. I am off today for home. Colne Mead here I am safely arrived found Mother & Lizzie⁴ better than when I left them & baby²⁷ so bonny he looked at me for a minute then smiled & held out his arms to come. Tom is staying at Drayton tonight.

August 10th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ forwarding me a letter from Lizzie Reeve. She does not know of a boarding house but has sent to Mrs Gable to send to us, had they been at home would have had Mother & Lizzie there very kind of her. I wrote Aunt Sewell. Tom came home tonight he is fairly well.

August 11th

Heard from Aunt Sewell again sending a plea from Aunt Cleeve³⁵. She wanted me to find her a cook fear I cannot do much for her here. Wrote Aunt Cleeve.

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August 12th

Heard from Aunt S again sending me Mrs Gable she writes kindly & states three tariffs but they are too high so Tom is going to advertise will put it in tomorrow to come out Monday.

August 13th

Johnson came this afternoon and he & Tom took some honey from the bees. Mr. Abbey & Harold³⁸ came this eve to stay till Monday. Dear Lizzie she is delighted.

August 14th

Sunday I stayed at home with baby²⁷ the rest went to church and I had baby and Harold out in the field this afternoon. Tom joined us it was very pleasant. At 4 o/c Lizzie and Tom took the children for a walk. I went to church this evening walked part of the way home and with Mrs. Thatcher to her house. The former advises our folks to go to Hastings she is fond of the place & it is a fine air.

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August 15th

I went to the school & took the club money. Mrs. Beecher is going out tomorrow for a fortnight. Baby²⁷ is not half well today he is teething again. Mr A & Harold³⁸ went with Tom at 9 o/c this morning.

August 16th

Such a lot of answers for Mrs. C. in answer to the advertisement from my first post & 4 by second. One from Folkestone that we like. Did the washing & dried through although it has been dull & rained a little.

August 17th

Tom wrote to Folkestone to Mrs Mawer and I wrote Mrs. Gable asking her about them. Mother & Lizzie did the ironing and I put the honey in jars we have 4 pound 10 ounces of nice clear honey and we saved a lot in the cooler. I went to Mrs King & offered her the old black hen. She was glad of her. She has not any work yet.

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August 18th

Aunt Sewell'sⁿ birthday. Mother, Tom and self wrote her and sent her a pair of silk gloves. Will⁸ came down last night. We had heavy thunder & rain but it was not near the storm was heavy in London & did a good deal of mischief.

August 19th

This evening I took Lizzie to call on old Mr. Mercer. He was so pleasant and we had a walk around the garden. Made the metheglin^{iv} & began the walnuts.

August 20th

Poor Dick was to be buried today, he died last Sunday. The papers do speak nicely of him and his works six years he has been ill & for the last two unable to hold a pen. His wife³² wrote from his dictation. Poor fellow it was for daily bread, his wife & two children are penniless, hope they will get up a good subscription for them. Tom had a day at home. No letter or telegram from Mrs Wouffer & again it is strange. Lizzie⁴ has written to Hastings.

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August 21st

Sunday Lizzie heard from Mrs Engall & they can go there tomorrow. I stayed at home again this morning for the rest to go to church and went myself this evening with Tom.

August 22nd

Went to the schools and took the club moneys again and put the clothes to soak to wash tomorrow, the dear Mother & Lizzie have gone to Hastings. Started from here at 2.30 Tom met them at Charing X & saw them off comfortably do trust it will do both good & they will enjoy it. By second post today we heard from Mrs Wouffer enquiring why they have not come or written she sent the Telegram at me to St. James Post Office to tell them to come. Tom gave the address here it is vexing quite upset Mother she would so much rather have gone there. Tom wrote tonight & explained. finished pickling the walnuts it was such a lot. Baby²⁷ can walk alone, made the first start tonight & is so proud of it.

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August 23rd

Had such a busy day it was such a large wash all folded & mended & baby²⁷ had two nice walks. He has been a dear good happy boy. And I made 4½lb of orlean flowers into jam. Tom went to see the Thatchers this evening. Got home at 10.30 wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹. Had a P.C. (postcard) from Lizzie.

August 24th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹, sending me a letter from Mrs Stubbing her children have whooping cough wrote Lizzie & sent her Aunt's letter & Mrs Stubbing. We have done our ironing it is so hot again, have been nearly melted. Tom had a P.C. from Will¹⁸. He & Tom to go there to play tennis tomorrow & meet F Bacon I think Tom will go & I tell him to be sure & stay the night if he does.

^{iv} A spiced or medicated variety of mead.

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August 25th

Heard from Mrs Brown# she is home now & they want to start again on Sept 10th very good of her to give me so much notice & I heard from Lizzie they are not in love with Hastings they are fairly comfortable but tis too large a party for them about 40 in the house & they do not find it bracing. Tom was going to visit them today & advise their going to Folkstone next week. Do hope they will. We have cleaned all the rooms upstairs thoroughly.

August 26th

Very hot but not much sun & a little rain. I had a big baking this morning & made 8lbs of Housewife jam. Wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & sent a paper to Harry. Tom came home this evening enjoyed his game of tennis last night. I wrote Mrs Brown#.

August 27th

Wrote to Lizzie. Heard from Sarah Milling she is at Hastings with her husband & children and wants Lizzie's address I wrote & sent it. We gave the dining room a good turn out took up the carpet and gave it a beating it was dusty.

August 28th

Sunday heard from Lizzie & the Mother wrote Tom a note in which Lizzie seems better but the dear Mother has been sadly & does not think she could move again except to come home. It had made us anxious and I have not felt well today so it rather upset me. We went to church this morning I did not go farther than the garden after. Tom took the dog a walk though and after supper Tom wrote Mother to post early and will send her a bottle of her tonic by first parcel post. Hope it will do her good.

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August 29th

Heard from my dear Mother she was better today Mr Abbey¹² is with them. Mother wants to come home this week hope they will not or Tom will not get even a breath of sea air. Went to the schools & took the club moneys. Wrote to May and Emilie, my darling girl has been sadly & had a sore throat. Wrote to Mother after Tom came saying do not return till next Monday it would disappoint Tom greatly for them to do so.

August 30th

Wrote Aunt Wheeler³³ for her birthday. We did our small wash before it was hardly dry the rain came & we have had a nice rain. I boiled 12lbs of apples for jelly today hope it will turn out well. It keeps warm, though it is wet. Heard from Emily Abbey, May is much better.

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August 31st

I had a lot of juice from the apples five pints have boiled it with sugar today hope it will make nice firm jelly. Stormy again today. Heard again from Mother and Lizzie saying they have decided to come home Thursday both Tom & myself are sorry as now they seem getting about & say the sea air is much fresher so it seems such a pity to come away, however they have decided to remain to spend the day tomorrow with Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & want Tom to meet them there and spend the day too & he wanted to go. Finished May's oatmeal cloth dress.

September 1st

Heard from Mrs Smith²¹ & Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & wrote Mrs Smith. We gave the parlour a good clean & have been high busy all day. I putting in order for my dear ones. We have had a lot of heavy rain.

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September 2nd

They were so late last night more than 11.30 when they got here & were tired. I do not see that either of them look any the better for the sea air & Mother is so glad to be home again. The wind was highest height and heavy rain at times. Such a lot of apples and plums down we had a big baking this morning. I cut out and began a coloured pinafore for baby²⁷

September 3rd

We made two lots of plum jam white delicious plums & the black plums at the bottom of the garden 8lbs of the latter and two a half of the white. Finished baby's²⁷ pinafore. We had such a surprise this evening Mrs Turnham & Henry Abbey came for a few hours left by the 9.38 train.

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September 4th

Sunday I stayed home this morning the others went to church. Heard from Aunt Wheeler³³. Mother went to church with me this evening.

September 5th

Such a wet morning & stormy all day but we managed to dry most of our things & I put seven chrysanthemums into pots to blossom indoors and am very tired tonight. Tom had a letter from James dear old boy he is anxious about Lizzie wrote directly he had Mothers.

September 6th

We have had the day in town shopping and done a lot of business. I bought a dress for morning wear at Enfield at Whiteleys we went with Tom & only just caught his train in the evening. And tonight I wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ and Jessie

Brown#, and also a note to James to enclose with Mother & Lizzie for his birthday.

Page 74

September 7th

We have been making greengage jam and apple jelly & finished the ironing, Frank and Bertha Thatcher came in this evening to supper but left early. Wrote Uncle Hall³⁴.

September 8th

I made my new dress shorter and wore it & the jersey lacey and like it fairly well. This afternoon Lizzie & myself took baby²⁷ & called on Mrs Ratcliffe baby was good & so pleased with the children.

September 9th

Lizzie & baby²⁷ go home and I go to Enfield today. Claremont Enfield arrived here nicely to time Jessie sent the family carriage and Daisy²⁵ to meet me I left Lizzie and baby at Kings Cross & a little starlet the dear boy was singing to himself & so good. I long to hear how Lizzie got on do trust Will¹⁸ met her & she is not very tired.

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September 10th

I am in full charge Mr & Mrs Brown# & Harry# left by the 9.20 train this morning and go to Dover over to Calais and expect to reach Brussels about 70/c tonight. I am to take the children to the American exhibition. I wrote Mother and a note to Tom asking him to fix his day and go with us. I began a letter to Lizzie, have not felt up to anything today my head has been so troublesome & I do find it cool here had a P.C. from Lizzie. Will¹⁸ met her at Margate. Tom at Liverpool Street & she got home very comfortably. I was glad to hear.

September 11th

Still find my head troublesome think it is the strong air it will do me good when used to it. A letter came for Mr Brown# so wrote to Jessie# & sent it on & finished Lizzie's & sent it. A high wind and some rain this evening.

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September 12th

Heard from Tom he will join us at the "Wild West" show awhile today to fix day & time but thinks tomorrow. Ralph has a nasty cold & cough hope that will be better or shall fear to take him. We went for a nice long drive took Jack & he was a good dog can take him again. Daisy²⁵ heard from her Mother & I heard from Tom regarding tomorrow and suggesting that we first go to St James's Palace & see the Queen's Jubilee presents, the children are just delighted & in a state of excitement about going all of them.

September 13th

A dull cool morning but we are off by the 9.27 train as hope I will keep & shall return safely. Had a nice long letter from Lizzie.

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September 14th

I was tired last night & my head ached mildly but we had a most delightful & pleasant day & all enjoyed it, was 8.30 on our return, we went to Tom's office first Daisy²⁵, Percy & myself going from Kings X to St James' on the top of a bus my first there & fairly enjoyed it. Tom went with us to the Palace & we saw the grand jubilee presents it took some time as there was such a crowd of people am very glad to have seen them, then we returned to Piccadilly Tom going back to work and we all got on the top of a bus & went to the exhibition. Tom joining us at 2.30 at the diorama of New York Harbour & the Statue of Liberty both very good & worth seeing them. We had our ride on the switchback railway which is great fun & then went to see Buffalo Bill.

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September 14th continued

Wild West Show it was pretty good but has left a feeling of disappointment & should not care to go again, then we went to the Toboggan Slide only Tom & Daisy went on that I felt I could not my head was so bad then Ralph wanted to but he must have to sit alone & I could not let him. Then we all had another ride on the switchback railway then had our tea, looked at the tents, marquees etc & left about 7 o/c. Tom came as far as Praed Street with us he is going to Wick on Saturday begins his holiday there this time as Will¹⁸ expects to be down in the country next week. I had a letter from Uncle Hall today. Wrote Janet². We went for a drive this morning. Finished May's first pinafore the children wend blackberrying but were refused permission & were upset, so cross about it.

Page 79

September 15th

Wrote Mother & Jessie the latter to forward a letter we went a nice drive again this morning. This afternoon Daisy²⁵ had six friends to tea & supper I finished 2nd of May's pinafores have two cream & two coloured ones to make. Have one of each ready to send now. Am sorry to find Ralphie is walking in his sleep he did it once before his Mother left & the last two evenings he has done it again. Yesterday he woke upon the landing & terrified us all by a frightful screaming & it was some time before Miss Cordy could jollify him, tonight I heard him get out & ran up at once Daisy was in bed & saw him & caught him just as I got

there we put him back & he did not wake. I am sorry about it do hope he won't do it again and fall downstairs.

Page 80

September 16th

Heard from my dear Mother & Aunt Sewell¹¹ also a paper from Uncle Hall for me to send to Harry. I sent it & wrote Emily & May & sent May's pinafores addressing it to May and sent a note to Harry Brown# in Daisy's. We went out for a drive again this morning Percy going instead of Daisy the latter went to school today. Finished 3rd of May's pinafores also finished reading Donovan by Edna Lyall such a hefty book I did enjoy it.

September 17th

Such a dull morning we could not go for our drive. Wrote Jessie & Uncle Hall and had a bath this morning & wrote Jones Brothers drapers & giving a small order this afternoon. Have been so worried this evening cannot make my money balance am £1 out & poor me that is a serious sum.

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September 18th

Sunday a fine morning after the wet. I am still worried about that money cannot think where the £1 is have thought & thought over it & gone over every book till I am tired of the figures. We all went to chapel this morning, reading afternoon & Daisy, Percy & myself went to church this evening.

September 19th

Still the same worry about the £1 is still missing & it does bother me dreadfully fear it must be some carelessness on my part & I am so sorry can ill afford to lose money. Oh dear I always do have hiatus, went for a drive this morning taking Miss Cordy, Jessie & Ralphie & my worry is over, the £1 was in the safe all right it is a relief to me. Finished May's pinafores. Had my parcel from Jones's am not over satisfied with it.

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September 20th

Heard from my dear Mother enclosing letters from Tom, Aunt Cleeve³⁵ and Mrs Looker was glad to see Toms and learned he went to Wick Saturday but called on his way at Aunt Sewell's¹¹ and Longford. Aunt Cleeve has engaged a cook, wrote Mother & Mrs Brown#. We went for our drive to Barnet this morning this afternoon I wrote Lizzie & Mrs Joy. Percy had his friends the Harris's to tea & spent the evening today.

September 21st

A little rain this morning but it soon cleared and we went for our drive. Wrote Mrs Smith²¹ and Aunt B had a dear long letter from Lizzie last night. Mr Abbey¹²

was to take the children to the zoo yesterday & today are to go to Mardocks Mill. I wrote Mother & sent her Lizzies & Tom a P.C. I have just begun May's coat. The cream dress Tom chose fits nicely and looks pretty Lizzie says.

Page 83

September 22nd

Wrote Jessie Brown# & nearly cut out the coat. This is not an easy job went for a pretty drive this morning & paid the butcher and did a few things down the street.

September 23rd

Had such a long letter from Aunt Baverstock³⁶ we did not have Bob (horse) today as Percy wanted a long drive tomorrow & now, he has changed his mind & does not want to go for a drive but another day's fishing. Wrote to Jessie & a note to Harry and have been busy over my May's coat it rather disappoints me fear it wouldn't look any too well the cloth has faded different colours. I had letters tonight from May & Arthur²³ & Lizzie added a little, sending me Willie's & Emma's last letters. She writes a poor letter giving little information from Willie's she is not much better after all this doctoring. Arthur tells me they went to the zoo & to the mill and my girl says she can find.

Page 84

September 24th

A dull cool morning Percy has gone on his fishing expedition. I had a call from Frank Goodman last evening showing me two telegrams he had from his father the day before, the first said their plans were altered the second cancelled the first and said they were going as first arranged. I had sent twice to Italy so hope they are there by now. We had a nice long drive this afternoon Daisy going in Miss Pardy's place & I let the young lady drive to her great delight.

September 25th

Sunday wrote Mrs Brown# again to Lake of Como I have such a lot to send am obliged to write I did hope to have heard first. We walked from morning service with the Goodmans they said we must all to tea with them one day next week. This evening we, Percy, Daisy & myself went to the harvest thanksgiving service at St Mary Magdalene's this evening.

Page 85

September 26th

Daisy heard from her Mother this morning written Thursday from Switzerland we are still to address to Lake of Como so that is all right Mr Goodman had a cold & that was why they thought of altering their plans. Wrote Mr Sewell (carterage) for his birthday. We went for a short drive today as it was threatening for rain did damp a little most of the time we were out.

September 27th

Had such a nice letter from Mother enclosing Lizzies & one from Tom Lizzies nursemaid is leaving cannot say I am surprised or sorry. Wrote Jessie & to Lizzie. Went down town & saw the butcher, brought some trimming for Mays coat & then we went a mile long drive. It has been a nice day after the rain last night we had one storm while out but not much & it was mild & pleasant.

Page 86

September 28th

A cold bright morning, I have Ellen working away at May's coat today & glad to say I have finished & it looks fairly well hope Lizzie will like it. Took my three children to see Sawyers circus it was very good & they wonderfully enjoyed it. Daisy heard from her brother today posted 25th & we did not get it till mid-day today. Jessie has given us two new addresses but it has arrived too late to use one.

September 29th

A frosty morning & so chilly but bright sunshine wrote to Jessie & to Tom and Mother. Cut out and just began May's new dress and an apron for her also began a pair of mitts for baby²⁷. We went for our drive! Part of the time it was pleasant but mostly too cold for comfort. Daisy heard from Mr Joly tonight asking her father's advice.

Page 87

September 30th

I had a note from Messrs Speyers Brothers asking Mr Browns# address so wrote at once & sent it & wrote to Jessie# again as I have two letters to forward hope Messrs Speyers do not want to recall Mr Brown# before time. It has been a cold damp day so we have not had our drive this afternoon we had some heavy storms.

October 1st

A cold wind & white frost. We had a fire for breakfast & it was comfortable wrote Arthur²³ & Emilie & to James sending on another letter. Took Percy & Bertie Harris a nice long drive this afternoon and have been busy with May's dress since. Have done the front all but the button holes & sewn the seams and hemmed the skirt. We have an invitation to the Goodmans to tea Sunday heard from Lizzie and Mary.

Page 88

October 2nd

Sunday another letter to forward Mr Brown# & also wrote Mother to send Lizzie. Went to chapel this morning & saw the misses Goodman & accepted their invitation for myself & the chicks Miss Cordy declines. A very dull day.

October 3rd

Wrote Daisy & Em & to Aunt Cleeve³⁵ we went our drive. It has been very dull all day, two days we have not seen the sun we went to tea at Mr Goodmans there were quite a party of young folks eleven with my young people & they did have some fun the misses & Mr Frank Goodman spared no pains to amuse them, and we had a nice tea & supper & it was 9 o/c on our return home. I have not done much work today. Hope I shall do more tomorrow. Heard from Jessie Brown#.

Page 89

October 4th

Daisy²⁵ is five years old today how time flies. I had the paper from Mother this morning wrote to Jessie. We went for our drive & after I was busy with May's dress and finished it off & it looks very well. I tried to get some satin to line the cape but cannot here suppose I must send for a yard I am now making aprons for my girls another dull day.

October 5th

Have letters to forward so have written Jessie again today and wrote to Jones for some satin to line May's cape cut out & began the body for dress and am reading another book called "Eve" by Cameron Farrar. Did not go out today Collins wanted to clip Bob. Daisy heard from her father he wrote from Stresa (Italy) does not say a word about their return.

Page 90

October 6th

Dull morning wrote to Mr Abbey¹² asking him to send me some money I am nearly strapped & do not know what to do hope he will help me. Heard from Lizzie sending me a letter to enclose for Harry Jefferies³⁷ and also sending on Mother's & Tom's. Tom has been to Bristol or was going rather last Saturday for a few days & is going home tomorrow & on to Lizzie. Tuesday is his intention. Finished May's aprons hope they will like them. We went a long drive this morning to Hadley Wood a very pretty drive took us about two hours & a 1/4, May's dress body gets on but slowly. I had a few games at cribbage with Daisy & Percy this evening. They quite enjoyed it & so did I. we had a little sun today.

Page 91

October 7th

Dull morning again & glass falling. I had some patterns of feather trimming from Jones that will do nicely for my girls' cape must order it today in case I am

leaving Monday. Wrote to Harry Jefferies & to Jones & we went for a nice drive it is mildly today but not much sunshine. Had a note from Lizzie enclosing a cheque from Mr Abbey¹² for £4. Now I can do nicely. Sent a P.C. to thank them.

October 8th

Collins drove me down to Town & I paid the butcher & baker & went to Miches & that is all my outing today. On my return I had a bath & then worked away & finished May's body do hope it will look nice & fit well. Jessie had a P.C. from her Mother from Stresa on the 6th they were going then to Locarno for a night & on to Lucerne will write from there again but they intend starting for home Monday evening.

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October 9th

Sunday dull & misty this morning wrote to Mother a little rain this afternoon and it does look rainy & the glass falls. Do hope it will be fine tomorrow for Tom's gardening & our drive.

October 10th

Alas! It is dampling this morning. Daisy heard from her Mother they expect to arrive tomorrow about 6.30. It has been so wet we could not go for a drive & a nasty cold rain. I finished my socks & nearly made May a Logue hat hope it will suit her it is only a bit of odd cloth like her coat not good by any means. Wrote to Lizzie & May.

October 11th

Dear James¹⁰ birthday every good wish I send him dear boy a cold but bright frosty morning. Heard from Mother but she only sent me Lizzies not a line from herself think she must have forgotten to put it in. We went for a drive to Wood Green the wind was cold but the air bright. Heard from Mr Sewell & he sent me P.O. for 4/6 for some gloves, so kind of him.

Page 93

October 12th

Mr & Mrs Brown# came last evening. Both were very tired and went to bed early are very pleased with their trip and seem better this morning both looked weary last night Mr Brown especially. I had a letter from Mother today she did forget to put her note in yesterday Tom was going to Roydon¹³ last evening. Mother tells me Mrs Wynn Williams died suddenly last week poor girls I am sorry they have had a lot of trouble losing so many friends this year. I wrote to Harold³⁸ to tell them to expect me tomorrow by the 5-9 train & a P.C. to Mother to let her know I am leaving tomorrow. Mr Brown# has gone to Swindon this afternoon to stay till Saturday. I finished a pair of mitts for baby²⁷ & am making some bed

socks for one child. Jessie# has given me a pretty little pair of vases of bohemian glass brought home.

Page 94

October 13th

Dull cold morning but I am off today by the 4-40 from Waltham X. Temple Farm, Roydon¹³. Here I am all right & met such a warm welcome from all. Lizzie, May & Harold met me at the station. Baby²⁷ & Arthur^{23 39} are invalids though are getting better. Baby has not forgotten me I am glad to say.

October 14th

So cold & damp altogether a nasty day Lizzie not looking as well as when she came home. She says it is having had the children sadly & them not having a nursemaid she has more to do.

October 15th

Tom & myself wrote Ada & Lizzie sent her a duck & I wrote to Mother, Tom went to Hertford with work & then tonight has gone to the Hamlet. Wrote Mrs Brown# I had to make May's dress a little shorter & now it fits very well must alter the coat a little.

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October 16th

Sunday We went to church this morning & this afternoon Mrs Abbey, Tom & the three children went first to the mill & invited Mr & Mrs Coleman to tea tomorrow & then to the Lee & invited Mr & Mrs Chapman Tom stayed there to tea. Mr A & the chicks coming home & Osborn⁴⁰ & Mary are to come tomorrow so we shall have quite a party.

October 17th

They wanted a few things from Ware so Tom drove for them & I went with him & took baby²⁷. It was such a lovely drive so bright & pleasant no cold quite a nice change in the weather. We drove round by Wareside & called on Mrs Stubbing. I did not get out as her children had whooping cough they are greatly better. Baby did not have his nap but is good & happy a darling, Tom has shot another hare & a rabbit today.

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October 18th

Our party was quite a success last night it was past 12 o/c when they left we had some music & then cards. This afternoon the three children & myself went for a walk with Tom about the farm it is lovely weather.

October 19th

Tom took baby²⁷ & myself a drive again this morning & we all enjoyed it called to see Mary at the hamlet & this afternoon Tom left for Tunbridge Wells. Mrs Carmadine & nurse came over to tea left about 8 o/c.

October 20th

Wrote Mr Sewell to thank him for my gloves and I have just begun the cape for May's dress. I have altered her jacket & it does better now. Lizzie heard from Mother yesterday she is well & expects Tom home Saturday but he does not intent to go till Monday & Will¹⁸ wrote Tom yesterday sending James' letter.

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October 21st

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ she is not over well herself & tells me Em⁹ has troubles again having Daisy²⁵ ill with scarlet fever. I trust it is only a slight attack. Aunt Hall¹⁴ is going to have Mab²⁴ & Hen Lizzie went to town today taking Arthur²³ & Harold to get them new suits. They returned by the 5-9 train. Wrote to Aunt Sewell.



Mary's Aunt (Martha) and Uncle William Hall at Longford Villa, Old Swindon

October 22nd

Such a white frost & lovely day. I took the children a long walk this morning. Mr Henry Abbey came to tea. He is still staying in Ware. Mr Abbey¹² did not go to market today. Osborn⁴⁰ did his business.

October 23rd

Sunday frosty & cold morning but a fine day. We went to church this morning & this afternoon Mr Abbey¹² took the three children to the Hamlet to tea. It was past 7 o/c on their return. I wrote to Mother & sent her Aunt Sewell's letter to see how ill dear little Daisy²⁵ is.

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October 24th

Wrote Jessie Bartlett for her birthday took baby²⁷ out for more than half an hour then brought him in to bed & took the chicks a walk till 1 o/c May wore her new dress today & the blue jacket & hat I made her.

October 25th

Had the Liddington Mag from Mother & just a line in it she is well she says. Finished May's petticoat and took the children a nice long walk this afternoon all four of them. Washing day, the things have not dried very fast.

October 26th

The ironing is done and all the rest dry now it has been foggy this afternoon & is very cold.

October 27th

We went to the Lee last evening & had a pleasant time it was past 12 when we left. Mr Bolton & Mr & Mrs Kirkby were there too. Heard from Mother & she sent baby²⁷ a pair of bootekins bought at the sale of work. I wrote Mother Mrs Bolton has sent an invitation for us to go there tomorrow. Began making a pair of mits.

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October 28th

And so mild such a change, some rain in the night & the glass falls still.

October 29th

We went to Mrs Bolton's last evening to high tea Mr & Mrs Kirkby & Mr & Mrs Chapman were there too. We had a pleasant evening. I took my work & made one of Percy's mits. Mr H Abbey came to tea again today. Sarah Chapman came home with Mr Abbey From Hertford she is going to stay at the Hamlet awhile.

October 30th

Sunday a lot of rain fell last night & 'tis a high wind today but has kept fine. We went to church this morning & I took the four a long walk this afternoon. Mary

drove her sister to church this morning she invited us to go there tomorrow but Emilie is to go to the Lee so Mary said Tuesday.

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October 31st

Colder today a frost last night Emilie went to the Lee this afternoon Mr Abbey¹² going for her this evening Mrs Pyre (*vicar's wife*) called this afternoon.

November 1st

Such a wild day wind & rain quite a hurricane so we could not go to the Hamlet. Lizzie is having such a bad turn with her teeth poor child all the evening she hardly knew how to bear herself.

November 2nd

A nice day today & mild but so dirty underfoot Mary has gone to London today to stay the night so again our visit is put off and Lizzie wrote a note inviting Mr & Mrs Bolton to tea & they came & we had a pleasant evening.

November 3rd

Such sad accounts in the paper of the gale Tuesday loss of life & destruction of property. Emilie went to London this morning shopping came home to tea having had a fairly good day. Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹.

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November 4th

Wrote Tom we are having a lot of rain & such gales shall hear of more disasters I fear. Lizzie had a little churning and made 1lb butter Mary & Emma just called they did not return till this morning.

November 5th

I trimmed May's hat to wear with her cape or any time as is required it looks better than the cape & it was well I did as she went to Hertford with her father today.

November 6th

Sunday fine day again after rain in the night but so dirty. I took the children a walk this afternoon Mrs Bolton & Mrs Chapman called to ask Emilie to tea at theirs & then she will invite Mary, Osborn⁴⁰, Sarah & Emma to meet tomorrow and Emilie will go. Charlie Chapman came yesterday to the Hamlet so they have a family party today, he leaves by the first train tomorrow.

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November 7th

Fine the first thing but soon it rained & we have had a wet day they could not come from the Hamlet. Emilie went to tea with Mrs Bolton. I made May's doll a hat today.

November 8th

Lizzie heard from Mother today, they are well. Poor Mrs Scott has been very ill is getting better. It has been a lovely day all dried they hung out except very thick things & they soon finished off. I took the children a long walk this afternoon.

November 9th

And such a pouringly wet day we ironed & must begin drying indoors as soon as the airing is done. Mr & Mrs A went to the mill to tea. I finished all May's drawers. Wrote Mother tonight.

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November 11th

This has been a nicer day & they have been threshing are now at Park Farm. Lizzie collared half the pigs head today. Heard from Mother.

November 12th

And a lovely day. I had the chicks all out this morning a long time & they had some rides up to Park Farm in the empty carts & walked back May's muff looks very well & she is delighted with it I had to remake it and 'tis a nasty job with old fur.

November 13th

Sunday and a fine but dull day & so still not a leaf moving I took the chicks to Lowhill for a walk this afternoon.

November 14th

And a nice day but colder & more wind. I took baby²⁷ out a while am now going to do May's jacket that Aunt Cleeve³⁵ sent for her. Do not like my job but hope to make it look nice. Heard from Janet². Emilie heard from Tom Lizzie heard from Janet & letters to & from William & Emma she is not any better.

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November 15th

A good day though colder. Emilie & the children took a long walk to the Hamlet & back this afternoon.

November 16th

Such a frost last night & a fog all day today so we did not go for a walk. The chicks had a game in the barn.

November 17th

Such a white frost and bright sunshine this morning making everything look lovely. The trees are pictures but it is sharp after the mild weather last week. Wrote to John for his birthday.

November 18th

Such nasty weather just last night rain this morning then snow & so cold. Lizzie had a P.C. from Tom saying he has been to the stores & bought the flannel & charcoal for filter also thick cover, good boy. We had the suet today & I chopped it for the mincemeat & puddings.

Page 105

November 19th

A bitter morning frost again but not much snow though. I heard from Mother the stores haven't sent this morning so I sent a P.C. to say so. The flannel looks so nice. I took the three children a walk this afternoon as far as the Roydon¹³ Lee gate & they had some slides Arthur²³ begins to show well.

November 20th

Sunday heard from Mrs Smith²¹ & wrote Lizzie Reeve. Such a nasty day, damp fog all day so wet only went church did not go out after.

November 21st

Wrote to Janet² & finished the mincemeat off today am glad that is done. Another fog all day & damp & cold. Wrote to Mrs Smith.

November 22nd

Last night found Lizzie out a vest & she tried it on and it does well. Washing day & damp not a thing hung out. I took the children to Mount Pleasant & bought them a flower each Mr Abbey¹² went to town. I recharged the filters.

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November 23rd

Much milder this morning but still a fresh wind & things dried out sheets & towels & we did the ironing. Lizzie, four chicks & self drove to Roydon Lee this afternoon just for a call, Mary & her boy were there we promised to go & see her tomorrow or Friday if fine. Mrs Chapman keeps bouncy. I finished Lizzie's first vest & cut out & began the other.

November 24th

Heard from Tom they are well. A nasty dull day I could not half see to work & doing that black coat for May is not promising work & I fear it will not look much when done. Mr Abbey¹² went to Hartford today so we could not go to the Lee. Lizzie made ginger wine, 6 gals today. Hope it will turn out good. Took the chicks a short walk before dinner.

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November 25th

Heard from John. The size of his gloves rightly is 8 I thought 8½ & that was size too large. I have put new sleeves to May's last winters dress for her to wear Saturdays & in the holidays.

November 26th

We went to the Hamlet to tea last evening it was nearly 9 o/c on our return & I then wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹. Mr H Abbey came to tea today & was going to town tonight the hall clock is home at last & I put it up & set it going. It will be nice to have it again.

November 27th

Sunday and such a mild day we went to church this morning & this afternoon. I took the four chicks a walk. Mrs Chapman at the Lee has a daughter born yesterday at 3 o/c Mrs Bolton told us both going on well, am glad it is safely here.

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November 28th

Still mild. Mr Abbey¹² drove me to East Wick this morning to enquire of Mrs Kirkby about a nurse maid & he saw the girl & her Mother & arranged for them to come & see Lizzie tomorrow morning. The girl is only 13 but looks strong & healthy & Mrs Kirkby speaks so highly of the family being clean & honest she has one of them in her service. It came on wet this afternoon and Emilie had a nasty journey she went to Bengoe & to tea in Ware with Mrs Wells.

November 29th

The girl & her Mother came & Lizzie has engaged her to come in next Monday at 1/6 per week. Her name is Caroline Harrington. Do hope she will suit & be good with the children. I heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ Daisy²⁵ is better but the others do not go home till next week. Mrs Bolton has invited the children to go there to tea tomorrow & Mr & Mrs Abbey are going to town.

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November 30th

Wrote Mother. Mr & Mrs Abbey to town by the 9 o/c train. I took the children an hours drive & then left them at Mrs Bolton's bringing baby²⁷ home of course. He has been a gem all day, little fella. Lizzie & Mr A did not return till the 8-11 train so I went for the children. They had enjoyed their games & we found Mother & father here on our return. Colder & frosty today.

December 1st

So mild again. We are going to the concert at Wareside.

December 2nd

We went to the concert & enjoyed. 'twas very good & such a lot of people there. Then we went to supper at Mrs Stubbings & after had music & singing. Mr H Abbey, young H Benningfield, Mr Pollard & Mr Barnes were there & we had a pleasant time but it was past 1 o/c on reaching home. Harold is delighted with his little presents. Mr Abbey¹² drove me & the 4 children into Ware this

afternoon had the 3 hairs cut. We left Mrs A at Stanstead to go & see Mrs Anthony & I drove home with the children.

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December 3rd

More wind today but staying mild & dry. Osborn⁴⁰ brought Arthur²³ an iron hoop today he is delighted.

December 4th

Sunday and a fine day but dull. We went to church this morning & this afternoon I took the children a walk Mr Abbey¹² heard from Tom wishing him happy returns.

December 5th

I wrote Mother. This afternoon I drove Lizzie to the Lee and we had a chat with Mrs Chapman & nursed her sweet little baby Mrs C looks so well. The new nursemaid came in this morning, she took baby out & he was very good so hope he means to take to her.

December 6th

Washing day but not much drying, we had a heavy storm at dinner time. It cleared and they put out a little & it got a little drier. I took the three chicks a drive round Parndon & called at the Hamlet & said goodbye to Mary. Finished May's jacket. It looks fairly well. Cut out and began baby's pinafore.

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December 7th

And a nice day but colder. I took May with me to call on Mrs Bolton & said good bye to her as I go by the 9 o/c train tomorrow have to pack up my things today. Finished baby's pinafore.

December 8th

Colne Mead here I am safely arrived & found the dear Mother so nicely, I left Roydon¹³ by the 9 o/c train but it was so wet & foggy in town did not stay shopping. It was hard to leave my dear ones at Roydon & I do miss them so terribly it seems painfully quiet not to hear the little voices.

December 9th

Wrote Lizzie & put some of my things straight & went my first round in my district got on fairly well called on Mrs Thomson they are so nice the second daughter is going to be married but objects to have the ceremony performed in the body of the church and Mr Harris will not have in the chancel. I do think it stupid of him.

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December 10th

Colder today, we began at the mincemeat this morning and I went for another round. Saw Mrs. Beecher and paid her for our subscription for the club's then I went to Mrs R Mercers to ask for a lying in box for Wise Lane & can have it. Then Mrs Mercer asked me if May was coming this Christmas. I feared not but she wants her for a fairy so I promised to ask at home & let her know & I am so glad. Mother and Tom are willing to have my darling how delighted she will be to come & to be a fairy will be extra good it is at the entertainment for the parish tea at which I have promised to help and assist too with decorations before so shall be busy enough. Wish we had done our shopping we mean to go up the first fine day.

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December 11th

Sunday and a nasty day snow first & then rain & so cold. I went to school & church but not out after Mother did not venture out, Tom went to church but was took ill & had to come out a bilious attack he is better tonight. I wrote to Aunt Sewellⁿ and Aunt Cleeve³⁵.

December 12th

Cole & dull. I heard from dear Lizzie they are all well & Mother heard from Aunt Cleeve. I had another round & have nine magazines in my district & two in Wise Lane taken. It was not fine enough for me to go to town again. Tom reads aloud of an evening. I do enjoy it.

December 13th

Lady Maria Buchanan sent me 2/6. Very good of her. Such a nasty wet day but I went out this afternoon visited some of the Wise Lane district & some on my own, was glad to get home just called on Mrs Mercer & told her she would have May.

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December 14th

Our shopping expedition came off today it was a bright morning lovely. We started by the 9.53 train it hailed while we were at Whiteleys but we were not out in any rain till we reached Mr. James Thatcher's. On our return then it pattered a little but the dirt both here & in town was dreadful. I think on the whole our day was a success but alas my money went all too soon. I could not get all I wanted. We did not leave Whiteleys 'til past 3 o/c then went to Wardour Street & got Mother's specs & only just caught the 4.35 from Pad. I am glad we have been. Began writing Lizzie.

December 15th

Finished Lizzie's letter, invited May and Harold. Wrote May telling her we want her to come. Had another round to the farm today that is dirty there.

Our goods have arrived. We have begun the work at the things we have six sheets to hem, drawers for myself & May two for me and one for May.

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December 16th

Heard from Mrs. Richards. Sent the 2/6 so I went out again paid the monthly accounts & went to Mr. Scott paid him 14/- & ordered 16 books for next year. Then went to Mademoiselle Baudet and bought some tickets for the concert tomorrow as tis at 3.30 the Mother says.

December 17th

A nice a day today more drying & colder. We went to the concert, it was pretty fair but had such a bad room for sound. Mademoiselle Baudet was the best on the violin. Made one pair of my drawers and finished the six sheets.

December 18th

Sunday went to school and church did not go out after. Tom took the dog a walk this afternoon heard from Lizzie they are pleased for the children to come to us. Mr. Abbey will bring them Boxing Day, the housemaid is a failure she is to leave tomorrow & they will be glad to get rid of her. Strange to say I dreamt it a few nights back & I told Mother.

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December 19th

We had a wash but did not dry much out of doors as it began to snow at dinnertime & has been a damp since the snow was not much, we have dried for ironing indoors. I have all the ingredients ready for our Xmas puddings to boil them tomorrow.

December 20th

Our puddings had their boil & we did our ironing, did not hang out the shifts it has been so dull all day saw air threatening for snow. I began some may bed socks for Emily Abbey.

December 21st

And such a nice day. I wrote Emilie and Lizzie, finished one sock.

December 22nd

A nasty cold day. Tom set the rubbish heap alight this morning & I attended to it after making my basket of moss & put the flowers in & flatter myself it is very pretty. Mr. Ratcliffe came yesterday & did some digging for Tom. Went out & saw the new baby³⁹ in the lane & Mrs. Hobbs. Am doing my Xmas letters some of them tonight.

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December 23rd

We made our mince pies and this evening did some more writing to send with the Xmas cards. Mother heard from Mrs Looker today Mr. Williams is dying he was hardly expected to live through last night it will be a sad Xmas for them in Bristol.

December 24th

I heard from Em⁹ today they are pretty well Mab² is still with Aunt Sewell¹¹. Fan⁶² sent us cards and one from Mary⁴¹ and Jack⁴¹, from Jamalpur painted by Mary & a letter from Joe²⁰ but not a line from herself. Finished Emilie Abbey's⁶ bed socks such a quiet Xmas evening.

December 25th

Christmas day and a Sunday. My boys were pleased with their cards and my dear brother Tom gave me a new silk umbrella so good of him & Lizzie sent a pair lined kid gloves darling girl but her letter has not come & it has made me a little anxious. We heard from Janet², Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & Mrs. Brown#. Janet sent us an egg boiler, a book for Tom & my birthday gift.

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December 26th

Lizzie's letter did not come this morning so a little after 11 o/c we sent Emilie to the P.O. (post office) to enquire for it & she bought it then. Mr. Abbey¹² will not stay the night so Arthur²³ is not coming. They got here just before 1 o/c little darlings and are so bright & merry but May has a nasty cold do trust it will soon be better, she coughs and it hurts her chest. Mr. Abbey left by the 7.35 train to catch the last to Roydon¹³ 9.20 at Liverpool street. Mother has been so sadly today do trust she will be better tomorrow.

December 27th

Mother is better but did not get up this morning till dinner was ready so I have been busy and had such a lot of letters. Tom gave me a half sov(ereign), dear Aunt Sewell¹¹ a sov. & my good sister wrote such a nice loving letter & gave me a pretty gold brooch. Janet² wrote & her present is a red plush work case & I heard from dear James¹⁰ wishing me happy returns & it came today.

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December 27th continued

It doubly good. Mrs Smith²¹ wrote & sent a card and little book. Emilie Abbey's⁶ present is a bracelet & I heard from Will¹⁸ and Aunt Wheeler³³ & Nellie at 2.30 took the children to the schoolroom for the rehearsal, they intend to make Harold and imp we had to wait long before they began & it was more than 5.30 on our return all tired out. Emily went out to tea this evening so I am just tired with it all, it was nearly 9 o/c when I sat down done & I heard from Mary Abbey she and Osborn⁴⁰ propose coming to see us Saturday till Monday.

December 28th

I heard from Jennie Bartlett sending me a pair of cashmere gloves fur tipped & from Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & Ada with a little book. Mother is better today. The children are darlings. I wrote Lizzie thanking her for my present & to Mary saying come and see us. Emily took the children a walk this afternoon. May went in the morning to the Thatchers to learn her part so I did not go out.

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December 29th

Mother is more herself but does not get right and 'tis so cold. I took the chicks out this afternoon & we went to see Tommy Hobbs & Mrs C Johnson's baby & then for a walk on our return found Mrs Mercer had sent the paper & leaves for the decorating & wants my list for the tea.

December 30th

Heard from John & had such a nice present from him a handbag & six pocket kerchiefs in it, so wrote and thanked him & wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ took them to post with my chicks and went a little walk taking Mack but he was naughty & left us & has not returned yet he is a stupid dog. Wrote Arthur²³ & Emilie.

December 31st

A busy day again & I took the children again to rehearsal & we were longer than ever 'tis tiring work having put the chicks to bed now am busy with the decorating. Goodbye old year trust the next will be more friendly.

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January 1st

Sunday and such a cold day, went to school & church this morning did not go out after the maid took the children a walk & Tom & Mr Ratcliffe went to Windsor to St Georges it was about 8.30 on their return. I wrote Janet² tonight asking her to come after tomorrow week.

January 2nd

And poor drying again & I have been so queer today had palpitations for three hours & it left me weak & shaken. Percy Mercer came this morning for the children to go to rehearsal at 11.30 I could not go with them so he took them up & they had to go this evening again at 6 o/c at the school room Emily took them & went for them at 9 o/c. I finished the decorating business & sent up by her. A man called this morning & took up what we had done. Tomorrow is the dress rehearsal.

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January 3rd

Annie Thatcher came in today bringing May some white stockings and to say the rehearsal is at 7 o/c tonight. I am to start at 6 o/c to go up & dress the chick but I shall not go til 6.30 not to have too long to wait. We did our ironing & wrote Lizzie.

January 4th

We were late last night the clock struck 12 just as I took the children upstairs to bed. I did get tired of it we had such a time to wait it was past 8 o/c before they began. The fairies looked very nice especially the little ones my pet did look sweet in pink taffeta with silver stars & Harold is a capital imp not a bit shy & jumps about well. The tea is at 6.30 today & the fairies dress at Mrs Beechers do hope it will be a success and all pass off well.

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January 5th

This is demoralising for the children, last night it was past 12 o/c when we left yonder & my young things were tired but kept up well & all went off nicely it was quite a success. I had a horrid cold & the heat of the room I suppose upset me. I was sick & bad after I got home feel washed out today. The tea tonight is at 5.30 & we are home at 10 o/c my pets as blithe bees.

January 6th

Tom heard from Lizzie & I had a letter enclosed also May & Harold, she thinks Osborn⁴⁰ & Mary will come tomorrow & we are going to have a few little folks two Mercers, two Frys & two Thatchers. Hope they will enjoy a bit of fun. I took round some of my books calling on Mrs Thomson & Mrs Strickland both paid me & I called on Mrs Fry making her acquaintance.

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January 7th

A very busy morning & our young friends did enjoy themselves making a rare noise Mary & Osborn⁴⁰ came about 6 o/c we are sitting in the parlour to give it an airing and have plenty of room for them to play.

January 8th

Sunday and so mild, we went to church all but Mother she does not get over her cold. Tom & Osborn took the children a walk this afternoon & I wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵.

January 9th

Mary & Osborn took my darlings today & oh! I do feel so lonely & sad without the darlings it is so quiet. Mother is still poorly.

January 10th

Went out this afternoon to Bells Farm & took my books & paid Miss Belcher, the butcher & Miss Haynes. Janet² arrives at tea time. Mother is still sickly do hope it won't turn to bronchitis.

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January 11th

Another foggy day so we did not go out. I wrote to Em.

January 12th

Miss Helen Thomson was married today at Harmondsworth to Mr Alfred Sealy of Richmond and the fog has been dense all day not cheerful for a wedding. I wrote to Mrs Smith²¹ & to Mrs Bartlett when Emily went to post she heard such sad news I feel it cannot be true that Mrs Robert Mercer is dying it has upset us all. So after his dinner Tom went to enquire & the Dr does not give any hopes poor dear, I am deeply grieved & feel much for the family.

January 13th

Fog again & sad to say Mrs Mercer passed away at 9 o/c last evening but as yet we cannot realise it. I went to Mrs Thomson's "at home" & saw the presents she had a nice lot & it was a pretty wedding. They told me 4 ladies bridesmaids her two & his two sisters and two little girls with frilly petticoats.

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January 14th

Tom went to the mill last evening & had a long chat with Daniel and the old gentleman they all feel their loss deeply. Robert is quite as well as anyone could expect they told Tom. Howard came while Tom was there Janet² left this afternoon by the 3-16 train. I went to see her off and tis colder & more wind so hope the fog will go it seems inclined for frost this evening. I heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ she hopes I shall go down the middle of next month and I wrote Lizzie & sent her a parcel yes'day am now making baby a knitted wool hat hope it will do dear child.

January 15th

Sunday and so bitterly cold N.E. wind I went to school & church but did not go out after. Tom went a long walk Mother is better but not well yet.

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January 16th

I had a long letter from Emilie & from Lizzie the parcel went safely, my darling girl is so sadly I do feel anxious about her little pet wonder what ails her the Dr is to call & see her shall long for his report & baby is still poorly his teeth no doubt he has eight now & one double one. Still bitterly cold & our washing day it dried beautifully all ready to iron and mangle tonight without drying indoors. Wrote Mary Abbey for her birthday & to Whiteleys for wool.

January 17th

Had a P.C. from Lizzie, May is quite ill the Dr orders her to bed and is giving her medicine precious darling do trust she will be better soon how I long to go to her. Wrote to Lizzie and just a note in for my pet. Called on Miss Brown Mrs Mercers was a sad sad affair she did not have any nursing till Wednesday night poor dear it is sad Tom took a wreath.

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January 18th

Wrote to Gertie¹⁹ last night posted this morning for her birthday. We sent Emily to Mrs Mercer's funeral such crowds there nearly all the village followed, her grave is covered with flowers. I went to the district visitors meeting but it was a stupid affair. I had 4/- for my district & Mrs Strickland 6/2 & that was all there was for us the offertory money was not there. I left Mother all night. On my return found her so sadly lying on the sofa lazy then but she had been in violent pain in her stomach & since has been very sick. It seems like a bilious attack oh! dear it does make me anxious Mother so sadly and my darling girl ill I feel out of heart tonight and so nervous.

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January 19th

Mother is very sadly still did not get up until 5 o/c is so weak & poorly dear Lizzie wrote to Mother poor child she has her hands full. May is very ill, low fever the Dr calls it and baby is sadly too so they have lots of nursing. I wrote to her telling her of my sympathy & how I share her anxiety & would come & help if Mother was better. I am oh so anxious. Went out & called on Mr Scott and paid him for my magazines £1 - 6 altogether. Also went to Mrs Stricklands and gave her the 6/2 for her district and had long chat with her she like everyone else is queried at Mr Mercer's loss & I went to the poor dear's grave. It is covered with crosses & wreaths and they looked lovely so fresh & sweet. I soon lay ours all the others had names on them. On my return found Mrs Beecher here she had a chat, then left & Mother got up to tea.

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January 20th

Such a sharp frost last night & a sprinkling of snow Mother is better & brighter today, wrote to Lizzie this afternoon & I wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ then went and called on old Mr Mercer & met Mrs Wright & her daughter & Sara there also saw Percy & Howard outside and I heard at the Mill Mrs Jas Thatcher is dangerous ill inflammation of the lungs, our maid saw Cecil tonight & he said his Mother was very dangerous ill Emily heard dying but Cecil said we hardly know yet, so there is hope.

January 21st

Mrs Thatcher is gone poor children how they will grieve. Tom went in to see Mr T & had a chat with him. He feels it very much she was sensible till nearly the end wished them goodbye & spoke of the happy land where she was going Mother does not improve much. wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵.

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January 22nd

Sunday and so mild. I had P.C. (postcard) from Lizzie my darling May is improving but baby is still quite sadly poor little sweet. Went to school & church this morning did not go out after. Mother seems better today. I wrote to Emily Abbey last night & posted this morning.

January 23rd

Such a lovely day, mild and bright. I did the colour wash & it dried nicely. Heard from Arthur²³ May is better but baby not much change. Mrs Wright and Dora Mercer called this afternoon. Mr K is leaving this evening. Had a kind letter from Aunt Sewell¹. Mab²⁴ has gone home now she was not well Tuesday hope it is not much.

January 24th

Wrote to Lizzie & sent a small baby hat & went in to see the Thatchers poor Bertha, she does look sadly they bury their Mother tomorrow. Tom took a wreath in tonight. Wrote to Mr. W. Abbey & to James with Tom.

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January 25th

Began another sock for Tom the fellow sock to the samples Will¹⁸ gave Tom I did one last week & he is wearing them. It was three different colours the samples. Mother heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵. She tells us Williams is suffering from a bad leg. Hope it won't be much. He hurt it against the chair in the first place, Aunt also tells us Mrs George Griffiths is "expecting" in May. I am glad to hear it & surprised too. Our maid went to Mrs Thatcher's funeral. She says Mr. Thatcher was terribly cut up & Cecil. Emily was much affected as she told us about it, a good many flowers & very nice ones. Poor Bertha, my heart aches for her. Wrote to Whiteleys for more things. Mother has been nicely today. Tom heard from Will¹⁸ he intends coming down tomorrow.

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January 26th

Put new cuffs & collar to one of Tom's shirts and began doing my dress, the skirt of it. Mother has been so poorly again today. I sent for Dr. Barry, he said it is her liver & he will soon put her right. Trust he may. It makes me anxious about her. Heard from Mrs Smith²¹ and wrote Arthur²³. Tom intends writing

Lizzie tomorrow & sending her James's. Will came down tonight he is looking very well in spite of his extra work. It seems to suit him.

January 27th

Mother seems better today. I heard from Lizzie her darlings are better. Went out this afternoon & paid Miss Belcher for making my body 5/2 & called on Mrs Hogarth also went to see Mrs Ellis in the hall grounds & promised her some soup next Wednesday, and to send four of my people.

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January 28th

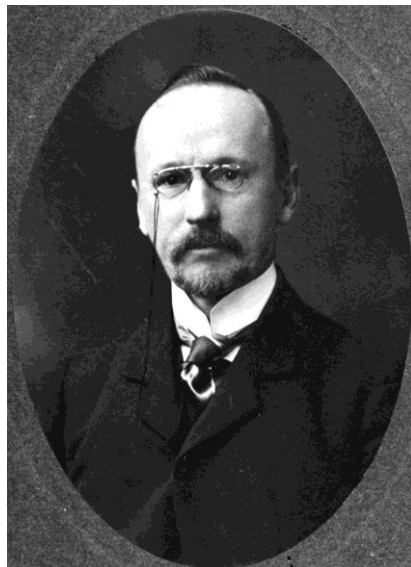
And so cold. Mother continues to improve. The Dr. saw her today & says she is doing well. She enjoyed her fish for dinner. A total eclipse of the Moon tonight we saw quite dark & then it came cloudy & could not be seen at all.

January 29th

Sunday. And such a biting wind. I went to school & church this morning but did not go out after. Mr. Ratcliffe called this afternoon & the D. too so we did not read much. The Dr. says Mother has picked up quicker than he expected.

January 30th

Very little wind but sharp frost & washing day & it is nearly all dry. Mother heard from Aunt Jefferies⁴². Mr. Billing⁴³ is so sadly, low and health bad. They have had their advice & the Dr. says a sea voyage & go to the south of France. I wrote Sallie⁴⁴ of our sympathy & to Lizzie & Whiteleys and Ada tonight.



Cousin Sarah's Husband Robert Billing



Aunt Betsy Jefferies née Gyde

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January 31st

I went to Uxbridge this afternoon was only gone a little over 2 hours. I wanted something for my darling girl's birthday so bought one or two little things & some kerchiefs & sent Em. So am a bit tired tonight as I ironed this morning. It is not so cold today indeed part of the day was lovely & part raining so that it is muddy again. Mother heard from Lizzie & a P.O. for 3/6.

February 1st

Wrote to May & Lizzie and sent my darling girl a parcel for her birthday.

February 2nd

My darling's birthday she is 7 years old today little sweet. How I should like to take a peep at her today. I have finished trimming and altering my dress for best hope it will look nice. Began a pair of bed socks for Janet² to send on her birthday.

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February 3rd

I have been busy today we have half a pig from Mr Etton so melted the lard & made meat pies as well as our usual pastry. Mother attended to the boiling of the lard 'tis quite a nice job and the meat looks delicious. The magazine came

today at dinner time so this afternoon I took the Drayton ones round & called on & had a chat with Mrs Beecher. Heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵.

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February 5th

Sunday and so mild. Mother took a little walk in the garden. I went to school & church & did not go out after. Had a small photo of Joe²⁰ from Fan⁶². Wrote & thanked her but said I wanted a cabinet* lined one.

**cabinete photo was on thick card and had a border*

February 6th

And such a lovely day did the small coloured wash and this afternoon and went out with the rest of my books and called on Miss Brown. She advised me to have the maternity box here for the present from Mrs. C. Johnson. Tom called on Mr. Mercer tonight and stayed a long time. He is pretty well.

February 7th

I went to Yiewsley bought a wire line of Mr. Smith for 5 1/2d and thanked Mr. Saunders for the urn they won't let me hire it and I ordered some brown bread for Thursday hope we shall like it. Took Mrs Wooster the pig's eye & saw Mrs Keen too. Saw Mr R. Mercer as I came home & had a chat with him poor man he does feel his loss keenly. Finished Janet's² bed socks.

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February 8th

Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ and to Janet² sending her the socks for a present with good wishes etc. and told Aunt I hoped in my next to say when I could go to her. Cut out & began my shirting chemises. When Tom came home he asked me if I wanted to go to Town tomorrow for anything could not say I did then he said "you would not care to go up just to go the theatre would you?" I quickly undeceived him and then he told me he has two tickets for the Olympic dress circle to see "The Ticket of Leave Man" it will be a real treat for me.

February 9th

I heard from Aunt S & Mother from Aunt Jefferies⁴² enclosing Harry's³⁷ last dated Jan 19th in which he tells of the birth of another son on the 18th of Jan also E Abbey wrote Mother and sent the photo of Willies wife and baby she is a big child & so fat. Harold has a swollen neck hope tis not much the matter.

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February 10th

I did enjoy last evening "The ticket of Leave Man" is very good & it was a treat indeed to be at the theatre again it was past 1 o/c when we got home. I have finished my first chemise of the shirting & like the look of it. Went out a short

time and paid Miss Haynes & the butcher also got some valentines for my dear little pets at Roydon¹³.

February 11th

Colder today and damp at times sent a paper to Harry and have ordered a few more things from Whiteleys.

February 12th

Sunday Went to school & church did not go out after & Mother went to church this morning & seems quite nicely. Mother heard from Aunt Hall¹⁴ sent cake and cards from Jack⁴¹ & Joe's²⁰ better poor old boy he has had a rough time of it.

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February 13th

Washing day & splendid drying. I had done folding soon after 3 o/c & Emily mangled this eve now it is snowing. Our coal is at the station the truck came Saturday but they did not let us know it.

February 14th

Quite a fall of snow just in time for the pancakes as Tom says, I wrote Mrs Smith²¹ and Mrs Looker with Mother and had a good fry of pancakes tonight they were delicious.

February 15th

Tom is gone to Enfield today numbering a sale of White Webbs things going to their place & he will call at Claremont & likely stay all night. I went out this afternoon called on Mrs Thomson, Mrs Hogarth, Mrs Scott & Mrs Beecher the latter was out she has begun the clubs & now takes the money Tuesdays.

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February 16th

Our maid has had news from home her baby sister they think dying & I heard from Fan⁶² she wants some particulars of Dick "For His Life by Mr Nesbit" I can give her some but not all. Very cold & snows at times. Wrote Fan & to Aunt Sewell saying I hope to be with her Saturday. Tom had a very pleasant day yesterday but finished his work at White Webbs still stayed at Claremont as they kindly invited him to do so.

February 17th

I heard from Aunt Sewellⁿ she is afraid I cannot come as the snow is so deep there & much as she wants to see me hope I won't run any risk. I cannot decide what to do Tom says write & say I shall wait but I did not till Tom came home & then he so objects I wrote to put it off till Monday. Finished baby's vest & wrote & sent to Lizzie. Mrs Beecher called & had tea with us, I went to post with her & on my return met the vicar he does look better.

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February 18th

Mr Ratcliffe came last night for some bits of shrubs to make a wreath with some white flowers so we suppose his sister is to be buried today. Such a nice day I might have gone to Swindon. As I did not wrote to Jack Hall⁴¹ to wish him & his wife joy. Heard from Lizzie they are all pretty well she hopes to send Harold to school next week. They only had a small wash this week Mrs Bradford being so sadly are hoping for it finer next, she returned Joe's²⁰ letters & Jack's cards. Tom went to see Mr Mercer, Robert, last night and did not get home till past 1 o/c he, Mr M, has told Mrs Scott not to send the magazines there so we sent for our Feb numbers. I wrote a note & sent by Emily & the 2/6. Emily heard from home the baby died last night.

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February 19th

Sunday we had a lot of snow last night & so cold today but I went to school and church but not out after felt sure I ought to have gone to Swindon yesterday the weather does not improve.

February 20th

A very cold morning but I think I will go unless it comes too much snow before I can start, Tom was to order the cab for me do hope I shall not take cold Tom does not approve my going at all in this weather. 2 Lansdown Road, Swindon here I am arrived safely and met such a kind welcome from Aunt. They are so glad to have me but the snow is deep in Swindon, Willie was on the platform to see after my luggage so kind of him, after tea I went round to see Em & the chicks & found them all well. Wrote to Mother & a note to Lizzie to let them know I arrived all right.

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February 21st

Still a bitter wind & frosty it is cold & while like this the snow will not go & there is a lot about. I went to Longford & had a chat with Aunt Hall¹⁴ this morning & saw Mrs. Foley & her two daughters. Mrs. F said she was coming to see Aunt so I stayed in this afternoon expecting her but she did not come & after an early tea I went to see Em. Am to go there to tea tomorrow.

February 22nd

Heard from Lizzie baby's vest does nicely & he is proud of it little darling wants to show it off so now I must make another. May wrote me too so now I must write my pet. Began baby's vest & a pair of stockings for May. Went to tea with Em. They are all well & the chicks were very good & happy. It was just 10 o/c when I came in. Willie stayed and kept chatting.

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February 23rd

And so bitter still wind nearly east & high & sharp frost last night. I do long for the weather to change. Heard from Mother, they are well. Will⁸ has sold his house & wanted to talk over affairs with Tom so he has gone to Oak Lodge last night. After dinner I went up to Longford to see uncle & found him looking & feeling so well. Auntie soon sent for me saying Mrs Smith's²¹s maid was here so I had to hurry back & then Mary could not wait long so only wrote a line she did not write much to me but sent me home sad news our old friend & neighbour John Woolford died last night. I do feel so sorry and can only think of the many kindnesses he has shown me & mine in the years gone by. I wrote May & Lizzie and to Mother to tell her J Woolford had gone. Went round to see Em.

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February 24th

The weather does keep bitter the wind is still high this morning & blows N.E. and snow falls a little at times. I went round to see Em this morning between the snowstorms all were well.

February 25th

As cold as ever & snowing this morning so I could not go down street with the parcel for Mrs Smith²¹. Finished a note to her & Agnes, took it down to Mr. Hartland's & posted a letter to John G. Sewell. Went round to see Em this afternoon & found all well. I do not long for it to be over. Heard from Mother all there are well & she sent me a letter from Mrs Looker.

February 26th

Sunday and a bitter day. I went to church Mr. Howe preached and a very good sermon. I walked back from church with Aunt Hall¹⁴, Mrs. Foley & Jessie Brown# & went into Longford & chatted with uncle awhile. Went to see Em all still well there.

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February 27th

Heard from Mrs Smith²¹ and she sent me a letter from Harry Woolford⁴⁵ she had, his father's⁴⁶ end was quite sudden & a shock to them he had been keeping his bed for more than a week took cold they suppose. Mrs Smith²¹ wants me to get a wreath for her. I meant to for myself so went out first called on Jessie & Mrs. Brown# & had a chat Jessie went with me to the nursery & I bought flowers for 1/6 one blossom of Cineraria & a few narcissus but not enough then Jesse told me of Frost at New Swindon so I went there bought a bunch of purple violets 2d & two bunches of narcissus 1/- & a bunch of Jirus all fresh. Then got wire & string & after dinner made the wreaths was surprised at my own success.

Mrs. Foley and Jesse called & they thought them lovely. Aunt S Aunt H, Em & the children & our maid also the same, I am glad. I wrote Mrs. J Woolford to say they are coming & wrote Mrs Smith²¹ saying what I have done.

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February 28th

Had a letter from Lizzie with such sad news she has Arthur²³ down now with scarlatina. I am so upset and anxious wrote to her & sent baby's vest, told her I am ready to help anyway I can though I shall be sorry to leave here in a hurry, feel I want to rush home & have the other three at Drayton. Wrote Mother asking what I must do & wrote to Mrs Woodford also a P.C. to Mrs Smith²¹ telling her about Lizzie's trouble & how unsettled I feel. Had Joe's²⁰ photo from Fan⁶² so sent a P.C. to thank her.

February 29th

Still so cold when will it change. Went to Longford & had a chat with Aunt. Mrs Foley & her children are gone and Aunt is so glad had they stayed till Friday it would have been a month's visit. They are not at all nice children. Wrote Mrs Smith & sent her the socks & money in case I leave in a hurry had a note from her, Mary came up & had a chat. Mrs S told me such sad news of Mr Harris of Medbourne but it accounts for his strange goings on with S Norman.

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March 1st

Heard from Mother & Lizzie the latter is so far good news that dear Arthur²³ boy is going on well do trust he will be the only case but fear not though I think they have managed well and are taking all precautions still I cannot but be anxious about them & unsettled as Mother says she told lizzie to send me a telegram if another falls down with it but I am to wait a summons before I go had I been at home lizzie would have sent the three to me at once but as they did not leave directly thinks it best now to wait & see how thing are & perhaps she is right, maybe it is all for the best I am here but at present I feel sorry I left home. I wrote Lizzie & Mother & Mrs Looker, heard from Mrs J Woolford & sent it to Mother & Mrs Smith²¹ went down street saw Mr Hewson for a few minutes & bought some alpaca to make May an apron, Em is all right today.

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March 2nd

And such a white frost but the wind has changed do hope we shall get it milder. Wrote to Janet². Em keeps about still all right she has had another bother about her nurse M. A. Stalgrave was in yesterday & enquired if Ruby had told her the Purton Nurse is engaged the 16th of this month so of course Em does not want to have her it has made Aunt so anxious & worried me.

March 3rd

Went to North Street this morning all well there. Willie was to enquire for a nurse so I went around in the afternoon but he had not seen Mrs Brown#. I offered to go & all after Mrs Townsend & Willie jumped at it & told me to engage her if possible. She was not at home but I saw her daughter & she promised for her Mother, Mrs T had gone to Bristol by the market train. I am glad that is settled. No news from Roydon¹³ or home. I do long to hear.

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March 4th

Sunday went to church this morning & just called at Longford to see Willie he did not go. Walked up with Jessie & Aunt the former gave me a kind invitation to go there to tea tomorrow & I promised to go if not specially engaged. Willie came this afternoon & brought Mab²⁴ & Daisy²⁵. They stayed to tea & I took them home after, no news again so I wrote Emilie & sent a P.C. for them to write by return. I do so want to hear.

March 5th

It is still cold but not bitter the wind being westerly. I went to Em's & took Mab & Daisy down street with me and met with Mrs Smith²¹ & ever so many people there & am sorry to hear it is all too true about Mr Harris he has gone out of his mind. I am very sorry for Ada. They have all attended now for him but think of sending him away. Heard from Lizzie all is going on as well as we can expect I am to send Lizzies to Mother so wrote & sent it. Heard from E Abbey she is worried & complaining, poor girl I am sorry for her.

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March 6th

Heard from Nellie. They wonder I have not been up so I wrote Aunt B & told her how it is & promised to go as soon as I can. Went to tea with Jessie & Mrs Brown# yesterday had a quite pleasant time there & got home in good time. Went to North Street this morning & took Mab & Daisy for a walk and this afternoon persuaded Aunt to go around with me & see Em. Aunt Hall¹⁴ heard from Jack⁴¹ yesterday. I had his letter to read & one from T too. A lovely day.

March 7th

Heard from Mother & a P.C. from Lizzie went to see Uncle this morning, He is at home today with inflammation in his toe. Aunt is anxious about him. He is well in himself. Em is still about all right. May came up from Wick & brought me a kind note from Mrs Smith²¹. She wants to know when I am going there. I wrote back Mrs S also sent me a note she had from Ada Akers⁴⁷.

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March 8th

And so wet this morning seems like a steady down pour for the day & it is washing away the snow so fast. There is a good deal of wind too it cleared up this afternoon & Aunt & myself went to see Em & to wish Ken happy returns. Aunt gave him 2/6 & I gave him a jubilee 6d Tom wrote him & sent a P.O. S. Bank book with 5/- to his credit. Flo⁶¹ sent him some shoes we did not stay to tea Aunt not feeling well.

March 9th

I had a P.C. from Lizzie. All going on pretty well, went down street and paid for Aunt's picture frames and called on the Deacon also Em she is still all right, Nellie Kirtley called this afternoon, she had just had a tooth out. All well at home. I promised to go as soon as I can. Went to tea at Longford. Uncle is better & we had a long game of cards I got home just after 11 o'clock & found a letter from Lizzie awaiting me poor darling she gets so tired. I do wish it won't be too much bother.

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March 10th

The old German emperor is dead. A telegram yesterday told of it here, coming just now will spoil the festivities of the prince of Wales silver wedding 25 years today they were married. Heard from Mrs Looker she is better but not able to go out. Wrote to Lizzie & to Mother. So very mild and high wind.

March 11th

Sunday and such a high wind & rain. Went to see Em on my way to church this morning she is alright it was fine going to church but rain & blew a hurricane as I returned. I called at Longford not wanting to go out again. Uncle is still better. They heard from Joe²⁰ yesterday. He has a berth with Mr Foley, storekeeper with £250 a year & writes so nicely & cheerfully and they heard from Tom today. Yesterday was the third anniversary of their opening school & says in 1885 they passed 8 girls in exams, in 1886 27 girls, in 1887 40 girls.

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March 12th

Not so wild today and the wind has gone down a good deal but tis stormy. Wrote to Mrs Smith²¹ but did not see Mrs S today when I went down street but met Walter W. So gave the note to him to forward. We had Mab²⁴, Daisy and Ruby calling here to see the circus procession go round & the children stayed all day we had such a wet afternoon.

March 13th

Last night just before 10 o/c Willie came round & asked me to go to Em. He was going for the nurse so I went round directly. Em was afraid at first he should disturb us but was glad enough of me after as we were alone nearly half an

hour. Mrs Townsend had gone to bed so dressing & reaching us took some time. We were glad to see her as Em was suffering terribly. It did not last long. Baby⁴⁸ was born 11.05 PM quite 5 minutes before Dr. came. I saw them comfortable and got back by 12.30 but had a poor night I could not sleep. Heard from E. Abbey asking me to get a dress body made for her. Wrote her about it & to Lizzie to tell her Em has another daughter. Sent a P.C. to Jack⁴¹ & wrote Mother. Mab²⁴ and Daisy spent the day here.

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March 14th

Daisy slept with me last night to make room at home. Heard from Lizzie, sending me James' (letter) to Mother & Willie Abbey's to Tom. James is still out of employment. He wrote Jan 27th and now talks of leaving Christchurch to seek work elsewhere. My head is very bad, worse than yesterday. Em goes on so well. I took Mab & Daisy a walk this morning. Agnes took them this afternoon. It has been such a lovely day Mary came from Wick. & I wrote back to Mrs Smith²¹. Told her I hoped to return with Mrs. S next Monday. Heard from Mother. They are willing for me to have the children at Drayton now I must win Lizzie over.

March 15th

I am better today. Took Mab²⁴ & Daisy out this morning & this afternoon called on Miss ..., Miss Wheeler and to see Alice Stone. We also went to Longford but found Aunt out. She called here, went to see Em & baby again this evening & they are going on so well.

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March 16th

Such an unpleasant change again. Snow last night & a bitter wind today. I went round to Em this morning & wrote to Lizzie sending a parcel with May's apron and stockings, Harold's mitts & some books for them all to draw and this afternoon I went to Chiseldon, found Aunts wonderfully well for their ages. Aunt B is more feeble I think.

March 17th

Still very cold and snow falls at times am glad I went to Chiseldon yesterday. Went to see Em this morning but found it so very bitter. Did not go out again but just began May's dress thin summer one. Heard from Mother tonight & Mrs Smith²¹, am not satisfied with the arrangements for Lizzie. She decided not to send the children at present I cannot help being very anxious do trust it will not be too much for her but feel so much for her my darling sister. Dear Mrs. S, so glad I am going there she feels Mr. Harris⁴⁹ death greatly. He died yesterday. I heard today Robert May died this morning he had been at K locks 40 years.

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Much 18th

Sunday So cold still Aunt and Daisy could not go out. I went to church & up to Longford with Aunt. Uncle is pretty well again but has to wear his gout boot the swelling has not gone down but all pain has left. Aunt Sewell¹¹ is so poorly today after tea I went to see Em & baby they are doing so well. Grandpa was there this afternoon. Wrote to Tom.

March 19th

And still a bitter wind. I am off to Wick this afternoon and Daisy²⁵ is to go home.

Liddington Wick here I am but it was a cold drive the wind being so high it seemed to scalp me, & the good girl & warm welcome I received were very pleasant. I saw to Em on my way down street. She is very nicely & Daisy is just delighted to be at home. I saw Annie Harris while waiting they are pretty well at home she said her uncle is to be buried tomorrow. Mr. Smith is invited. I gathered some violets & snowdrops for the wreath as it looks so like snow.

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March 20th

It is a white world this morning but the wind is not so high as yesterday but it is still bitter. I heard from Lizzie Arthur continues to improve & the rest keep well. They were pleased with the parcel. May wore her new stockings & apron on Sunday & Harold his mitts. Mrs Smith²¹ heard from Tom & I had a note they are well. I went on with Mrs. Smith to Mr. Harris' funeral. Not as many there as they expected. Partly the weather I think it was bitter standing around the grave. I felt chilled through & through & for men standing bare headed was trying, hope none would take cold. Ada Akers⁴⁷ followed her uncle. Poor girl she did feel it, it was trying for her. She put her wreath & one more on the coffin & then Mrs Swinhoe went up and lead her away. Mrs. Smith, the two Hardy's & myself went into the rectory, had a warm & had tea & went to the lantern evening service. Mr. Smith of Hinton preached.

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March 21st

The wind is still cold but the sun shines brightly today. I wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ & sent by Mary to enquire for them all & to say as I cannot have my pets at Drayton I will not hurry home but return to Swindon to spend Sunday & a few days with Aunt & then return here & help Mrs Smith²¹ with her Easter decorations as she wishes me to do. Wrote to Mrs looker and to Lizzie. Aunt Sewell only sent a message to me that she was too poorly to write & had not heard from North St. since I left & my bed is waiting for me. Poor little Auntie. I feel she is but sadly & I am sorry. Mr. Smith has been rabbiting.

March 22nd

We have had a day of visitors Mr. Reeves came this afternoon with his goods. Mrs. S bought a little & then just before tea, Ada, Annie & Charlie⁵⁰ Akers came. They had left just as it was dark & as they left, Mr. and Mrs. Whateley of Bradbury & Mr. W. Choules, Walter Wirdnam came & spent the evening so much talking so not good for Mrs Smith²¹ she is so tired.

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March 23rd

A dull day & looks reckoning for rain or snow. I feared the latter as the tomtit was crying pinchem yesterday. I have made a small petticoat for Mrs Smith²¹ to send to a bazaar & hope to do one or two more things to help her for it. Mrs. S had a little chat with Ada yesterday afternoon & she told her uncle has left his property to his sister & Ada. I am glad to hear it, Ada told us a lot about her uncle⁴⁹. Poor man, it was a sad end for him. Nellie and Lucy Hardy came to tea.

March 24th

And such a fine morning white frost & clouds coming over this afternoon. 2 Lansdown Rd here I am back again & with such a kind welcome & Aunt is pretty well. I went to Snodshill to tea found Mr. Woolford better he had just put on his boots today for the first time. Mrs. W is all right. I had such a wet walk to Swindon. It rained all the way & wearing my waterproof I was hot and tired. Wrote to Mother.

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March 25th

Sunday. winter again. We got up to a white world & it has snowed at times all day. Went to church this morning & walked home with Aunt Hall¹⁴. Uncle is all right. Went to see Em after tea. She is downstairs for the first time & she is looking so nicely & baby grows well. I nursed the little darling. It is snowing again this evening.

March 26th

A cold morning with a good bit of snow on the ground but it is melting fast. After dinner it came on to rain & did not leave off till dark. I wrote Mrs. Smith and went down street but failed to meet Mrs Smith²¹ so posted the letter & wrote to Aunt B & to Tom. The latter I sent Joe's²⁰, Jack's⁴¹ & Mary's letters to read & sent on to Lizzie. Heard from Emilie with a note & James' from Lizzie. Emily had her body safely.

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March 27th

Heard from Mother. Tom intends to come Saturday sleep here & go to Wick to dine Sunday if he alters will let us know. Wrote to E. Abbey & sent her the bill of her body after I had paid Mrs Miflin, 5/5 ½ it was. Made a pair of baby shoes in the white for Em's baby.

March 28th

We have had a lot of rain last night and it poured this morning till after breakfast & it is cold and wind light. I had a jacket from Mrs Smith²¹ last night by footman a letter from John enclosed asking me to find them a kitchen maid & Mrs. Smith wants me to do one or two things. I went down street & did my little business or some of it at least but it rained most of the time & the wind being high it was most unpleasant out. I went round to Em's & nursed baby this evening. On my return found Aunt had a P.C. from Tom saying tis wet he will most likely come down tomorrow night.

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March 29th had a P.C. from Mrs Smith²¹ saying it is too wet for me to walk so they will meet me with the trap at Lower Town. I wrote Lizzie and sent the small parcel went to see Aunt Hall¹⁴ & Em this morning as I am to start at 2.30. I have just begun making May a turkey red blouse for summer wear mean to smock it with white. Liddington Wick here I am dear Mrs Smith met me & it was much more pleasant than walking, but it has been a fine day dried up wonderfully.

March 30th

Good Friday and we have busy all day preparing our decorations – have a text for the alter rails “Christ our Passover” red letters on white, as there are so few flowers the decorations must be mostly green. Tom came a little before dinner, he walked to church with Aunt Sewell¹¹ & then came on by Walcot, fine morning but wet afternoon & cold wind.

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March 31st

We went up to Liddington about 11.30 to put the decorations in place & it was nearly 6 o/c on our return. I think the church looks very well. There are not many flowers & what there are, are mostly snowdrops. We took up our dinner & had it at old Bettys & went into the rectory to tea. I wrote to Mother & Tom did too & Mrs Smith²¹ sent her a card & I wrote a note to Mrs Woodford & Tom took it over there.

April 1st

Easter Sunday and such a bright lovely day quite a treat. We went to church morning & evening and the church does look very well & the services were well attended & were bright & hearty. Tom & I took a stroll in the fields in the

afternoon to enjoy the sunshine & a little chat and the dear boy has returned home tonight hoping for a day in the garden tomorrow.

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April 2nd

A bright morning but the glass falls again so fear it won't last all day there are clouds about & the wind is cold. I bound Mrs Smiths²¹ black coat with a new braid & began on antimacassar for the Roxwell chair one line crewel work. Such a wet afternoon & stormy evening very bad for the holiday folks, Mr Smith⁵¹ went to fair and says there were such lots of people there.

April 3rd

Frost again last night & cloudy & looks threatening this morning & such a cold wind. Wrote a P.C. to John & wrote to Tom. Began writing Lizzie. Went to tea at Snodshill Mrs Woolford no better but has a nasty cough now. Mrs W told me Mrs H Thorne# is very seriously ill. She started to go & see her this afternoon but managed to fall in the deep water carriage in and got soaked through so had to return to change everything & I was sorry to hear Nellie Pateman has married a cousin her father's sister's son, he has just taken a business as a confectioner.

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April 4th

Finished Lizzie's & sent it by post & heard from Aunt Sewellⁿ forwarding a letter from Lizzie. Aunt tells me Mab²⁴ went home Saturday & took Daisy²⁵ & then were to return yesterday baby is to be christened this week so I wrote Aunt & sent by Mary with a book. Aunt was very poorly today – sent word. Miss some body was coming Friday Mary forgot the name I expect it was Janet². Began covering the sitting room chairs.

April 5th

Finished the chairs they do look nice now I am recovering the kitchen arm chairs, at least am going to do it today. I took off most of the old stuff. After tea I went over to Snodshill to enquire for them & Mrs Harry Thorne#. Mrs Woolford is not any the worse for her impromptu bath.

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April 6th

Such a sharp frost again last night it does check all growing and the cold winds we have had lately are trying, the sun is bright today, yes'day we had several snow storms but not much snow. I heard from Mother they are well. Tom bought some potatoes off Mr C thatcher & heard there the vicar is better he hopes now a second operation will not be necessary he is going to Brighton for a change, has two years leave from his Bishop and said he has almost engaged a

clergyman to take charge in his absence live at his house a good man, do hope he will be. We went to Medbourne this afternoon called on Miss Harris and Ada & then went to Mrs Hughes to tea they are nice children and behave prettily one of them the eldest seven years old, baby 7 months and such a poor sickly looking child still in long clothes her limbs being too small to be shown. We left early as Mrs Smith²¹ did not want to come so got home to supper.

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April 7th

A sharp frost again and cold wind. I have been busy at the kitchen chair done the greater part, must finish it Monday morning. Wrote a P.C. to Auntie saying I cannot return today. Hope to go on Monday with Mrs Smith. We had a little rain tonight or rather this evening and it came over so dark or I meant to go & enquire for Mrs Thorne# at Walcot hope to tomorrow.

April 8th

Sunday and such a biting E. wind with snow storms at times, we went to church this morning and this afternoon. I went to Walcot and saw Harry# & Pattie. Mrs Thorne# is not any better and they are very anxious about her. It is a most serious illness & as it is Bright's* disease suppose it is nearly hopeless for her to recover. We went to church again this evening it has cleared & looks like a frost. I wished Mr Pitt goodbye.

**Kidney disease*

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April 9th

And it was a sharp frost last night & still a cold wind. I have finished the kitchen chair & it looks very well. Now I am off to Swindon today with Mrs. Smith.

2 Lansdowne Rd here I am with my dear little Auntie again. She is not very bright today. This afternoon to my delight John called. He's staying at Chiseldon came down Saturday & is returning to business tomorrow & then Nellis came in for a short time. She & John had walked into Swindon & were going to return the same way. I promised to go up to Chiseldon tomorrow after tea. I went to see them at Longford. All were well. Flo's⁶¹ boy looks bonny but he had a fit again Saturday so it keeps her anxious then I went round to see Em & her chicks. She is nicely and baby does us grow. Mab²⁴ & her have colds. Wrote to Mother.

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April 10th

Still cold wind but nice fine morning, went down streets & did a little shopping for Aunt and called on Mr. Hawson but found him out he has been ill with

congestion of the lungs & he is now gone to Bournemouth for his health. I am sorry not to see him. Went to Chiseldon by the 1-50 train & return just at 9 o/c. Aunt B. was not quite the thing but not much the matter John left by the 4-28 via Andover for town. He went down to Wick this morning just for a call. Nellie's sister Kate they tell me is on her way home from the Cape & they hope has quite recovered. Her husband went over for her. Of course Aunt B. & Nellie will want to see her but as yet Aunt B. has not had a word, does not mention her. It is milder tonight & looks dull almost like rain or Aunt Sewell¹¹ says snow.

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April 11th

Heard from Mother she wishes me to stay till Monday so I intend to do so. Will¹⁸ is going to Drayton to take the brats home Sunday. Went to see Em & Flo⁶¹ & called on Mrs. Brown#. Wrote to Lizzie & to Mrs. Smith but did not send the letter was so disappointed. Mary did not come. Milder today.

April 12th

A nasty damp morning it rained all day. Wrote to Will offering to set Gladys to Pad if they like. Went round and nursed baby but back to tea. Am to take Aunt to tea at North street tomorrow.

April 13th

And such a lovely day. Wrote to Mother saying I shall be home on Monday & wrote Janet². Went to tea with Aunt at Em's they were all good children. Em has been out twice today & had baby out too & all the children. Flo⁶¹ intends to go back tomorrow Em tells me.

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April 14th

Went up to see Flo this morning & find she is going to stay longer, then made a batch of tarts for Aunt and finished my note for Wick to send by Mr. Gale & then took it to him & went for a walk with Aunt & called on Em, nursed baby awhile & had a chat and went to Longford to tea. Jessie Brown# also was there & we had a game at "Nap". I won 7d and got home at 11 o/c. Uncle saw me home. Mr. Sewell was not well today he had a headache & seemed out of sorts.

April 15th

Sunday Mab²⁴ came & went to church with Aunt & I. We stayed to holy communion so sent Mab home with her Granny. When we came out it rained fast & has all the rest of the day. Mab²⁴ stayed at Longford to dinner. I went there in the afternoon & brought her to tea with us, took her home after and nursed baby. Millie is still quite poorly.

April 16th

Fine morning but looks rainy. Went to say goodbye to Aunt and Flo⁶¹ then down the street & paid Mrs Dawson a visit & took the rent and got one or two little things & went & said goodbye to Em. Had a note from Mrs. Smith while we were at dinner. Colne Mead here I am safely arrived it has been such a lovely day found Mother & Tom well. Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹.

April 17th

Stormy morning but fine after and high wind all day have not settled in place yet. Did a bit of gardening and finished Tom's last sock. Went for a walk & paid the butcher & Mr. Haynes.

April 18th

Began bottling the orange wine there is a lot of it yet had to wait to have the bottles washed. Wrote to Lizzie. We have had a very heavy rain & thunder with hail could only go out a very little in the garden, it is growing weather and there are such a lot of swallows about.

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April 19th

Began the spring cleaning, gave Tom's room a thorough turn out & polish up. And went in with the wine had 80 bottles and it still runs freely but have used all the bottles so must wait now.

April 20th

Cleaned Emily's room today & wrote to Mrs. Smith. So wet this afternoon & I was going out gardening it cleared awhile this evening so I took Jack a walk & went as far as Smiths at Yiewsley bought some staples to put up the wire line & looked at his dog chains & watering pots. Tom went to see Mr. Spencer so was late home tonight.

April 21st

Wet morning but fine afternoon & evening so I did the washing ready to boil Monday & put the white quilt in to soak. Put up the wire line it was not an easy job but I have managed it & I did a good turn in the garden this evening but it is very damp cannot half get on. Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹.

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April 22nd

Sunday and such a nasty cold wet day. Went to school & church but did not go out after except round the garden with Tom after tea but it damped all the time it is most unpleasant. Heard from dear Lizzie.

April 23rd

We did our big wash the changes dried a little but that is all, it has been a nasty day and this afternoon and evening so wet & a cold wind. Mr Belch sent our rain

water tub down Saturday & the man came today & partly fitted it. We have the things ready to iron & I am so tired.

April 24th

Another busy day. We did our ironing & made the marmalade 25 oranges 2 lemons & have 10 pots of it hope it is good. A nasty day again but very little rain, we bring out the blankets sheets & coloured to have a blow they did not dry much.

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April 25th

A very high wind and in the afternoon bright sunshine but the wind is still east, however it dried our quilts & blankets. I went to the district visitors meeting at 12 o/c it did not last long & there was not much money. I only asked for 4/- leaving more for others. We cleaned the box room today and I went to Uxbridge this afternoon and did a little shopping Mother has a nasty cold & is poorly.

April 26th

We cleaned our bedroom today & I wrote to Lizzie fixing to go there next Monday for a week & then bring Arthur²³ & Alfred²⁷ back with me & wrote to Mab²⁴ for her birthday & sent her a game for a present & wrote to Eric and this evening did a little gardening. The wind is still cold I wish it would be more genial.

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April 27th

Mab²⁴ is 7 today. We have had a lovely day & I starched the netted curtains & we cleaned the spare room. Now all upstairs is done & the summer curtains up. Mother is quite poorly I am sorry do trust she will soon get better. Called on Miss Brown about the poor money she sent it is wrong 2/- instead of 4/- she was not at home. Told miss Ellen then called on Mrs Dr Barry.

April 28th

Heard from dear Lizzie. How glad they will be to see me. Also heard from Mrs Smith²¹ she tells me Mr J.E.G. Bradford⁵² has lost his only child. I am sorry for them. Wrote Mary Smith, Miss Brown called & brought me the 4/-, was sorry she made a mistake & Dr Barry called & told me how to address to the fever hospital. Mother is still poorly, a lovely day.

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April 29th

Sunday and quite a high wind. West but cold & looks to threaten rain. Went to school and church this morning did not go out after have such a nasty headache. Heard from Janet² she returns to town tomorrow has enjoyed her holiday. Wrote to Flo⁶¹.

April 30th

And such a lovely day. I am off to Roydon¹³ this afternoon. Have been busy doing a few things & put in some sunflower seeds in the cold ground. Temple Farm, Roydon¹³ here I am all right, it was hot travelling. Lizzie & the chicks met me at the station Lizzie looks better than I expected & is very cheerful and Arthur²³ looks bonny May & Harold also but baby is a pale chick little dear & so thin, he is very friendly do not fancy he has forgotten me, he is quite a baby in his ways but chatters nicely & walks well.

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May 1st

And such a high wind & much cooler. Charlie Chapman came down this morning to tell us there is a new baby at the Hamlet another boy, Mother & child going well. Charlie C was there & nurse came last night so it was nicely managed. They were called up about 1 o/c and baby was born about 7 o/c. wrote to Mother.

May 2nd

Wind is still very high & this afternoon it was wet. Emma C came from London this morning to see Mary & take Percy back with her tomorrow. She is keeping house for her brother John so can have the child awhile. After tea Mr Abbey¹² drove Lizzie & I up to see Mary & her baby they do seem nicely & tis a bonny fine fat boy, the wind is dreadful up there, poor nurse does not like it at all it makes her stiff she said.

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May 3rd

Heard form Em⁹ & wrote to Aunt Sewellⁿ. The wind is still so high we cannot go out in comfort and baby does dislike it so, we have had heavy showers at times today. I took the chrysanthemum cuttings for them and we went for tea at Mrs Bolton's they are very kind.

May 4th

Lizzie heard from Mother & she sent me a letter from Harry³⁷. Emily went to her aunt Mart's today for a visit. We drove over to the Lee this afternoon & made a call, baby grows nicely & is a bright little thing, our baby did not like being there is so shy & cries instead of speaking.

May 5th

Another fine day & the children have been out a good deal & do so enjoy it. Mrs Abbey took Arthur²³ to Hertford to have his hair cut. Wrote to Mother saying all being well I intend to return on Monday with my two boys.

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May 6th

Sunday fine but dull day. Went to church with the children & Mrs A & took the 4 a walk this afternoon. Heard from Tom they had a good sale yesterday sold 70 tickets & they made £71,300 they are having sales this year.

April 7th (May)

My darling girl seems nicely today I am glad as I am leaving this afternoon.

Colne Mead here we are safely and baby is a darling he was a bit fretful when the train stopped at the stations till we reached Bishops Stortford. After that he was a dear good boy & is so friendly here & has settled nicely do trust it will¹⁸ do him a lot of good little pet, it was a trial to Lizzie to part with him & Arthur²³. It was hot in the train & I cannot get cool long to undress am tired too.

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May 8th

Another hot day & a busy one did our washing it dried so fast. Baby has been a darling good child I did the folding while he slept and after tea took him with Arthur to help me deliver my books they came last night. We took 9 round, Emily was to finish her work then go for the train and come to meet us, she met us but without the pram they were all out. Began writing Lizzie.

May 9th

25 years today dear father⁵³ died how time flies. Finished Lizzie's letter & posted heard from Aunt Sewellⁿ & Jessie Brown#. The latter wants me to take charge for them in June, they are all well now. We did our ironing and found it very warm though the wind has been cooler today we have the pram now and our pet has been out twice in it. I put out some more sunflower plants.

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May 10th

Arthurs new suit came yesterday so tried it on today & it does very well. Heard from Charlie Abbey sending me the powders gave baby one today. Wrote Jessie Brown# & E. Abbey and cut out Mary's new sleeves.

May 11th

Baby²⁷ is two years old today & has been a dear happy little pet, I heard from Lizzie. Tom brought baby a Noah's ark & a mechanical toy he was delighted & had to sit up late to enjoy them made Mary's sleeves.

May 12th

Wrote Lizzie & sent the sleeves did a little gardening this evening.

May 13th

Sunday went to school and church, Mother stayed at home this morning. It has been such a hot day we could not go for a walk this afternoon. After tea went

down by the river Mother went to church. On our return we found John here. Tom John and Arthur²³ went for a walk.

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May 14th

We did our coloured wash & it soon dried it is not so hot today the wind is North & there is not much sun.

May 15th

Cleaned the kitchen it's spring clean also had the dining room chimney swept to clean tomorrow.

May 16th

We cleaned the dining room today & I turned the carpet sides to middle so had a busy day, we are sitting in the parlours to the children's delight. Wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹ tonight to post tomorrow & a note to E Abbey. Mother wrote Lizzie. A wet afternoon.

May 17th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ sending me Jacks⁴¹ letter. Such a wet day we began cleaning the parlours.

May 18th

And such a lovely day but almost too hot finished the parlours & Mother made some cheesecakes. Emilie Abbey⁶ & Mary Yates came down to tea they seemed pleased with our home & think baby looking better.

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May 19th

Mother has written James¹⁰ this is Fresco mail day. Hot again & I have been so busy getting the washing forward as tis bank holiday Monday. Wrote to Lizzie.

May 20th

Whitsunday went to school & church we have a fresh clergyman he read a paper of declaration on being appointed curate in charge. We liked him much today he is a Dr in English & a merited man. My baby has been a merry darling so good & out of doors most of the day.

May 21st

And such a lovely day. We did our washing all soon dried & Tom has put in the Virginia, stock, aster, petunia & marigold seeds. Drayton has been gay with this fair the clown cricketers & a sort of fete heaps of people passed going to it. Tom & Arthur²³ went fishing awhile this evening.

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May 22nd

And such a change dull & the wind so cold. We did the ironing & I went to take the club moneys but so few came I only took 5/10.

May 23rd

Fine & warm again today Mr Abbey¹² came this afternoon seemed pleased with the children & they were to see him, he left by the 7.55 train. Heard from E Abbey she wants to know when I go to Enfield. Mr Ratcliff came in this evening.

May 24th

Dull & cool. Cleaned the bedrooms and at last have finished Mary's turkey red dress with the smocking & have cut out & got ready the muslin for the new blinds. Wrote a note to Mrs Barry asking her to allow her son Arthur to come tomorrow to tea for our Arthur²³ to have a companion.

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May 25th

This afternoon took my children out & called to see poor Ellis he is sadly will not last long. I think was pleased to see me & his wife too Mr Strickland is very good & goes to read & pray with him. Arthur Barry came & the boys have struck up quite a friendship.

May 26th

Took the children & Emily to Uxbridge this afternoon had baby's hair cut & did a little shopping Emily too bought some things. Alfred²⁷ was not so shy this time, cried a little at first & cried very much to have his hair cut. Finished the hems of the window blinds now want to do some work for myself.

May 27th

Trinity Sunday went to school & church & this afternoon took baby & went to see Ellis taking him some port wine he is not any better was thankful for the time.

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May 28th

It has been a dull day & cold wind.

May 29th

I heard from Mrs Brown# today they want to start the 6th June so I must go the 5th & Mother wrote Lizzie to tell her & ask her to come Saturday & stay till Tuesday. Hope she will & I wrote to Emilie Abbey⁶ to tell her & first I must be busy to do all I can before I go & I wrote Whiteleys for some 'black all' for the grates & some silk & wool.

May 30th

I am too busy to write much now, gardening & doing a little work for myself. Wrote Mrs Brown#.

May 31st

Alfred²⁷ has not been quite the thing the last two days & Arthur²³ has a bit of a cold hope it won't come to much. Arthur Barry & our Arthur are great friends.

Page 200

June 1st

Arthur²³ heard from his Mother today she will come tomorrow, I am glad, wrote to say so & sent a list of trains saying we would meet the 5.44, the two Miss Barry & Arthur had tea with us tonight.

June 2nd

Lizzie came Arthur met her & I took baby part of the way. Such a hot day.

June 3rd

Sunday there was not any Sunday school today. We went to church & after to see poor Ellis he is not any better poor man he suffers such. Wrote Aunt Sewell¹. Lizzie is pleased with the children thinks baby looks so well little darling how shall I fair without him it has been a very hot day, summer seems come all at once.

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June 4th

And such a busy day with me, we were up early and put the first boil in the copper before breakfast so our washing was over early & it was very hot & dried quickly this afternoon. I finished the grates with the 'black all' & did over the tin in the kitchen then after tea we ironed & it is all done mending too I am glad. It much cooler tonight.

June 5th

I am off to Enfield today & Lizzie goes home with her chicks how I shall miss my darling Alfred²⁷. We go by the 2.57 train. Claremont, Enfield & here I am all right the pony carriage met me & I found all well, it was hard parting with my dear ones & my sweet boy held his arms to me & did cry, my heart did ache partings are hard. Mr & Mrs Brown# go to Scotland, start by the night train from Kings Cross tomorrow.

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June 6th

I do miss my sweet pets & being my first day do not feel home or anywhere else. Wrote Lizzie & Mr & Mrs Brown# left this evening at 6.30 and now I am the responsible person here & hiring a new cook & "Mothers help" feel to have more than usual also the keys of the safe are left with me, also over £40 which seems to me a lot of money shall pay some away tomorrow. Went out with the children in the garden & had a game of rounders it was very cold this morning but is milder tonight.

June 7th

Heard from dear Lizzie got home all right Will¹⁸ met her at Liverpool St. baby was pleased to see May & Harold & right at home went down town & paid Billsons £7 from Mother & to Jessie also Janet² Sewell, we had a game at tennis this evening do hope I shall learn to play with a little skill this year.

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June 8th

Have letters to send so wrote a line to Jessie# to enclose. I went for a drive this afternoon it began to rain soon after we started but thought it would not be much so kept out & so did the rain all the way, we were out 1½ hours but it was pleasant still & warm. Wrote Lizzie.

June 9th

Heard from dear Mother so wrote May & sent it on to Lizzie & heard from Janet Sewell she wants Harry's address in America so wrote it on a P.C. & sent her. Am getting on with Mary's dress hope to finish it off by Friday have been idle since I came here.

June 10th

Sunday and a lovely day spent with the children this morning and this evening took Daisy and Percy with me to St Mary's it was hospital Sunday there & so special.

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June 11th

Daisy heard from her Mother of their safe arrival at Braemar. I went to Holloway this evening shopping but was not over pleased with my work it is a bother with small children to get what one likes. Wrote to Jessie, quickly finished May's Zephyr dress and it looks very well.

June 12th

Heard from Aunt Hall¹⁴ & from Lizzie the latter sent a parcel with such a nice summer work & thanked her also wrote Mother & sent her Lizzies' & Aunt Halls¹⁴ & wrote Mrs Willie Abbey & sent for Tom to enclose in his letter. Miss Westlake went to town shopping reached home soon after 7 o/c I have been home today putting up the awning outside the dining room window but they did not come till 5 o/c it was past 10 o/c before they had done.

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June 13th

And such a warm morning almost too bright I fear began Alfred's²⁷ dress. Wrote to Aunt Sewellⁿ & to Mrs Brown# we went to the Alexandra Palace this afternoon. It was a lovely day for it not too hot but quite fine we returned at

8.30 very tired but glad to have been through were disappointed at not seeing one or two things I am afraid, the Palace won't pay again. It has to me a look anything but flourishing even now. The children seemed to enjoy it.

June 14th

Had a little thunder and a few spots of rain but not much, on his return tonight Percy tells us they had a heavy thunder storm at Hackney. Went out this morning paid the butcher and did a little business and this afternoon called on Mrs Goodman she was sleeping so I did not see her. She is better.

Page 206

June 15th

Heard from Lizzie sending me hers to James & letters from Mrs Looker & Aunt Cleeve³⁵ to Mother the former has given up her house & is now at Malvern for a rest. May also wrote me & Arthur²³ a note to James. Finished my letter to James & wrote Mrs Brown#, to Harry Jefferies, to Gertie Bridgman¹⁹, it has been a wet afternoon a fine steady rain.

June 16th

Heard from Mother sending me letters from Aunt C, Aunt B, Mr Griffiths & Mrs Smith²¹. Alice Griffiths was confined last Sunday night has a daughter so I wrote Lizzie and sent her all I could enclose & wrote Mother & Bessie Wirdnam a note in the magazine. Harriet has gone for her holiday will be away till Tuesday week. Bessie heard from her Mother they are enjoying their trip but got more rain than is agreeable, we went for a drive this afternoon & had a good game of tennis this evening.

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June 17th

Sunday and a cold dull day. Wrote to Flo⁶¹ and went to church tonight as Miss Westlake wants to go our next Sunday, at the church tonight & chapel this morning we had the dead march after service on the organ every lady standing till it was over & then leaving the church in silence had a most solemn effect. Oh! Dear I am so very sorry the Emperor is dead did hope he might live one year as Emperor.

June 18th

Wrote Mrs Smith and Jessie Brown#, still very cold & dull, sent Collins to town to Mr Brown's office to see Mr Joly & give him letters for Sam Brown# to forward, but Mr Joly has not heard from them yet so suppose they have not reached London. I get on very slowly with my work am not satisfied with myself.

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June 19th

Still very cold and dull and I have a nasty cold & such a stiff neck & all down my right shoulder, can hardly move. Wrote to Mrs Brown# & to Mrs Fox.

June 20th

Had a nice letter from the dear Mother, poor Ellis has gone at last. Still cold but the wind is not so bitter and it is raining this morning. My neck is better. Wrote to Emilie Abbey⁶. Finished Alfred's²⁷ dress do hope it will fit but am anxious about it & I cut out the jacket & just made a beginning to that.

June 21st

Much milder indeed it is quite sultry & thunders at times. I have finished Alfred's²⁷ jacket & it looks fine do trust it will fit. Had a note from Mr Joly asking if we had heard from Sam Brown# wrote a letter saying no – we have had a thunder storm tonight began about 10 o/c torrents of rain till half an hour before.

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June 22nd

Wrote Lizzie and sent her a parcel Alfreds²⁷ dress & jacket & Mays Zephyr dress do trust they will do. Wrote Mother & to Jessie it has been a warm day quite stuffy. We went for a drive today to Cheshunt and I had the misfortune to let bob fall down & broke his lines I was vexed. We played tennis this evening I do so enjoy it, had such a nice letter from my darling sister by the last post, they were going to Mrs Stubbings this eve & take May & Arthur²³, they are all pretty well.

June 23rd

Quite a light wind and not so sultry as yesterday indeed the wind is quite cold. I took my young folks to Walthamstow to see the sports but having to stand all the time I was terribly tired and feel done up tonight it was 9 o/c on our return the men have finished the drains I am glad.

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June 24th

Sunday we had rain in the night & it is dull this morning. I still feel very tired but slept better last night. It has been a hot sultry day again I went out in the evening Miss Westlake not caring to go.

June 25th

Heard from Jessie Brown#, Aunt Jefferies⁴² is with Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Aunt Hall¹⁴ is without a maid and has another friend of Jacks⁴¹ staying there, Jessie says her Mother is not very well & she herself is finding of her side again she tells me too Mr & Mrs Sam Brown# arrived in London last Wednesday. Wrote to Jessie# today & to Aunt Baverstock³⁶. We had Jessies friends to tea this afternoon & had some good games during the evening but it was so hot running made one in

such a heat. I am reading "The Chaplet of Pearls" by Charlotte Mary Yonge, 'tis very pretty.

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June 26th

We had a thunder storm till after 4 o/c this morning it did not last long but we keep having storms of rain & it is still stuffy. I have finished making the cosy the crewel work & am so glad, cut out aprons for Mother, Lizzie, May & self but only intend to make the two former now. We are having alarming lightening & such torrents of rain tonight. Harriet returned at about 10 o/c Collins went to meet her but she got very wet the roads were in such pools. Had the paper from Tom, W Sewell had a nice present gold keyless Watch & £5 from club.

June 27th

Had a P.C. from Mother today they are well & had a nice letter from Mrs Baverstock³⁶. Wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵ & Aunt Hall¹⁴ also Jessie we have had a rainy day & thunder at times, so we cannot go for a drive or play tennis therefore I read & work more but do not sleep any better nights yet.

Page 212

June 28th

Heard from Tom asking me about a silk dress for Mother he wants to give her one for her birthday present. I wrote at once to him at the office saying how glad I was he thought of it just the thing for her & I heard from Lizzie with Mothers to her & Mrs Griffiths to Mother. Alice & her baby are going well her name they think of having "Dorothy Mary". Mother has had visitors Ada with Ida Tomkins from Wednesday till Monday. Lizzie and her dear ones are all well they had the thunder heavier than we did Tuesday. I have finished Mother's apron & it looks very well hope she will like it and I have cut out & just began May's fawn dress and I finished reading "The Chaplet of Pearls" & like it much. Went down town this morning.

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June 29th

Cooler and pleasant this morning. Wrote Mother & sent her apron for her birthday & wrote to Jessie. The children went to Mrs Spicers to the hay party today so I could not go for a drive. Finished Lizzie's apron.

June 30th

I had a note from Jessie in Ralph's Mr Sam Brown# wants to come here next Friday so they will be home Thursday night or Friday morning. Wrote to Arthur²³ & Lizzie & we went for a nice drive this afternoon and played tennis this evening so I have not done much needlework.

July 1st

Had a P.C. from Mother she had my parcel & was pleased with it. Fine morning but cold wind. We all went to chapel this morning as we came out Miss E. Goodman spoke & invited us all to tea there tomorrow. I thanked her to accept.

Page 214

July 2nd

Wrote to Janet² Percy had to start early so we had breakfast a little after 7 o/c so it makes a nice long morning. It is exam week so Percy had to go early all week I am glad of the extra hour hope to do more work. it is damping a little this morning finished the cosy & it looks very well. Wrote Jessie & had a letter from her also had a letter from Gertie¹⁹ & Emilie Abbey⁶ & had two notes from the Goodmans one to ask us to come & not mind the wet then later as it rained harder & the wind so high asking us to delay it till tomorrow & I am glad to do so the rain & wind is so bad it would seem wild to go out unless one needed to go. I have been doing my darling girl's dress but have not made good progress at all made a bad beginning to the smocking.

Page 215

July 3rd

The wind is still high and glass falls & heavy clouds about, very trying for the farmers they cannot get on with the hay at all. Had such a nice letter from the dear Mother she does seem nicely I am glad & was pleased with her presents she has not the silk dress yet & is not to know it is coming or at least what it is until it comes & heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ she is not very well Aunt Jefferies⁴² has left, Aunt Hall¹⁴ has a maid. We went to the Goodmans this afternoon returned just before 9 o/c they were very kind & we had some good games, it is a lovely evening. On my return I found a letter from Em awaiting me & one of Joe's²⁰ enclosed Ruby Waldergrave is staying in Swindon sleeping at Aunt Sewells. Aunt Hall has a maid.

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July 4th

Jack's⁴¹ birthday. I wrote to Em & sent her a pair of baby shoes Jessie was rather sick this morning & had a headache so stayed away from school & we went for a nice drive round white webs park. Bob went splendidly for me were only home just in time it rained a little before we got in & then came pouring down thunder & lightning & we had another storm after dinner but went to the flower show when it cleared there were some lovely flowers & plants good vegetables & fruit. Jessie heard from her Mother they expect to be home by 8 o/c tomorrow night.

July 5th

Such a stormy day cannot go for a drive or play tennis. Mr & Mrs Brown# reached home soon after 8 o/c Jessie# looks bonny & both feel the better for the change, heard from Tom & Mrs Smith²¹.

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July 6th

A storm with thunder this morning fine after. I wrote to Lizzie & Harold to expect me tomorrow by the 5-9 train & wrote to Mother. Heard from Lizzie asking Daisy²⁵ to go with me to Roydon¹³ but they decline not liking her to lose her school time. Mr & Mrs S Brown# arrived this evening. Mrs Sam# does look very ill worse than when here before. I am sorry for her.

July 7th

Cold wind & dull. I had a paper from home today finished baby's shoes. Temple Farm, Roydon here I am all right arrived an hour before they expected me being Saturday there was an extra train & I was in time for it, the weather does not improve it rained part of the way to Waltham & is still damp. Lizzie looks so thin but says she is well & May also looks thin.

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July 8th

Sunday and a very nice morning dull after but not any rain.

July 9th

Wrote to Mother, Mrs & Miss Stubbing with Ethel & Harold came to tea. It was a fine morning dull after a little rain Mr Abbey¹² began hay cart.

July 10th

And a nice morning. I went to the hay field with Mr Abbey¹² & took baby it was very pleasant, it came on to rain this evening.

July 11th

Wrote Aunt Hall¹⁴. Heard from Mother, Tom is not at all well has been to Dr Barry and has medicine to take hope it will soon pass off. Mr & Mrs Bolton came to tea & just as we had done tea Mr & Mrs Kirkby called for a chat but Mr & Mrs Abbey insisted on their staying so we had quite a party and a very merry one Mrs Kirkby is very nice reminds me more & more of Mrs Smith²¹ & Mr K is a pleasant man & such good company.

Page 219

July 12th

Rain again this morning fine after & the glass rises Mr Abbey¹² went to the Hamlet took baby. Harold and myself went for the drive they are very well it is such a beautiful bonny baby. Wrote to Mother enquiring for Tom, Emilie went to the Hamlet to tea today.

July 13th

Baby has a nasty cold so have I do hope they will soon pass it has been a nice day quite a treat, went to call on Mrs Coleman at the mill today took baby found her out but saw her sister & had a little chat. Wrote Jessie Brown#.

July 14th

May heard from Mother Tom is better I am glad. Lizzie heard from John he would come & bring a friend to fish this afternoon, they came & the children went fishing with them John's friend Mr B caught one tiny one that was all the luck John brought a salmon, cucumber & shrimps also sweets for the children.

Page 220

July 15th

Sunday and such a wet day so the apples have been well christened. May wore her new fawn dress & it does nicely. I finished it yesterday only.

July 16th

Lizzie sent Mother a lb of butter so I wrote to Tom & enclosed. Lizzie's maid gave her notice to leave this morning that nasty woman Parker has persuaded her to do so I am vexed just now another hindrance to Lizzie. Mr Abbey¹² took baby & me to Ware for a drive this morning our little darling did enjoy it. We had a thunder storm & torrents of rain last night & the glass still falls.

July 17th

And a nice day but the glass has been falling all day so it cannot last fine. Washing day & all dried but the towels & coarse things. Baby & I went for such a nice drive about the farm this evening. Began muslin hemmed serviettes for Lizzie.

Page 221

July 18th

So warm this evening & we had a little rain in the night & it is very dull this morning. Sent Bessie Wirdnam the magazine. We had a thunder storm this afternoon it did not last long but the rain has made it so messy. We, Lizzie & I went to Mrs Boltons to tea this evening Mr Abbey¹² came after.

July 19th

And a nice day only just a short storm. So Mr Abbey¹² has been busy hay making picked up all ready, Mr A is quite poorly today first his throat was sore & after he had an attack of sickness. Mother sent the ends of blinds I am glad now I shall be able to do them while I am here & make the blinds too I hope, Mother wrote Lizzie Tom has been so sadly again poor boy he seems over done & Miss Joly has lost her youngest child Mothers says I am sorry, we picked a lot of currents & red berries tonight for jam.

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July 20th

Such a fog this morning which turned to rain about 10 o/c & it has been a wet day. I attended to Lizzies jam while she made her butter 5lb of red currants & 5½lb of raspberries such delicious jam this evening it was fine & we gathered red currants & gooseberries for pies. Osborn⁴⁰ came in a short time this evening & James Chapman the latter stayed supper.

July 21st

Arthur²³ heard from Granny & she sent me a note & letter from Aunt Sewell¹¹. Aunt wrote me at home saying she had been expecting to hear when Mother & Lizzie would come & Mother wrote Lizzie a P.C. saying Bertie⁵⁴ is ill & Tom had gone to Norwood to see him. The dress maker came took the skirt of dress home to do, the body does fairly well.

Page 223

July 22nd

Sunday Lizzie heard from Mother & Tom about the child he has croup & has had an operation performed so they are anxious about him. He was going on all right yesterday Mother has been to see Mrs Joly I am glad of that poor woman.

July 23rd

A P.C. from Tom saying Bertie is better. I wrote Will¹⁸ a few lines to say how sorry we are. A fine day & they have been at haycart.

July 24th

Wrote to Tom he is still so sadly dear boy, I told him we shall most likely be with them on Saturday. Mr Abbey¹² is quite willing we should start this week, we have been a grumpy household today. Mr Abbey¹² feeling sick & out of sorts, Arthur²³ at home bilious, baby upset his teeth no doubt & I have been queer in my stomach with a little diarrhoea & Lizzie has been so busy jam making & I finished the blinds. I am glad it is done.

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July 25th

Tom wrote he is still sadly & Bertie is better they think the danger is over & I trust it is. Baby is so very poorly today little darling, has eaten so few mouthfuls & it was such a wet afternoon we could not venture to the Hamlet so I finished covering the big chair for Lizzie began it this morning covered it with cretonne & it is to stand in the spare room. May is delighted with it sits there all the time to dress & undress.

July 26th

Heard from Tom he is better though still bit poorly & I heard from Will¹⁸, Bertie⁵⁰ is better so will do now they think & I heard from Em sending me Ken's

photo it is very good of him. I wrote & thanked her tonight I am quite disappointed about going to the Hamlet today have been altering Lizzies new print to make it fit, her baby is still sadly & eats next to nothing.

Page 225

July 27th

Our baby seemed better but is still quite sadly & hardly eats any food. Lizzie made old currant jelly & some more raspberry jam today as we go tomorrow – we have been very busy today.

July 28th

Colne Mead here we are safely & right baby is still so poorly & was tired but very good a little darling & remembers all he used to do. Tom is still sadly Mother looks thin but seems well.

July 29th

Sunday our dear baby is so sadly Mother sent the Dr in to see him it is his teeth one is just peeping. I went to church with Mother this evening could not go this morning & Lizzie either.

July 30th

We washed & dried nicely baby is better but so fretful Mother has written Aunt Hall¹⁴ saying they will go down. Hope both the boys will be better by tea time. Wrote Mrs Mifflin about Mother's dress Mrs Barry came in we had a long chat May is to go to tea with Arthur²³.

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July 31st

Baby is decidedly better today. I am glad for Lizzie's sake as well as my own. Wrote Mrs Smith²¹ we did our ironing.

August 1st

And a nasty wet cold day, the children have hardly been out it rained most of the day or was damp Mother & Lizzie went at 12.20 from here. I do feel so lost without them.

August 2nd

Had a P.C. from Lizzie to say they are safely at Longford & I wrote her today a good a/c of both boys. We cleaned our bedroom & Toms so have had a busy day & it has been so lovely the children have been out a good deal & my baby is a dear good boy & I fancy looks better he sleeps well now & eats rather more wanted mama a few times but is mostly satisfied with Auntie. May has a cold but it does not hurt her.

Page 227

August 3rd

Had such a nice long letter from the dear Mother, Fan Fan⁶², Flo⁶¹ with her husband and children will be there Saturday & Janet² at Aunt S. so they will be a party. Wrote a note to Mother tonight for Tom to take. It has been another nice day.

August 4th

Heard from Emilie Abbey⁶, they had worse weather than we have. I wrote her a P.C. to say happy returns could not stay for a letter today as I took May to the military tournament she did enjoy it 'twas fairly good only so few soldiers to compete a good crowd of people to see it 'tis the Hon. Artillery company are here for a week they came Thursday May is so interested. May saw all the affair I took her & stayed a while then came home & sent Emily leaving May with Mrs Beecher, wrote to Emilie Abbey⁶ a letter this evening to post on our way to church.

Page 228

August 5th

Sunday and a quiet nice day. My chicks are well. May & I went to church this morning the soldiers were at church to my girls delight. I had a P.C. from Tom saying he reached Swindon at 3.30 & found all well. Heard from Will¹⁸ he is better & the child improving. A high wind & not very warm but fine day.

August 6th

Damp till about 10 o/c when it cleared till nearly 4 o/c & then began a fine steady rain the rest of the day. Emily took the children a walk this morning as she went at 1 o/c to the school treat.

August 7th

Wrote to Lizzie. May also wrote her Mother quite a long letter such a hot day splendid for the hay makers. Tom returned tonight & seems all the better for his short change says the dear Mother is not very well but better than she was Lizzie is so bright & well they go to Wick Thursday.

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August 8th

Another hot day. I took May to Uxbridge today had her hair cut & did just a little shopping.

August 9th

Arthur Barry came to tea he & May get on nicely & did enjoy a game of play. May was hot it has been a hot day again.

August 10th

& so hot. I had a cooking morning, & May heard from her Mother I from mine so wrote Mother & to Will¹⁸ for his birthday. Tom has gone to see him & took a

hamper of vegetables. After tea took my children out called on Mrs Beecher & paid Miss Haynes.

August 11th

My baby is poorly again with those troublesome teeth do trust he won't be very bad. Tom was home at 3 o/c today so had a good gardening. May wrote Arthur²³ & I wrote Emilie today. Dull & though warm not so hot.

Page 230

August 12th

Sunday baby²⁷ has been quite sadly all day needing a lot of amusing & nursing but I went to church this morning. Emily can manage very well with a child & he had a nap while we were gone. I had a P.C. from E Abbey just to say the maid is willing to stay a week from the 16th so that Lizzie need not hurry home, am not sure which she will do though now. Wrote Aunt B & a note to Bessie Wirdnam with the magazines.

August 13th

Baby has been better today but is far from well but let us get on nicely with the washing & dried all folded & mangled. Lizzie came this evening Mr Abbey¹² wants her home too bad of him we think, she left Mother at Wick & well, all friends pretty well.

Page 231

August 14th

Our boy is still sadly wants a lot of amusing. We have had a quiet day together Lizzie & I, she leaves tomorrow. We did the ironing.

August 15th

And so dull & hot over warm, baby is better again, Lizzie went this afternoon Emily & the children seeing her off they took the postman leave in the pram & they said goodbye nicely. Emily was quite delighted Sara Mercer came to tea with May & they had a good game in the evening.

August 16th

Heard form Mother she intends going back to Swindon today. My boy went to sleep this afternoon so I took May & called on Mrs English she was pleasant enough but I do not think we shall get a model parish or united one under their rule, wind cold but fine. Alfred²⁷ is decidedly better. Finished Aunt Sewells¹¹ wool cape.

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August 17th

Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ & sent her cape. After tea took my children & went out to pay the bills. Tom can have Monday so was thinking of going to see Aunt Cleeve³⁵. Dr Barry came in tonight dined with Tom 8.30 & is spending eve.

August 18th

That naughty Dr did not go till past 1 o/c so we had but a short night. Tom said good bye till Tuesday hope it will do him good. Heard from Lizzie & Will¹⁸ & wrote Lizzie.

August 19th

Sunday and a fine day. May & I went to church this morning. My boy is so bonny & well today had such a good dinner he likes beef gravy as well as May. We had an early tea & then Emily took the children for a walk till it was time for her to go to chapel having the children I do not. Miss Tom.

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August 20th

I did my small wash & soon dried. Wrote a note to Mrs Fry & Mrs Beecher inviting the latters niece & Mrs F children to tea & they came May & Freddie at least Mrs F is out with Edith. Arthur Barry & Louis Adams so May had a little party they played in the field till tea it rained about 6 o/c & then they had a game in the kitchen.

August 21st

Wrote to Gertie¹⁹ & Mother. May went to tea with Dora Mercer & enjoyed the evening. Tom came home to tea at 5.30 he has enjoyed his visit to Aunt they were pleased to see him, Aunt hopes to let her house soon & thinks to try and keep the maid till Michaelmas. Mrs Beecher sent Lizzie down to invite me there with my two children tomorrow.

Page 234

August 22nd

Heard from Lizzie she has engaged a maid to come in next week if her character suits May wrote Harold so I wrote Lizzie, took my chicks to Mrs Beecher she had quite a party my boy was very good & came home merry as a bird.

August 23rd

Heard from Mrs Smith²¹ with the letter began a pair of shoes for Em's baby & finished May's petticoat.

August 24th

Tom heard from Mother. Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Fan Fan⁶² started to London yesterday the two former may come here & they did come while we were at tea joined us but left soon after hardly stayed an hour. I was vexed & they missed Tom as he

went to the gardener at Yiewsley & bought some flower pots & two maiden ferns so was late home. Aunt & Uncle were going to Windsor tonight.

Page 235

August 25th

Busy day of course & we had such a heavy storm this afternoon & a little thunder. After tea I went out & paid Miss Haynes & called on Mrs Ratcliffe she is still about & pretty well but looks sadly.

August 26th

Sunday and a pretty fine day we went to church this morning & Tom & May a walk this evening my precious boy is not quite so bonny but his appetite is fairly good wrote Mrs Smith²¹.

August 27th

Washing day & good drying all ready to iron. May took baby & Jack a walk by the river twice today the first time I have trusted her alone with my boy & both were pleased. I potted some more of the chrysanthemums it does look so rainy & a high wind.

August 28th

A wet day & to my surprise Mr came about 3.30 stay till 8 o/c he was on his way to town his tongue is just the same. I was tired, he was wet I had to loan him slippers & Tom's dressing gown.

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August 29th

Made 9lbs of orleans* plum jam & cleaned Tom's bedroom it has been stormy today & was a wild night such a wind & torrents of rain. May went to Mrs Frys to tea. I wrote to Lizzie.

**Red dessert plum originally from France*

August 30th

Took my children to Uxbridge just after we were on the train it came such a storm rain & hail thunder & lightning. I wished myself at home but am glad now we went had Alfred's²⁷ hair cut & bought him some boots & myself too. At least I have finished the baby's shoes for Em so wrote her & a note to Mother for Tom to post.

August 31st

Wrote Aunt Wheeler³³ we had Arthur Barry to tea & had a game with May, had a large baking & a busy day.

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September 1st

And such a nice bright day Mr Mercer sent Tom a load of manure & he was busy after he came home.

September 2nd

Sunday we went to church & stayed to holy communion it has been a nasty damp day raining a good part of the time. Heard from Mother she is again house keeper at Longford and I am pleased to hear Em intends coming tomorrow with her dear baby.

September 3rd

Em admires our home & delights in the garden baby is a sweet smiling little dear and my chicks are devoted to baby May has taken a fancy to Em & her baby too.

September 4th

Tom has been home all day so very sadly made me very anxious & I have a nasty headache he is better tonight. Mrs Barry called this eve & thinks my boy has so improved not like the same child.

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September 5th

Tom is wonderfully better today & gone to town took Em for a walk again with our two babies Louise Adams was here with May & stayed to tea.

September 6th

We have prevailed on Em to stay till Monday as she meant to leave us today. I am too busy to write much as I want all the time with Em I can spare from my duties. Dining toom table came.

September 7th

Em does not want to go out for enjoys the garden with her baby we just went & had a peep at the river after tea.

September 8th

Willie Sewell came this afternoon. He gives a good account of Swindon friends & says Ken & Mother are good friends. I wrote Lizzie today asking her to defer coming a week if possible, our new table is a treat.

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September 9th

Sunday I took charge of baby for Em to go to church & she was so good & my own boy a gem. Tom & Willie went to church in the evening to the service in St Georges & much enjoyed it.

September 10th

Em and her dear baby have left us. I went with my chicks to Bells farm & delivered my books, it came quite a storm at the station & we waited under the bridge till it was over.

September 11th

Heard from Lizzie she comes tomorrow for the children & takes them Thursday. I am so sorry it will be hard to part with them. Washed, dried and partly ironed to get my work forward. Will¹⁸ came down tonight & is coming again tomorrow May Fry came to play with my girl so I kept her to tea.

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September 12th

Again a busy day finished ironing & prepared a brace of grouse for the boys & Lizzie tonight. Made an apple & tapioca pudding, bread sauce & melted butter so it was a big cooking. Went to meet Lizzie with my two darlings am glad to see her looking so well.

September 13th

Will¹⁸ was very late last night so we had nothing of an evening with him. Lizzie & my two precious pets left this afternoon. I saw them off and now am feeling so lonely & sad & the house most painfully quiet. I hardly know how to bear the oppressive silence. Heard from the dear Mother she sent letters from Jack⁴¹ & Mary for us to read such nice letters. Wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵.

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September 14th

Wrote Mrs Smith²¹, May & Lizzie. Heard from the latter of their safe arrival went out & paid the bills & called on Mrs English. Made 2½lbs of greengages into jam.

September 15th

I miss my darling dreadfully cannot help feeling low spirited. The quietness is so felt little pets it is hard to be without them.

September 16th

Sunday Went to school & church twice but feel the loss of the children so hard to bear. I long their sweet little voices began writing Mrs Looker.

September 17th

Heard from Lizzie she meant me to have it yesterday I know she wrote Saturday they are all well. The first impression of Miss Holmes is favourable do hope she will suit. Tom has bought home some plums of old Clarkson & Peck

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September 18th

Made the plum jam 10lbs of fruit & $7\frac{1}{2}$ of sugar the goliath plum & now I have the gages to do a peck of those. I weighed the plums first before preparing & they weighed 13lb & the gages 14lb then I had some plums out for a pudding & gages for a pie. We are making the old Brussels carpet of Aunt Janes into a kitchen carpet the matting is quite worn out & the carpet is such hard stitching it has taken two afternoons & is not done now. C.A.W⁵¹ died 5pm.

September 19th

Prepared the gages today 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. I am putting new collar, cuffs etc to Alfreds²⁷ blue galatea & it looks so nice it was not ingrain before & looked so ugly. The weather is lovely now days warm & bright mostly heavy dew at night the harvest is getting fast gathered now.

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September 20th

Made the gage jam 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs of fruit & 9lbs of sugar finished Alfreds²⁷ dress & it does look nice. I starched & ironed it & think he will look bonny when he wears it. Had four letters this morning Lizzie, Em⁹, Mary Abbey & Mrs Smith²¹. Mary writes to ask me for the pattern of the blouse & kilt she admires Alfred²⁷ so in his wants to make one for Percy. Wrote Mother & sent her James's¹⁰ to Will¹⁸, the dear boy is well but still out of work wrote from Wellington this time has been travelling about a bit writes cheerfully but 'tis trying for him.

September 21st

Busy day made pies & cooked this morning, wrote Mrs Smith²¹ asking her for my blouse pattern & made my boys Arthur²³ & Harold serge capes hope they will do but they are not quite to my mind. Fred Hobbs has taken Tom's luggage to the station.

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September 22nd

And such a quiet day kept myself busy but could not bear to sit quietly for long. Tom has gone to Roydon¹³ today & knowing he will not be here tonight makes me feel lonely & a wee bit nervous, tonight prepared my washing for Monday. Emily went to Uxbridge this afternoon so I was quite alone & it has been a long day heard from Mother Uncle Hall is much better went for a drive the other day & a long walk with Aunt yesterday and yesterday C. A. Wheeler⁵⁵ was buried he was 84.

September 23rd

Sunday and rather cold & very quiet. Wrote Em last night & finished this morning & posted on. Sent May to school wrote to Mrs Wheeler⁵⁶ this evening it is milder tonight took Mack for a walk. Mrs D. Barry is home & looks very well.

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September 24th

Had rather a large wash but began in good time & had nice drying went out this afternoon & called on Mrs Ratcliffe she is getting on very well but looks delicate still & does not feel very strong. Took baby round the garden today it has been a very warm day she had a bad time at her confinement was in labour 24 hours & suffered terribly but has gone on very well ever since. Emily went to a tea meeting & harvest thanksgiving at the chapel so I had a quiet evening all alone.

September 25th

And such a nasty wet cold day did my ironing & cut out Harold a pair of knickers blue serge & May's two night-dresses, want to get some work done now.

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September 26th

Wrote Mrs Sewell & Lizzie, heard from the latter they are pretty well but Miss Holmes is not quite the person for them Lizzie says I feared not & am very sorry shall hear more from Tom, should say from Lizzie's account though she said very little she is not much use. Went to Mrs Mercer's & ordered the fowl food & then went in & had a chat with the old gentleman he is well but quite blind is 84 I like him so much.

September 27th

A lovely day. I went to see Mrs Hogarth & had a look at her work she is going to have a sale Oct 3rd I suggested an old clothes stall but she did not admire the notion called on Mrs Barry first she is very well enjoyed her change & brought a new maid back with her the boy too is a picture of health.

Page 247

September 28th

Tom came home this morning about 10 o/c in the rain has not rained much since till this evening when it rained fast awhile but all day was damp & so mild my boy has not felt very well but has kept on all day long, he thinks very little of Miss Holmes calls her "no use at all" says Lizzie is wonderfully well considering she so harassed a good deal her maid is so young but a very nice bright willing girl Tom likes her only fears it gives Lizzie too much to do. Heard from Mrs Looker she is better but still weak & does not write in her usual way, is comfortable in her new home. Wrote to Mother to say Tom will be there, Wick, tomorrow by the milk cart, just an inside jacket to Toms coat & a new jacket to another coat so have not done much of my own work.

Page 248

September 29th

Preserved the damsons, lizzie sent such a nice lot and splendid fruit. Preserved 12lbs she has sent some delicious pears. Tom is taking some of them to Mother he has gone again went by the 3-10 train. I went to see him off walked back a run for the dog. Finished Harold's knickers but have not done my task this week by a great deal hope I may do better next week.

September 30th

Sunday we had the joint yesterday & cooked for Tom to have some so had not much cooking today. Went to church & to school & took Mack such a good long run after tea. Such a quiet lonely sort of day & I do not half enjoy reading I want one of my dear dear children with me, really fear we have lost a hen abysmal must shut them in tonight.

Page 249

October 1st

And a most glorious day bright & warm so I did our bed had it out of doors on the back of a dirty sheet & took off the cover no wonder feathers & down came through the tick it is quite worn out & in such holes, I mended it as well as I could. Leafed some in bleached calico & sewed over the holes & very thin places just as I was in the middle of my washing the cover Mr Englished called and stayed chatting quite half an hour but it was such splendid drying the cover soon dried and I had it on the bed again before tea. I also made the white plum jam 5lbs fruit & 4lbs of sugar. Heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵ asking will our maid go to them I told her what Tom had said told her to sleep on it.

Page 250

October 2nd

And such an unpleasant change in the weather wet & very cold today. So we have pickled the onions have three glass bottles full such a nice lot. Wrote Aunt Cleeve saying the maid will go to her, she seems pleased at the idea.

October 3rd

Fine morning but such a stinging frost last night & so wrecked all the flowers dahlias sunflowers are done for & the beans & marrows 'tis a pity I am sorry. Wrote to Lizzie & to Daisy²⁵ & Em for the formers birthday.

October 4th

Still cold. We cleaned out the parlours today putting up the winter curtains & I cut out & began a coloured shirt for Alfred²⁷ went round with some of my magazines called on Mrs Thomson & Mrs Beecher. I have hot bottle nights could not sleep without it.

Page 251

October 5th

Another sharp frost. I am sorry. I have taken up the geraniums did some last night & finished today. It was a brilliant morning little storms & such clouds often looks like snow.

October 6th

Like yesterday sharp frost bright morning heavy clouds but not much rain afternoon. I see from the paper they have had snow in Scotland & very cold all over the country. Finished Alfred's²⁷ shirt have been busy placing the flowers using up Toms seeds & I do find so much to do muddling about do not often do work with my needle thread till evening.

October 7th

Sunday bright & cold all day went to school & church & took the old dog two walks delivered the books at Bells farm this evening wrote Lizzie to post tomorrow with a parcel.

Page 252

October 8th

Such a frost again but lovely day & dried everything splendidly quilt, blanket & all dry. Finished Lizzie's letter & took to post & went in to see Mrs Hobbs she is just the same does not get any better do not suppose she will until after her child is born.

October 9th

Heard from the dear Mother she has been quite sadly. Dr Maclean has examined her & is giving her medicine do trust she will soon be all right again Tom put in a line to say he has engaged Jessie Brown's# maid for us, he wants Mother to stay for him but she talks of coming next Monday. Did my ironing & we cleaned out the little room. I also began my quilt wish it was done it will be a tiresome job have hardly enough material.

Page 253

October 10th

And a lovely day. Wrote Mother & began to Tom as it was so bright thought I would do my quilt & finish & go to post myself after tea & buy some lining of Mrs Swift but my plans were broken the two Miss Barrys came to tea got here about 3-30 & stayed till past 7 o/c I was vexed I had not finished writing and I do feel so anxious about my precious Mother do wish she was home. Johnson came & fed the upper lot of bees for me.

October 11th

Heard from dear Lizzie all are well – the dear boy has his two bottom teeth through nicely his shirt does well & Lizzie likes it so much thinks he must have

nightgown of the same & I heard from Ada they move next Wednesday & Thursday wrote Aunt saying Emily will go on the 30th. Finished to Mother & Tom & posted the letter & went to Mrs Swift & bought the quilt lining it cost 2/8 & wrote Lizzie & May.

Page 254

October 12th

Emily has given the kitchen a good clean & I have been busy at my quilt have run it all together five times each way hope I may finish it tomorrow went for a walk with my dog and paid Mr Eldon £1-3-7 finished Alfred's²⁷ second shirt.

October 13th

We had the dining room carpet up & gave the room a good clean and joy to relate I have finished the quilt am so glad also finished Alfred's²⁷ other shirt & for once am fairly well please with my week's work. Next week the garden.

October 14th

Sunday went to school & church & walked home with Mrs D Barry heard from Mother she is not coming tomorrow & I am sorry do feel anxious about her she is better but still quite poorly Tom was going to Bristol last night began writing Mother & Lizzie.

Page 255

October 15th

This has been such a nice day & we have had a days gardening doing up the side garden in front pulling up some flowers & tidying it generally & put the ashes etc out of fowl house on it as far as it would go. Wrote to Ada & finished Mother's & Lizzie's & sent to post.

October 16th

We are having such fogs but it is milder. Such an awful thing happened this morning in the village poor Mrs Fry committed suicide took poison, it has upset me dreadfully and has given everyone a shock.

October 17th

I have made the pillow case & done Tom's trousers the Miss Barrys called about 5 o/c & we went for a long walk & they told me all they knew about Mrs Fry poor thing partly trouble with a predisposition to melancholy one of her parents did the same thing it is sad trouble for the family.

Page 256

October 18th

Heard from Mother she keeps better & hopes to come with our new maid on Monday & will bring the kittens Mrs Pitt has another son born Sunday our harvest thanksgiving today. I went to the morning service the church is very

pretty the decorations good & fairly abundant. Emily went this evening with Lizzie Hobbs.

October 19th

A letter came from Tom so I wrote & sent it him & posted calling on my way on Mrs Ratcliffe with the butter & some primrose roots she has got nicely strong. Had a call & long chat from the Miss Barrys they were round getting names to give the fruit & vegetables from the church to the poor they held the inquest on Mrs Fry today. Mumble was on the jury & told me not much was said I am glad of that it was painful for Mr Fry of course it was unsound mind.

Page 257

October 20th

Wrote to Mary Abbey & a note to Emilie. Had a long letter from Lizzie yesterday she had a days shopping Tuesday Mr Abbey¹² has more worry, his milkman Brown has turned out a rogue they will lose £45 at least by him besides having the milk on their hands he had 26 gals a day & Mr A has just bought 3 more cows to supply him. I am vexed about it. Finished May's other nightdress.

October 21st

Sunday Went to school & church & heard from my dear Mother they both return tomorrow. I hardly know how to be glad enough. Mother, Tom, the maid & two cats & some fowls we shall have a different house. After church took Mack to the end of the common & took him another walk after tea began writing Lizzie.

Page 258

October 22nd

Did the washing & had all folded & mangled by the time my dear ones came. Am glad to say the dear Mother is looking fairly much better than I expected & she is so glad to be home again. The new maid⁵⁷ & the two cats came with them & now we have said goodbye to Emily. I know I shall miss her greatly.

October 23rd

Wrote Lizzie & sent her parcel as perhaps I may go with Tom tomorrow to Bexhill he has written Aunt Cleeve³⁵ if we shall go for a few days. Took a few things up to Mrs Hogett for her sale of work. It has been a work today to show & tell our new maid. I am quite tired with it.

Page 259

October 24th

Went with Tom to Bexhill. Aunt has a very nice house.

October 29th

Returned home today and am very tired came to town with Tom & then had a days shopping we both greatly enjoyed ourselves at Bexhill & helped Aunt all we could but they are still far from in place when they are their house will be very comfortable, the sea was lovely and it was glorious weather all the time.

Saturday we went to St. Leonards & Hastings. Ada, Tom & myself it was a July day so warm & bright we thoroughly enjoyed the day went to "Fairlight Glen" & there Tom bought a spaniel pup for Lizzie rather a pretty little thing & very gentle. We brought her to London with us & I took her to Liverpool Street & sent her on to Roydon¹³ in a hamper address to Arthur²³ puppy's name Victoria. Then I went to Bedford.

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October 29th

Rain – dined & did my stores shopping it took me till nearly 4 o/c & I went to Whiteleys and did more shopping and only by a good run managed to catch the 5-30 at Pad(ington) I was glad to get home & they to see me. Tom was home long before me & Mother was feeling anxious as I was so late. The dear Mother is not half well & so glad to have us home. She felt it too much having all on her own responsibility. We had a great vexation Saturday Aunt Cleeve³⁵ heard from Emily declining to go there it upset us both & worried Aunt greatly for awhile. I know it is her horrid old Aunt's doing but I was surprised the girl could be persuaded to do like that it gives me a very different feeling for her & I must say I hope she will get punished. I hope it is all for the best.

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October 30th

Wrote Aunt Cleeve. I have felt rather idle & seeing after the girl here not done much work just began Alfred's²⁷ dress Mother heard from Mrs Gale at Wimbledon asking for Emily Selby's character, Tom answered it very nicely of course giving her a good character but stating how she had behaved, he also wrote to her Mother & that was a nice letter too.

October 31st

Wrote to Harold & to Lizzie. Mother heard from the latter they had sold most of the milk zogals a day to a very particular man but good payers they hear. I am so glad to hear it & Harold wrote me such a nice letter. "Vic" arrived safely by Monday & the chicks were delighted Lizzie says went to Mrs Hogarths sale of work, the things sold well I hope she had cleared a good sum. I won a small reticule quilted in a raffle it will do for my girl.

Page 262

November 1st

And a true Nov's day a fog first & then rain it was so dark this afternoon I could not see to work had to give it up & went to see Mrs Hobbs she is sadly does not improve a bit. I heard from Emily saying she was sorry to disappoint Mrs Cleeve but it could not be helped she had to give in.

November 2nd

Did my baking the oven did fairly well. Mrs Hobbs sent in asking me to go & see her which I did & had a long chat with her. poor woman she does suffer and at times gets nervous it affects daily now. I promised to try & see a "box" & ask Mrs English to go & see her. we have had a good lot of rain & 'tis damp & foggy tonight. Lizzie sent a lb of butter & a note. Is going to try & write me tonight.

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November 3rd

Damp & foggy still & I have been pretty busy I do miss Emily. This girl may do in time but during the time is a bit trying. I went out for about an hour looked in on Mrs Hobbs called on Mrs Ratcliffe took her butter & just had a peep at baby. He grows well is to be christened tomorrow weather permitting. Then I went to see Mrs English Mrs Hobbs can have a "box" & Mrs E will come & see her.

November 4th

Sunday went to school & church & in the afternoon to see Mrs Simms & Mrs Hobbs & tell the latter she can have a box. Had a long letter from dear Lizzie & such a nice pair of bed socks darling sister she wants to see me is pretty well May is not quite the thing. Wonder what ails my darling girl & Alfred²⁷ has been worried by his teeth again how I should love to see all my darlings. Wrote Tom & Janet².

Page 264

November 5th

Washing day & pretty fair drying at first it was a damp fog & not a leaf moving but by the time I was ready to hang out it was pretty clear & a nice wind a good deal was ready to fold when taken in & the rest soon finished by the fire & all is ready to iron and most of it mangled. Began writing to Lizzie, and finished the kilt part of Alfred's²⁷ dress.

November 6th

Mother is much better helped well with the ironing. Sent Lizzie's letter & took round most of my books. Will¹⁸ came down tonight he is looking nicely.

November 7th

Cleaned Tom's bedroom it has been a nice drying day & hope dear Lizzie has dried all out of doors, I do want to see them but must have Mother stronger first.

Page 265

November 8th

Took round the rest of the Drayton books & went to see Mrs Ellis and had a chat with her. Also Mrs Hobbs she keeps suffering but does not get apparently any weaker poor woman it is hard for her. finished Alfred's²⁷ thick blouse.

November 9th

Mother has been so sadly again today it does make me anxious to have her go back like this. Carrick & Coles traveller called today paid him for the serge & we ordered a pair of sheets & couple of round towels.

November 10th

Paid Miss Haynes. Put in the crocus bulbs & hyacinths. Tom came home early for the last time he thinks & he has dug up all the carrots such a nice lot. Finished off the first of May's chemises have not done much work this week.

Page 266

November 11th

Sunday Went to school & church twice. It is very mild dirty underfoot but fairly fine today.

November 12th

Bessie managed to stop the drain from the pump so I opened it & cleaned it now 'tis all right. Am glad I can do it the wind is high & so wet tonight. Mother wrote Lizzie.

November 13th

Mother seems quite nicely do hope it may last. Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Em⁹. Mrs Ratcliffe called with her baby.

November 14th

Such a lovely day warm fine & bright. Mother took a walk to the railway bridge & so enjoyed it. Began putting the new fur on my jacket it is a long and tiresome job. We have hemmed the two sheets & made the round towels. Mother has also finished Mrs Smith's²¹ two shirts & made a coloured small chemise to go with them.

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November 15th

Finished my jacket it does look nice & have done the machine work to May's two chemises & washed them, & began Alfred's²⁷ thin serge blouse.

November 16th

Mother heard from Lizzie by parcel post with a duck so Mother wrote & thanked her for it & the butter. Lizzie will think herself in luck to get two letters in one week from the Mother. Paid Miss Haynes saw Mrs Hobbs she keeps the same & then called on Miss Barry's & had a chat home to tea.

November 17th

Tom wrote to John & sent him a tobacco pouch & enclosed my gloves & good wishes from us all. I have had a very busy day had not done till 4 o/c so am pretty tired finished May's second chemise I am making the trimming so it takes longer to finish them off have nearly done the third.

Page 268

November 18th

Sunday went to school & church this morning. It is very mild & we had a lot of rain last night it is very dirty today. Tom took the dog & went on a long walk this afternoon.

November 19th

Wrote to Miss Lizzie Wheeler & John Sewell for their birthday. Washing day & very good drying all is ready to iron & most of the mangling done. I put in the tulip bulbs & a few primrose roots in the middle bed.

November 20th

Lizzie Hobbs came in to tell me her Mother was confined about 10 o/c last night & has another son & both doing well. We did the ironing in nice time Mother helped she is nicely. I finished Alfred's²⁷ second blouse have a good lot ready to go have done all May's chemises.

Page 269

November 21st

Wrote Mrs Looker cut out Alfred's²⁷ night gowns am going to make him two flannelette ones we cleaned Tom's room & stoned the raisins & cleaned the currants for mincemeat.

November 22nd

I have finished the baby's shoes for Alice Griffiths & began a pair of stockings for Harold & Alfred's²⁷ night gown I cut out awhile, called on Mrs Scott she is very well now.

November 23rd

Wrote to May & Lizzie & sent the parcel today. Mother heard from Aunt Hall¹⁴ yesterday to say Jack⁴¹ has a daughter Mother & child doing well. I am sorry it was not a son Aunt also tells us Em⁹ has Mab²⁴ & Daisy²⁵ down with measles I am sorry for her. Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ & sent her the chemise pattern.

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November 24th

Finished making the mince meat chopped the meat & suet this afternoon had not done till past 4 o/c but am so glad have that done. After tea went in to see Mrs Hobbs & her baby she is doing nicely baby is a restless young thing at breast. Finished Alfred's²⁷ first night gown. Heard from Lizzie.

November 25th

Sunday still very mild & a high wind but fine went to school and church Mother also went to church & does not seem any the worse for it. Tom & I went to church tonight. Tom is writing James such a big budget.

November 26th

A lot of rain last night but it has been a nice day. Mrs Barry had called this afternoon. Began Alfred's²⁷ second night gown heard from Lizzie of the safe arrival of the parcel.

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November 27th

Nasty & wet day so I could not go out & remade my crimson bonnet on a new frame & began my black plush on a new frame. Finished Alfred's²⁷ night gown as they are flannelette am only making him two.

November 28th

A white frost last night & such heavy rain today and a dense fog this afternoon before 3 o/c I could not see to work & began writing, soon had to leave that, we did not want to have a light till after tea so had a little idle time. Finished my black bonnet. I heard from Flo⁶¹ today something quite new she is well & her chicks.

November 29th

Mother heard from Mrs Looker she is better & writes more cheerfully. I sent Alice Griffiths the baby's shoes yesterday I hope she will like them.

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November 30th

And such a thoroughly wet day but I went round with my books delivered them but did not call at many places have two ordered for Miss Lane went in & had a chat with Mrs Beecher she is going to let me have the collecting card for the clubs money & said I must do what I can.

December 1st

And a fine day. I wrote to Harold & Lizzie & sent the former a prayer book with the hymns for his present took it to post myself. Mother had a parcel from

Lizzie today with the other duck came by 2nd post so I have been busy preparing for our wash and getting the duck ready for dinner tomorrow.

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December 2nd

Sunday Harold is six years old today dear boy trust he may be happy we have been wanting him all good luck. Went to school & church twice.

December 3rd

Washing day all dry mangled & folded for ironing went out this afternoon. Paid Miss Haynes called on Mrs Askey & Mrs Ratcliffe they both paid their subscriptions to the clubs. Bertha Thatcher said she would ask her father first. Bessie & Lizzie Hobbs went to Mrs T's concert at the British school and enjoyed it much.

December 4th

Did our ironing this morning & a nice bit of gardening after dinner then went to Thornley Mrs Price is very nice we had a pleasant chat & she promised to send her subscription. I was going down the village and met Mrs Beecher gave her the books and money.

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December 5th

Made some gruel & took it to Mrs Davison she is better but still in bed, then called on Mrs Thatcher she is going to think of it & tell me another time about the magazine. Called on Mrs Howes she will have two & paid me 2/6, Mrs Strickland was away from home so I went to see Mrs Hogarth the people have been so worrying wanting her to give them relief, she has had to get quite cross & some of them have been seen. I finished May's apron. Clean Tom's room.

December 6th

Clean our bedroom & did several things in a small way & just as I was starting for Bell's farm a note came from Mrs English inviting me there to tea today so I went round Bell's farm saw Mrs Woods gave her a soup ticket for next week. Mrs Burkin has left & gone to live at Thorney. Mrs Stepney will have the mag gave me 1/6. Had tea at the vicarage.

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December 7th

Mother heard from Lizzie they are pretty well want me to go the darlings, we have had a glorious day so after my mornings cooking I went gardening planted a nice little honeysuckle Mrs Cox sent in & the violet bed & was just cleaning my tools when Mrs Hogarth came. She kindly brought me some brass polish for my brass window rods & had a chat with us. Would not stay then wrote to Miss Richards & Lady Majorie Buchannan asking for their subscription for the

magazine & if they will send a donation for our Sunday school treat hope they will & continue to have the book. Mother began writing Lizzie & we had a chat about my going there, Mother says I may next week I am delighted from Monday till Friday I think it must be.

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December 8th

Dull misty morning & such a wet afternoon but I went out paid Mrs Haynes our one & 6d for the Jenison's milk also paid the butcher & went to Mrs Beecher & gave her 10/- from Mrs Price & Mr Jas. Thatcher. I have felt grumpy today not even the pleasure of going to Roydon¹³ could dispel the gloom my head is so bad & indigestion too.

December 9th

Sunday and a nice bright day went to school & all three of us to church. John Cox came a little after 6 o/c this eve so we did not go to church. He is well & has improved altogether.

December 10th

Sent the Liddington book to Bessie Wirdnam & a note. Now I am just off for Roydon., such a white frost & fog last night & it has lasted all day.

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December 15th

Home again after a very pleasant short visit to Roydon. I shall miss my darlings am glad to say they are all well Alfred²⁷ is a sweet pet & did love his Auntie indeed all were glad to have me & I found it hard to say good bye. Thursday we went to the Hamlet to tea taking Arthur²³ & May, Mary & her children are well Mary kindly sent a 1lb of butter down for me & Lizzie sent a fowl, celery & potted butter very good of her a darling. I made my girl a pair of drawers cut out Harold two flannel shirts & began them & made May's velveteen dress more comfortable did all I could in the short time to help them. Found Mother well on my return & a letter from Miss Richards awaiting me 2/6 for the book & £1.0.0. for the school fund.

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December 16th

Sunday went to school & church. A very dull day cold but not frosty. Mother went to church this morning & seems nicely. Tom & I went to church this evening.

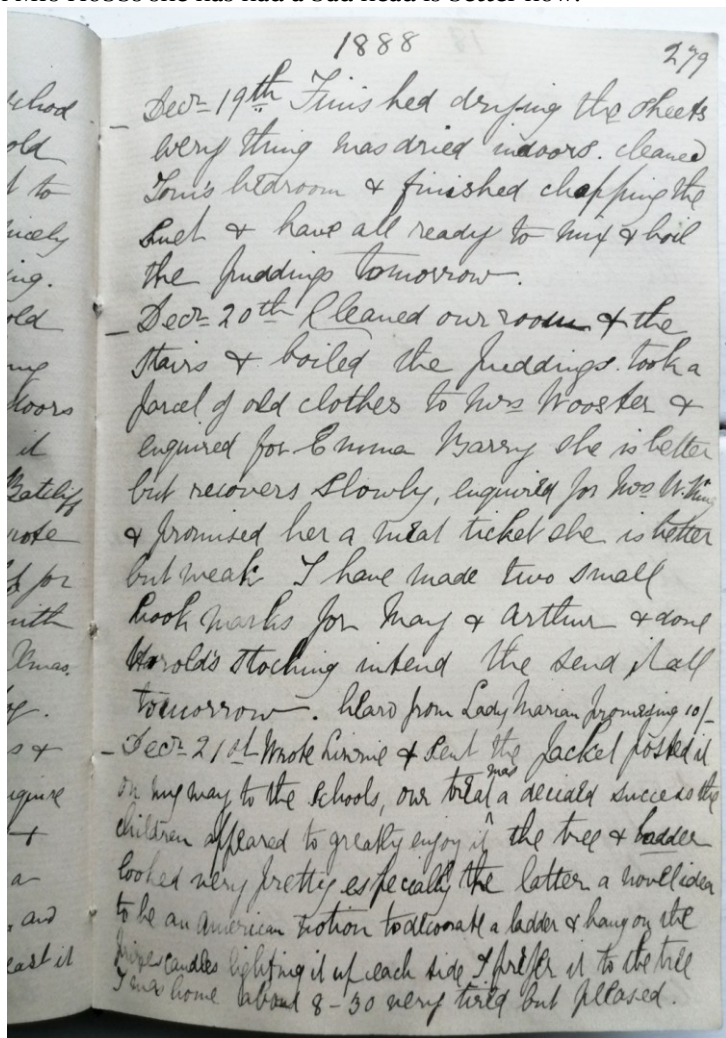
December 17th

And such a nasty cold misty day & we washed hung out but not a thing dried out of doors by making a good fire & turning it about ready to iron. Mr ...

brought us four white pullets I wrote Lizzie & Miss Richards but left for Tom to post he wrote Mrs Sewell he wished to journey there to visit.

December 18th

And such a dreadful fog. I went out cashed the P.O. otherwise took Mrs English the £1 then went to poor Mrs Barry she had 4 teeth out Saturday & soon after the gum set bleeding & she was in a serious state for some time is better today called on Mrs Hobbs she has had a bad head is better now.



A page from Mary's diary

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December 19th

Finished drying the sheets everything has dried indoors. cleaned Tom's bedroom & finished chopping the suet & have all ready to mix & boil the puddings tomorrow.

December 20th

Cleaned our room & the stairs & boiled the puddings. took a parcel of old clothes to Mrs Wooster & enquired for Emma Barry she is better but recovers slowly, enquired for Mrs W. King & promised her a meal ticket she is better but weak. I have made two small book marks for May & Arthur²³ & done Harold's stocking intend to send it all tomorrow. heard from Lady Marian promising 10/-.

December 21st

Wrote Lizzie & sent the jacket posted it on my way to the schools, our treat was a decided success the children appeared to greatly enjoy it the tree & ladder looked very pretty especially the latter a novel idea to be an American notion to decorate a ladder & hang on the single candles lighting it up each side I prefer it to the tree I came home about 8-30 very tired but pleased.

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December 22nd

Tom left us this morning to spend his holiday in the country. I brought a few things home last night for my boy. Robert Fitchett & his brothers not seeing them at school they were there but being shy kept back. I am glad I took a few things for them but it was a dirty walk the common is in a state after all the rain. We took up the carpet in the dining room & cleaned it now if we have visitors a little will do for a week or two & we are sitting in the parlour as it is mild.

December 23rd

Sunday I took 4 letters to post on my way to school & we sent 18 by Bessie this evening letters & cards I have been writing all last evening & this afternoon wrote 12 letters & notes. It is very mild still was fine until after our return from church then rained a while & looks likely for more.

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December 24th

We cleaned out the parlours & are glad to be sitting in the dining room again. I have decked our rooms with evergreens, plenty of holly amongst it & have given a lot of holly away. The stores have come today & we packed the hamper & sent it off to Mrs J Woolford. I took a pudding into Mrs Hobbs and asked George to take the hamper to the station he made an excuse he was going out so could

not so we decided not to ask him again he had declined two or three times with to us lame excuses, so Willie Hobbs took the hamper in his barrow & I went with him & saw it put on the train it cost 2/- to go, as I left the station it began to rain has poured this eve. I called at Eltons & paid for Parish meal 2/10½ & went to Mrs Swifts & bought a cup for Bessie, Tom like a good boy ordered a nice lot of beef 12lbs for us to have some to give away. Bessie went round & gave it to the Briggs, Woolfords, Mr King & our neighbours & Gardeners, all were pleased.

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December 25th

Xmas day Arthur²³ sent Grandma a pen wiper & May sent me one yesterday & we had a few came today cards from Janet², Mrs Smith²¹, Em⁹ & Jessie Brown# & Lizzie wrote Mother. Poor darling she is working too hard she proposes Mr A. bringing Harold Thursday. I wrote a P.C. & told her by all means & two of them. There was not any school this morning. I started & had to return so went to church with Mother a fine morning but such a wet afternoon & we are quiet indeed. Tom left a present of some felt shoes for me dear boy hope he is having a pleasant day.

December 26th

Rather finer today we only had a little rain boiled the ham & I washed the coloured to have less Monday went in to see Mrs Sims & took her a book & to see Mrs Hobbs her breast is better but still very sadly, then I took Jack a walk.

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December 27th

Had a dear letter & six kerchiefs from dear Lizzie she does not say a word about the P.C. or the children coming so fear they will not little darlings I want them to make a bit of brightness for me, my friends have been very kind to remember me dear Aunt Sewell¹¹ wrote a kind letter & her present is a Sov(ereign). Tom's the same, Janet wrote a kind letter of good wishes & sent me a collar & cuff embroidered very pretty, Pollie Smith too wrote kindly John sent a card & Gertie¹⁹ remembered & wrote me. Tom came home this evening. My darlings have not come.

December 28th

Heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵, sending a book & card from Ada. Nellie Kirtley wrote. Jeanne Barlett all kind good wishes and Miss L. Reeve sent a pretty card a P.C. from Lizzie today saying Mr A will likely bring the chicks today trust he will. Mr Abbey¹², May & Harold arrived soon after 6 o/c little darlings they are glad to came.

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December 29th

Emilie Abbey⁶ sent me such a pretty glove box very kind of her, Mr Abbey¹² left with John this morning the children have been happy today it seems to give me new life to have them round me again.

December 30th

Sunday went to school & to church it is much colder today. Tom took the chicks & Jack for a walk this afternoon.

December 31st

Washing day & such a try all must be dried indoors. The dear children are so good & happy the last day of the old year how fast the years go, I look back & think of all that has past this year and on the whole it has been a pleasant one, I have had my darling children a good time & that makes my enduring wish next year may be better though especially in a financial sense.

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January 1st

I had a nice present from John such a pretty milk stand & letter saying it is a birthday present. I also had a card from Mrs Sewell & from John & from Lizzie. We did our ironing & now the sheets are drying as the fog continues.

January 2nd

Such a white frost but fine bright day so I took the children to Uxbridge & they so enjoyed it this afternoon.

January 3rd

Wrote Lizzie, Mother, Harold & May also wrote. I sent her a silk square for a neck tie & the children a pen & pencil case then we went out & posted it & for a walk.

January 4th

My darling sister's birthday. I wrote John thanking him for my present & we went out called on Mrs Thomson she will have the book paid me 2/- I am glad & we took Mrs Beecher 2 pairs of cuffs for her school treat one pair May made.

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January 5th

I took my children a little walk to see if the pond by the North Star would bear but it was not safe so we returned called on Mrs Hobbs to see how she was and borrow the high chair for Alfred²⁷ we had not been home long when Lizzie &

the darling boy arrived just in time for tea. I am delighted to have them we are in the parlour having more room there for the darlings to play.

January 6th

Sunday and Lizzie is poorly has been lying on the sofa a good deal & looked so white. Alfred²⁷ was my boy all the afternoon & Tom took May & Harold for a walk & they had some sliding on a pond to their delight. I went to school & church they have changed my classes at school & now I have 15 boys.

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January 7th

Still cold & frosty, our maid took the children out this morning & I did this afternoon but Alfred²⁷ did not go with us. We went round to invite some children to tea tomorrow Rosa & Percy Mercer, May, Edith & Freddy Fry & Arthur Barry & they are all to come. We wrote Arthur²³ for his birthday.

January 8th

I heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Lady M. Buchanan sent me 10/- for the treat but will not have the magazine. I took round a few today. Our young friends came in good time had a merry evening & left soon after 8 o/c our darlings enjoyed it so hope the others did too. Lizzie is much better but still looks pale. I write Janet² yesterday inviting her down tomorrow to Lizzie & her chicks. Oh dear how fast the time goes they leave Thursday am glad to say the frost changed & 'tis so mild.

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January 9th

And such a lovely day mild & fine Lizzie & I took our pets out this afternoon for a little walk sweet little Alfred²⁷ was pleased to go on a walk with Auntie he is a little love soon after our return first as we were getting near Janet² arrived, she is looking very well & seems pleased with Lizzie's children especially Harold we had a game of "nap" this evening I was very unfortunate.

January 10th

My darling sister & her precious children went home today. I went with them as far as Liverpool Street had Alfred²⁷ in my arms all the time till they started little pet was so poorly today really not fit for a journey. I do feel so lonely & sad without my darlings went to Whiteleys on my return & did a little shopping.

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January 11th

We cleaned out the parlours & I did my pastry making this morning and Janet left this afternoon. I saw her off & now we are a small quiet party & I feel very lonely.

January 12th

Finished one pinafore for Mrs Beecher & cut out a second heard from Lizzie their Xmas Tree is put off till Monday Stella & Percy not very well a good thing as Alfred²⁷ is still very sadly in arms all yesterday poor little pet I am very sorry. Wrote Lizzie.

January 13th

Sunday went to church & school this morning not out after as I have a dreadful headache & nasty cough. Tom too has a cold it is not very cold but a damp dull day hope it will be better tomorrow for our drying.

Page 290

January 14th

We had a rather large wash today but poor drying so I made a good fire & the ironing things are ready heard from Bessie Wirdnam she is near Slough with her Aunt Tri with the two youngsters John having given up his place in Aldford a P.C. from Lizzie Alfred²⁷ is sadly.

January 15th

Wrote Nellie Kirtley we did our ironing & I took the last of my books out & made the acquaintance of one of the new women at Bells farm & took round soup tickets. I am now doing my chicks dressing gown have finished two print pinafores for Mrs Beecher had a letter from Em & one from Mrs Woolford.

January 16th

A P.C. from Lizzie Alfred²⁷ still poorly but a little better & May sadly a bilious attack they had the Xmas tree Monday & all seemed to enjoy it. I wrote to Lizzie.

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January 17th

Still dull but not any rain strange weather and depressing. Finished cleaning upstairs next week hope to do some work wrote to Gertie¹⁹ for birthday.

January 18th

And a nice day. I went out & called on Mrs English and paid her the 10/- from Lady Marion Buchanan & went to see Mrs Hobbs she is still sadly & baby is not so well. I have a horrid cold & cough never had a cough hurt me so before it tears my stomach to pieces and makes head feel splitting.

January 19th my cough gets worse and I feel very poorly altogether. We had the stores parcel today. Mother is beginning to cough do trust hers will not get bad till I feel much better. Tom talks about sending in the Dr but I hope to escape that.

Page 292

January 20th

Sunday and I have felt so ill all day hardly know how to bear myself could not read a line my head too bad. Heard from Lizzie they all have colds & coughs and May was still too poorly for the Mandock's party but is better now.

January 21st

Mother coughs more it does worry me for I feel so sadly myself. I cough so nights & sleep very little but I am better than I was yesterday stayed in bed till after breakfast but then had to work all the rest of the morning 'tis such a nuisance Miss Harris being here, wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵.

January 22nd

Mothers cough was making her feel queer so I gave her a dose of medicine & it has done good Ada Akers came today she is very well is leaving again tomorrow.

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January 23rd

Mother heard from Lizzie they are all better & she is anxious to hear how we are I wrote her a little am better but not able for much today. Ada Akers left today & Tom & Miss Harris are gone to London for two days it is a relief to have her away.

January 24th

I am better but my head aches a good deal now & Mother is but poorly. I have finished Lizzie's bead cuffs & made Mr Abbey¹² a pair of dark cuffs to send in the parcel tomorrow.

January 25th

Wrote Lizzie & sent parcel took it out myself & ordered our meat for Sunday as Tom is not coming home till tomorrow night. We cleaned the dining room and made pastry this morning so I feel pretty tired am not very strong but better Mother not much if any better.

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January 26th

Went out again today to prepare myself for Sunday called on Mr Scott & paid for Mrs Thomsons & Mrs Beecher's book & took the pinafores to Mrs Beecher.

January 27th

Sunday went to school & to church but did not go out after. John came this evening about 6 o/c he is looking very well talks about going to Roydon¹³ soon.

January 28th

Washing day but I did not do much do not feel equal to a large wash have not much strength. Heard from Lizzie they are all better the parcel arrived safely

Saturday & they all wore the dressing gown to bed & liked it & she is pleased with her cuffs & Mr Abbey¹² wrote a P.C. to say we are better to Lizzie.

January 29th

Did the ironing it has been such a wet day so I have been getting on with May's stocking.

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January 30th

Not much fine today so again we have not been out. Finished the first stocking & began the other.

January 31st

Mother heard from Nellie. Aunt Baverstock³⁶ is very ill so I wrote & told Lizzie & wrote to Em for her birthday tomorrow. Then after an early tea went to post and to see Mrs Sims & Mrs Hobbs.

February 1st

A high wind but not much rain but it looks very threatening wrote my darling May for her birthday and called on Mrs Barry & saw baby she is a small child but looks healthy and Mrs Barry is going on nicely.

February 2nd

A high wind all day and very cold so I have not been out. Finished marking my kerchief worked my name in white cotton the six Lizzie gave me. Wrote to Mrs Reeves we see in the paper Mr Reeves died on the 24th. Mother wrote Mrs Smith²¹.

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February 3rd

Sunday went to school & church did not go out after a very cold wind & a little sun and a good deal of rain. Mother had a P.C. from Nellie saying Aunt B. is not any better is very ill & Dr thinks it serious.

February 4th

And such a bitter wind a little snow & rain but not much of either. I had my books at dinner time so took them round this afternoon & to Mrs Wood with a soup ticket. Began an apron of black cashmere for myself finished May's stockings.

February 5th

Went to Bells farm so have finished delivering my books & find Mrs Glenister has gone away to Southall farm I am told. This evening I put some new fur round some warm gloves & made the look quite good again. Mrs English & her daughter called.

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February 6th

Still cold & the wind high so I did not go out today did some work. Wrote Lizzie.

February 7th

Finished my apron & mended & rehemmed Tom's trousers we had the sweep yesterday so now our kitchen fire does nicely cut out a pair of drawers & began them for May from a new pattern borrowed from the Thatchers. Tom sent to the stores today & got some flannel for a shirt & my books prayer & hymn books or my boys. I am glad of them.

February 8th

I went to see old Mr Mercer yesterday afternoon the old man is wonderfully cheerful & bright. Did not go out again today the wind is high & cold I heard from Aunt S. yesterday on a note & memorial card. Mrs Reeves wrote Janet² Sewell sent her a silk square for a present.

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February 9th

I have taken the shirt pattern but shall not cut out the flannel till next week. I had a letter from Emilie Abbey⁶ with one from May & the cuffs so nicely knitted I am very pleased with my pets work.

February 10th

Sunday went to school & church as we came home it was snowing & it has continued the rest of the day so now is quite deep & Tom has been round to knock it off the shrubs and paths.

February 11th

Such a deep snow and 'tis washing day, but it cleared off at 12 o/c so I put out the line & a good deal dried & the rest soon finished by the fire this evening I fried some snow pancakes for Tom's dinner they were good. Mother is not so well the cold I expect affects her.

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February 12th

Such a stinging frost last night. Mother is very sadly today could not eat any dinner only a finger of toast & brandy & water & slept nearly all of the afternoon we did our ironing. I had my parcel from Whiteleys yesterday & began May a pair of black stockings today. I heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵ yesterday she tells us William is out of employment again & Aunt B is not any better they think she is going, it is long since Nellie wrote us.

February 13th

Wrote Mrs Smith²¹ and sent my pets some valentines. The dear Mother is better today I am glad to say. Again a stinging frost last night now today it is raining & thawing fast & is milder I trust it is going away. I cut out & began Tom's flannel shirt do hope I shall make it to please him.

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February 14th

Mother is better & the snow is nearly gone it has been quite a wet day and so much milder.

February 15th

So mild again & a nice wind to dry the dirt. After tea I called at the Barrys Emma looks very sadly & still feels weak. They tell me Mrs Don is not well. Tom went to the Thatchers dance tonight Bertha's party she comes of age on Sunday.

February 16th

Tom greatly enjoyed the dance they broke up early about 12-30. I heard from Aunt Wheeler she is in bad spirits and greatly tried the Dr thinks Aunt B rather better and I heard too from Aunt Sewell" she tells us Joe²⁰ has been ill & she wants me to go down. Wrote Lizzie tonight to post as I go to school poor child she has had face aches so badly.

Page 301

February 17th

Sunday and such a lovely day mild & bright I went to school and to church twice and Tom took the dog a good walk. Mother has been quire poorly today while she is so uncertain I must not think of going away, will do my duty as far as lies in my power in spite of injustice.

February 18th

Wrote Willie Sewell & a note to Aunt. I have finished Tom's shirt & began a pair of black stockings for May Peacock. Tom saw Will¹⁸ today & he is coming down tomorrow.

February 19th

Went to see Mrs Hobbs her husband is not any better has kept his bed a fortnight now. Called to enquire for Mrs Dr Barry she is still poorly and keeping her room. Wrote Aunt Wheeler and Mary Smith. Will¹⁸ came this evening he is pretty well.

Page 302

February 20th

Still mild and rainy I have cleaned out and recharged the filter with fresh charcoal. Mrs Barry sr came this afternoon & stayed for tea.

February 21st

Cold wind today taking the barrel readings for the orange wine. Heard from Mrs Smith²¹ & Mrs Looker the latter keeps better & says she heard from Chiseldon Aunt B is better they think she will get over it a wonderful woman. Mother is keeping fairly must take extra care of her while this wind lasts.

February 22nd

I have had a nasty headache today could not half do as I wanted to went out this afternoon & called on Mrs English & Mrs Dr Barry the latter is better her boy Claude was three years old yesterday.

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February 23rd

And bright fine day with a cold wind. Finished May's first stocking. Tom came home so sadly tonight a bilious attack very sick & queer.

February 24th

Sunday Tom is all right today. Went to school & church not out after.

February 25th

Dear Lizzie sent me such a nice parcel of baby clothes for Mrs Hobbs am glad to hear my darlings are well & Lizzie has lost her face ache. Washing day and we were fortunate to partly dry out & the bed sheets too soon finished indoors it snows again a little & is so cold I went to the library & took out a book for the first time Whyte Melville "Roy's Wife" then went to Mrs Swifts & bought home some calico for Mother & embroidery to finish May's drawers.

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February 26th

Snowing at times all day, wrote to Lizzie thanking her for the parcel. We did some ironing. Tom is reading "Roy's Wife" aloud to us 'tis very good.

February 27th

Wind very keen and snow most of night & frosty when going to post today Bessie saw Annie Mr & Mrs Barry's maid who told her Mrs B is better but had been upset today hearing of her father's death. I am sorry it is a trial for her.

February 28th

Snowing at times all day, the stores parcel came today so now we have the sugar for the wine. Mother has made two new shifts for baby Hobbs & a print pinafore, also flannel petticoat out of the old dressing gown & I made the stays so now we have a set complete must take them in tomorrow. Wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹. Cut out Tom's flannel shirt & began making it.

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March 1st

Still snow at times and every morning tis a white world but melts nicely when the sun gets up. Took Mrs Hobbs in the clothes & she was pleased and grateful. Hobbs is better hopes to go to work next week then I called on Mrs Barry but she would not see me is in sad trouble the girl told me. Heard from Lizzie.

March 2nd

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ she does feel the cold terribly tells me Uncle Hall has had gout but is better. Finished May's stockings must try & send the parcel Monday. The oranges came today so must begin the wine Monday very cold tonight & snowing.

March 3rd

Sunday and a white world again but not very deep & soon melted went to school & church & stayed to communion & we went to church this evening. So cold & freezing sharply tonight. Wrote May & Lizzie tonight.

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March 4th

Sent the parcel to May with her stockings & drawers and the sun flower seeds to Lizzie & letter have had a busy day. Began the orange wine when I unpacked them in the box the oranges were so wet and five quite softer 12 more being little use so we only have 12 for the marmalade put the rest in the wine, Mother helped me peel them this morning & this afternoon I squeezed them all myself 178 oranges. I am tired but glad it is done.

March 5th

Cold wind & frosty. Made the marmalade today so another busy day, am glad that is done too. I am reading another book aloud to us. I had it from the library yes'day "Misunderstood". Tom is going out of town tomorrow with Taylor on business so leaves here by the 7 o/c train.

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March 6th

Ash Wednesday and such a lovely day the wind not so cold & the sunshine lovely all day. I went to church this morning and walked home with Mrs Ratcliffe & went in to see her chicks. Finished Tom's shirt and began some stockings for Arthur²³. Emma & Kate Barry came in this afternoon & stayed tea. Tom went by the 7 o/c train this morning to go with Taylor into Essex near Colchester having got home 7-30 and has to go again tomorrow.

March 7th

And such a change in the weather quite a wet day and mild. Heard form Lizzie.

March 8th

And wet and mild. I went in to see Mrs Hobbs her husband is not able to go to work yet five weeks today he has been home.

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March 9th

And such a glorious day bright & warm. I did a little gardening putting mould in the frame. Tom put more when he came home.

March 10th

Sunday went to school & church twice alone. Tom has a nasty cold and it is such a different day to yesterday dull & rather cold.

March 11th

And such a drying day the wind almost too high & cold with bright sunshine so we dried our clothes. Lizzie Hobbs brought baby in to see us. Mother was delighted with him and he was a good boy the magazines came this eve so I took them round and changed our book at the library. Tom's cold is not any better yet. Wrote to Em to wish her baby happy returns & wrote to Emilie Abbey⁶ and a wee note to Lizzie.

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March 12th

A change in the weather again dull mild & rain at times after ironing did a little gardening. Heard from Em.

March 13th

Such a lovely day bright & a drying wind. Mother went for a little walk with me this afternoon and this evening I went out again & took Kate Barry a pattern she asked me for a crochet and they told me Dr Barry is going to leave here going down into Cornwall to take the practice of his father in law, will go as soon as he can dispose of his practice here. Wrote Mrs Looker.

March 14th

A nice morning but dull after and cold wind of E but we went a little walk trust Mother would not take a cold & it is raining a little tonight. Mother heard from Aunt Wheeler Aunt B. is still in bed only gets out sometimes.

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March 15th

Mother heard from dear Lizzie such a nice cheerful letter & I had a note & letter from Harold Mother also heard from Aunt Hall¹⁴ sending Joe's²⁰ & Mrs Foley's. We have had a busy morning having our large half pig Mother melted the lard while I made pastry. Mother wrote Lizzie last night so I put in a note she talks

of going into town shopping so I asked her to let me know what day & I would meet her am going to have a new dress a thing I badly wanted.

March 16th

And such a lovely day not much sun but mild. We have salted the bacon & put the hams and head in pickle. I planted some more potatoes and took Mack for a run and called on our old neighbours the Gardeners.

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March 17th

Sunday and a nice mild day but not much sun again went to school & church this morning and this afternoon took Mack and went to see Mrs Burkin she is getting better & the children are well 'tis a small baby but good & looks heathy. Mother went to church this morning & seems so nicely. I am talking of going to Swindon this week.

March 18th

Wrote to Aunt Sewell¹¹ saying I hope to come one day this week Mother had a telegram from Tom saying Will¹⁸ is coming tonight. Went to see Woods and gave him meal ticket he is very sadly still. Will & Tom came 7.30 - we had whist.

March 19th

Heard from Lizzie she goes up to town tomorrow & Mother heard from James¹⁰ he is working in a flax mill since Nov & is well. We made 2 dozen oranges into marmalade part for Lizzie, to make up our bad ones, Will got them.

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March 20th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ again saying she will be pleased to see me. Have had such a day in town with Lizzie shopping. Went with Tom by the 9 o/c train and left Pad by the 8 o/c tonight am very tired but have enjoyed the day & had a successful shopping bought a skirt of dress made. Both Mother & Tom like it much gave £1-12-6 for it dark brown cashmere. Dear Lizzie had such a heap to get it was a treat to see her dear Jack⁴¹ and May & Arthur²³. The time was all too short with my dear ones my good sister gave me a parcel said was crocks for me & I found it was a pair of specimen glasses so pretty darling kind sis she is, it was very pleasant to meet my dear ones though not long enough for much of a chat.

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March 21st

Feel very limp and a headache today so have fixed Saturday to go to Swindon wrote Aunt Sewell to say so & wrote Lizzie to let her know I got home safely it is such a wintery day rain snow and a high & bitter wind from the N.E. so I have not been out.

March 22nd

Wrote James with Mother heard from Lizzie they were all right after the shopping I am glad, she too is writing James. Went out saw Mrs Hobbs & saw about Miss Belcher making Mothers dress called on Miss Scott they will take my class at Sunday school and then I went in & wished Mrs D. Barry good bye they may be gone before I return from Wiltshire. Did a little gardening put in the begonia bulbs & a few sunflower seeds.

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March 23rd

2 Lansdown Road here I am safely arrived but with a nasty headache & very tired. Em, Willie, Mab²⁴ & Daisy²⁵ came to tea with us my train was 25 minutes late at Swindon and it was past 3 o/c when we left Reading. I found Aunt Sewell¹¹ with a headache she has been rather upset today Mr Hartland wanted to see her going down she found him such an invalid still the Dr. wants him to leave Swindon so he wants to let or rather dispose of his business and wants Aunt to free him from the lease. It is a worry for her and needs consideration she is sorry for Mr H. but must also think of herself. Mab has got so strong & well looks bonny indeed they all look well but Daisy has a cough and Kennie has swollen glands still.

Page 315

March 24th

Sunday a little dampness this morning & it does threaten so for rain but has kept off all day. Mab²⁴ called for us and went with Aunt & self to church Em also came to church & this afternoon I went to Longford Aunt seems very well Uncle has a cold but was very cheerful. This evening went to St, Pauls with Willie the first time I had been to the church enjoyed the service wrote Mother.

March 25th

Wrote Harold & Lizzie Mrs Smith²¹ and tried to meet with Mrs S but in rain, but I met Diana Kibblewhite and had a chat with her & posted my letter to Mrs S and wrote Aunt Wheeler saying I will go up tomorrow if fine. The wind is high and we had a little rain this morning went to Mrs Miflin but she cannot promise my dress this week wrote to Janet² tonight to post tomorrow. Mrs Sam Jones died last Thursday & was buried Saturday for Sam Brown# to attend he is going Hong Kong.

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March 26th

Had a letter from Mother they are well & she tells me not to be anxious she is taking care. Have been to Chiseldon this afternoon and now I have seen Aunt Baverstock³⁶ I do not think she will recover or ever walk down the stairs herself

again, however one cannot tell Nellie has great hopes of her & she & Aunt W say Aunt B has most wonderfully improved, they were all pleased to see me and I sat a good deal with Aunt B she talks better & plainer and just as interested as ever in everybody she knows. Nellie is better but has been very sadly in bed a week slight congestion of the lungs she still looks sadly. I returned by the 6 o/c train and went in to see Em & the children they are all well came back here to supper. I am reading Mr Besants book on Dick²⁸ it is wonderful how much he makes of his subject.

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March 27th

Heard from Lizzie, took Em's girls for a walk this morning and this afternoon called on Jessie Brown[#] till Em & the children came then we went for a nice walk, all 4 chicks up in the great field & I saw the Victoria hospital^v for the first time. Mrs Smith's²¹ Mary came & had a chat with us she looks very well & seems better but says Mrs S is very sadly. I did not write but sent word I would go over with Mrs S Monday. Em came in this evening & had supper with us.

March 28th

Wrote to Mother. Aunt Hall¹⁴ was in bed when we went to enquire for her this morning & had had the Dr he says she has congestion of the lungs & must remain in bed a day or two, I went again tonight and she seems comfortable do trust she will soon recover. Mab²⁴ stayed to dinner & tea with us. It has been damp this afternoon & evening but not much rain.

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March 29th

We had Daisy²⁵ to dinner & tea today she is much quieter than Mab. Aunt Hall¹⁴ is still better today and was sitting up this evening hopes to come down tomorrow the Dr gave her leave if fine & mild. I have managed to blister my heel & 'tis so sore.

March 30th

Went to see Aunt Hall she is getting better nicely is down stairs today. Finished Arthurs²³ stockings and bought Harold a serge cap & May some wool must send the parcel Monday. Called on Miss Wheeler she is in hopes of getting on trust she may.

March 31st

Sunday went to church alone Aunt was dressing then came a heavy storm of rain & hail so she was afraid to venture. Em was at church Aunt Hall is still

^v Victoria hospital Okus Road, Swindon built 1888.

better. Willie went to church with me tonight Mr Seaton preached he is a perfect duffer.

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April 1st

Heard from Mother they are well a great comfort to me and had a few lines from Mrs Smith to say Mr S will drive here for me being fair day about 3 o/c. I am going for a few days.

April 5th

Here I am back again returned this evening from Wick it was a very short but pleasant stay & I did a little work for Mrs Smith²¹ recovered the cushion of the arm chair in sitting room & a few odd jobs. Jane⁵⁸ is very well & Mr Smith⁵¹. Mrs S is as cheerful & kind as ever but her throat is very bad & she is sadly but looks fairly for her. I saw John Wirdnam two or three times & Bessie came over one day. I am sorry for them John is still out of work tries hard but cannot get employment he is much improved in manner & looks well. I went to Snodshill to tea today Mr & Mrs Woolford are well, there I heard Nellie Pakeman as was had a daughter. Em met me on the Coate road.

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April 6th

Cold dull morning. I am going to Longford to sleep tonight & take charge till Monday Aunt & Uncle go to Bristol by the 1-22 train & Mab²⁴ is coming to sleep with me.

April 7th

Sunday Mab has a cold in the head so I left her at home and called for Aunt Sewellⁿ to go to church together Em⁹ was at church Willie went to London yes'day & stopped all night with Pal. Em & the children came up this afternoon Daisy²⁵ stayed to tea after Mab²⁴ went home. We have had such heavy rain tonight & one clap of thunder. I wore my new dress but it does not do is too short and the neck band is so tight I could not fasten it. Heard from Mother today she & Tom keep well she enclosed a letter from Jennie of course she did not know I was in Swindon, telling me Harry comes home at Easter & they mean to take him abroad with them also Daisy wants to go in June & can take charge.

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April 8th

I am back to sleep at Aunt Sewells Aunt & Uncle reached home about 8.30 I wrote to Mother & Mrs Smith²¹ tried to find Mr S in the market but could not took Mrs Smith material to Mrs Miflin & told her about my dress I am to go & let her see it on tomorrow at 10 a.m. heard form Lizzie.

April 9th

Em has Willie home today with sore throat & cough I went round after going to Mrs Miflins the children seem pretty well cough sometimes then I went to Aunt Hall¹⁴ awhile this has been a nasty damp dark day raining at times. I wrote to May & Lizzie. Mrs Hill Bessie's Mother came to see me this evening she is very like her daughter.

April 10th

Did some shopping at Chandlers called at Ems Willie is not much better did not go out after having a little sore throat & it has been foggy all day & east wind. Mary came from Wick brought me a note & I wrote back.

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April 11th

Heard from Tom & wrote to him did a little gardening for Aunt this morning & went down shops & paid Mr Chandler, and this afternoon Aunt went with me to tea at Ems we came home to supper it has been a nice day quite a treat to have sunshine.

April 12th

Did some more gardening & went to Longford & had a chat with Aunt & after dinner went to Chiseldon by the 1-52 train found Aunt Baverstock³⁶ much better – the last 3 days she has been out of bed reclining on the chair had stayed for 2 or 3 hours she looks well fully better & very cheerful Nellie⁵⁵ too looks much better said goodbye to them as all being well I return to Drayton next Wednesday as I came from the station I brought some seeds to sow in Aunt's garden. I hope tomorrow but tonight at 10 o/c it is raining.

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April 13th

Wind still east & so cold and damp at times heard from Lizzie they are well she wants me to get a flower for her bonnet & send by post went to see Aunt Hall¹⁴ & found her with her maid in bed ill the girl has since gone home till Monday. I am to write to Nellie & get her to send a girl to Aunt heard of the girl yesterday. Willie is better but still coughs too much is at work again. I put in most of the seeds I bought but twas cold work wrote to Mrs Smith²¹ & took tonight.

April 14th

Sunday and such a wet cold morning & it hardly ceased raining all day. Wrote to Nellie Kirtley⁵⁹ about a maid for Aunt Hall went to church this morning & called at Longford coming home they were well & getting on all right. Em came this morning late for church so stayed with Aunt, Willie is better though.

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April 15th

And a fine day but cold wind still. Bought Lizzie's flowers & the children's Easter eggs and wrote & sent them today. Took the rent from Mr Hawson & cashed the cheque. Met Mrs Woolford down street & had a chat with her she told me Bill is not any better & Mr Hardy does not improve much also met Mrs Hughes Sarah & Mrs F Lewis & Miss Drinkwater but could not see Mr Smith⁵¹. The girl came from Chiseldon to see Aunt Hall & she has engaged her if her character fits Mab²⁴ & Daisy²⁵ came to tea left soon after & about 6.30 Mr Smith called I was glad to see him he came up in the milk cart & called to say good bye as he could not meet me in the afternoon brought me a note from Mrs Smith she will send up the butter tomorrow, poor dear her throat is very bad still worse if anything.

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April 16th

Fine day with a cold wind & dull misty looking round the horizon I fear it means blight. Went up & helped Aunt Hall this morning as her maid has not returned & she expected Ida & Flo⁶¹ to dinner but about 12 o/c a P.C. came saying they are not coming till Thursday then I went to see after Aunts maid her Mother declared she was ill in bed but I doubted her word Aunt has a little girl come in to help now. I wrote to Mrs Brown# & a P.C. to Mother called on the Deacons & saw three Fanny, Jessie & Joy Ethel is ill with measles. Saw Jessie Brown# driving down street she stopped & I had a chat with her & said goodbye went to Longford & said goodbye & paid uncle what Mother owed him & he gave me 10/- for myself Aunt also kindly gave me some money to buy a pair of gloves.

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April 17th

Colne Mead, West Drayton here I am back again safe & sound left my dear little Aunt this afternoon we did not like parting at all. Found Mother & Tom well & had a pretty quick & comfortable journey.

April 18th

Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Mrs Smith²¹ & a P.C. to Lizzie. Tom left this morning & we shall not see him again till Tuesday night, he will spend Easter at Wick. Went out & paid the butcher & Rumble^{vi} for coal & asked Mr Ratcliff to come & look at our sick hen he did so & thinks she has cramp. Began lining Lizzies work basket 'tis not an easy job.

^{vi} coal merchant in Yiewsley.

April 19th

Heard from Lizzie they are jolly well though Alfred²⁷ is not strong yet & Mr A is nervous about himself & complaining, Lizzie tells us sad news of James Chapman he has swelling in his neck & they think he will have to undergo an operation & be in hospital 6 weeks Mother & I went to church this morning a fine mild day.

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April 20th

Warm day but threatens for rain. I have done a little gardening but not much yet. Went to Smiths at Yewsley & ordered a new watering can a present for Tom also paid Sanders 1/- for our good Friday buns. Saw first swallow.

April 21st

Easter Sunday and such a high wind with rain at times went to school & church Mother also to church this morning. I have a nasty cough so did not go out after had a letter & a pretty Easter card from Mrs Smith²¹ & Mother heard from Tom. There are such a lot of swallows about today.

April 22nd

And a nice day. We gave Tom's room a spring clean today and put the clothes to soak to wash tomorrow. Cut out & began Alfred's²⁷ dress finished lining the work basket for Lizzie and think it looks very well hope she will like it & find it useful.

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April 23rd

Washed & dried a good deal but the rain came on too soon and it just poured. Tom came home tonight. My cough is still bad.

April 24th

Cleared the girls room but I was too unwell to help her much have such a headache & sickness bilious I suppose, obliged to be idle most of the day first ironed Toms cuffs & collars & the table cloth Mother did the rest Mother has a cold in her head do hope it will not come to much.

April 25th

Could not go on spring cleaning so left our room till its next clean felt poorly & weak today. Heard from Aunt Sewell she has a cold & cough.

April 26th

Wrote Mab²⁴ for her birthday & a note to Em⁹ & Mother wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹. Mother heard from Lizzie & I had a note & letter from Emilie & May. The watering can came from Smith today paid the boy the 3/6 expected it would be more. I am pleased with it.

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April 27th

Wrote to Lizzie finished the blouse for Alfred²⁷. Did some more painting & put out the first sun flowers. My cough does not improve much and it hurts my side dreadfully to cough the Mother's cold is very little better & she looks sadly. A lovely warm day.

April 28th

Sunday and a stormy day Mother did not go out. Went to school & church walked part of the way with Mrs Barry the Dr is leaving this week they go Thursday.

April 29th

A very drying day Bessie did our small coloured wash & it dried well went to the library & changed the book & up to Smiths to try & get him to change the rose of watering can for a finer one. I have quite finished my Alfred²⁷ boy's dress & singlet now 'tis ready to go & I began cutting out May's white drawers want to make three pairs.

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April 30th

We spring cleaned the little box room though small there are so many things to move it takes a good time to do. My cough is still troublesome.

May 1st

We cleaned the spare bedroom today. Mrs Dr Barry called this evening & said goodbye they go tomorrow & she brought me word Emma's presents are now set out. I am to go tomorrow & see them. Stormy day.

May 2nd

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ Janet² left yesterday Aunt is still poorly and has a bad cough Mab²⁴ too was ailing went to see Emma Barry's presents she has a good many things, some nice & useful it has been stormy again finished painting.

May 3rd

& such a fine day. The stores parcel came today. I found an old big doll headless & armless made her a rag head & dressed her for Louie Wooster. Wrote to May & Emilie & to Aunt Sewell¹¹.

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May 4th

Had such a long letter from Lizzie. This has been a very long day our first day of real summer & we find it tiring.

May 5th

Sunday went to school & church & the later again this evening suppose we shall not have Dr English much long only one more Sunday before his year is up. Such a hot sultry day again & this afternoon we had thunder & such heavy rain & it is still sultry tonight means more thunder I have no doubt.

May 6th

Mother heard from Mrs Looker Saturday she is better but still poorly means to try a change leaving home June 1st & will come here & break her journey we shall be glad to have her. Heard from Aunt Cleeve³⁵, such a lovely day we had such a large wash & it dried so fast. I am very tired tonight took Mother a little walk this evening.

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May 7th

I racked the ginger wine as it does not clear do hope it will now. We did our ironing & I have finished the first pair of May's drawers mean to send the parcel tomorrow. Again we took a walk, Mother walked well today.

May 8th

I have been turning out the chest & some drawers spring cleaning. Mother wrote Lizzie & I sent the parcel today. Took round the magazines & Mother went with me to see Miss Belcher. She will alter the dress we came round by "the tree" & passing Belcher his dog tried to kill ours we did have a fuss Belch & his man had to open their dogs jaws he would not leave go poor old Mack did not move at first I thought he was hurt but he is all right now.

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May 9th

Dear Father this is the anniversary of his death so many years ago. Wrote Janet² & Bessie Wirdnam & sent the latter the Liddington Magazine. Willie came home with Tom tonight he is very well the weather is sultry again.

May 10th

I wrote little Alfred²⁷ for his birthday & sent a note to Lizzie. Miss Barrys & Mrs Beecher came to tea so I could not do much gardening did a little.

May 11th

Alfred²⁷ is three today. Little pet I wish him most lovingly every good & perfect gift success here & happened hereafter. Bessie went to Uxbridge today & bought her summer things. Finished May's 2nd pair white drawers. Mother heard from Arthur²³ sending her two mats Arthur's for the tea pot, May's the jug & I had a note from Lizzie. Tom is poorly has a cold.

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May^{12th}

Sunday and a cold damp day we had a lot of rain last night. Went to school & church but not out after as my cough is still very troublesome. I am sorry not go to church tonight as it is almost the last Sunday we shall have Dr English, Mrs E leaves on Wednesday the Dr stays another week. Tom is very poorly today and as usual with him when ailing looks so ill. Heard from Mrs Brown# Friday she wants me to go June 10th they start on the 11th that will be at Whitsuntide.

May^{13th}

A dull sultry day but not any rain I began my quilts gave them a good wash & left them to soak all night. Cut out Harold's shirts this evening I went to Bells farm & saw my people there & took Mrs Steptoe her book heard from Lizzie sending me the stoves ticket they intend to begin cleaning this week.

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May^{14th}

And such a nice day after a dull morning we wash the quilts blankets & so & they are fairly dry want a good airing. Tom has been to see some stoves Mr Haynes like them better than the stores.

May^{15th}

I have been doing up an old dress for mornings when we have done cleaning. Aired the blankets & quilts it has been a lovely warm day. We hope to go to town Friday meant to go tomorrow but Mr Haynes is coming to measure the grate. Long to get that in, my cough is much better but Mothers is worse & she is far from well.

May 16th

Mr Haynes did not come very vexing. Mother took a little walk tonight she is a trifle better. It has been such a hot day. I have picked out some asters & done a little gardening every day.

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May 17th

And we have been to London & returned safely & well the Mother got on famously quite surprised me we went to Whiteleys & bought most of the things. I have such pretty mantle, corsets, towels, muslin, ribbons etc. then we went to Edgeware Rd & bought Mother a bonnet, self a hat & left my bonnet to be retrimmed Mothers is such a nice bonnet & very good & pretty cost £2-2 & my hat was £1-1-9 a lot of money for both it seems, we thought them dear but then I could not drag the Mother about far or did not want to give so much for mine, we went to Garroulds for my dress, print, skirt made & piece for body.

May 18th

Sultry again & we are both tired from our outing yesterday the things came from Whiteleys & we have made the 6 towels. Mr Haynes came this evening & has promised to order the stove tomorrow.

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May 19th

Sunday went to school & church this morning. Dr English will be here another Sunday now, it has fallen through with the clergyman that was to come this week. Quite a wet afternoon had a P.C. from Lizzie they are well but so busy she is going to write Mother tonight. John was going down yesterday to see them. Went to church again this evening Mothers cough is very troublesome & she looks poorly. Wrote a note to Lizzie and packed up her work basket etc. for Tom to send to Will¹⁸ tomorrow he will take charge of it till Mr Abbey¹² goes to town.

May 20th

Washed & dried nicely wrote to Em did some gardening tonight wrote the sweep to come Wednesday & do the two chimneys.

May 21st

Mother heard from Lizzie she has a governess daily from Harlow they began lessons yesterday, Lizzie seems far from strong & the dear Mother does not improve yet her cough is bad.

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May 22nd

Wrote Jessie Brown# saying all being well I will go there next Monday. I have finished one of Harold's shirts & am hard at the other to send them this week & May's white drawers. Weather hot & sultry.

May 23rd

The time goes on we hear nothing from Mr Haynes & it does worry me dreadfully finished Harold's other shirt & planted out the bed opposite dining room window with asters & stocks.

May 24th

Wrote Lizzie & sent her the parcel. We have cleaned out the cellar today. This evening I called on Mrs Scott & took her two white chrysanthemum plants also called on Mrs Hobbs she is still but sadly & Lizzie is going out to service she will miss her. very hot day.

May 25th

Not so hot today but warm washed Mothers head this morning. Made the three new muslin blinds to put up next Saturday still no word from Mr Haynes it is too bad.

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May 26th

Sunday went to school & church. Dr English preached again & said no word of leaving us. A damp Sunday but not much rain. Mother is not much better yet has not been out today. Heard from Lizzie she has the two parcels is pleased with her work basket owns she does not feel strong my darling sister. I cannot help being anxious about her she thinks the governess will do trust she may. Went to church this evening.

May 27th

And such a hot day rained all last night too & such heavy rain so as I could not do any gardening I had a good day at needle work cut out my night dress and did a nice lot of it also cut out May some thin drawers, our new stove has come today so I went down street & told Mr Haynes asking him to get the men down tomorrow – to see if it is possible.

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May 28th

I cleared the spirit kettle and did various little things as I cannot go on cleaning the rooms & we had up the stair carpets & cleaned them & Bessie is washing down the paint she did the hall paint & landing yesterday the man came to set the stove about 3 o/c so we soon let them begin it.

May 29th

Charlie Jefferies⁶⁰ wedding day I wish them joy & every happiness. I have been quiet today head bad & sickness but we turned out the dining room & cleaned it & tonight Annie and Florrie Akers came. Our stove is done.

May 30th

The Akers went this morning & we have well cleaned the kitchen & I put up some more pictures where the wall is very bad.

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May 31st

A P.C. from Mrs Looker she comes tomorrow – her train due here at 3-14 we have cleaned the parlour & put the dining room all in order. Tried the stove but it was a poor bake I feel quite vexed the false bottom came.

June 1st

Tried the stove again & it goes beautifully the oven so hot everything boiling away. The parlours are all in order & my washing got ready & I met dear Mrs Looker she is weak & delicate still but looks better than I expected.

June 2nd

Sunday and so hot we went to church twice & to school Mrs Looker is quite nicely her journey tired her but was not too much.

June 3rd

Very hot still our wash soon dried, after tea then I took Mrs L, a walk & went to see castle then did some gardening.

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June 4th

Still very hot, did the ironing all myself Mother was not well enough to do any this heat does try her. Went to the schools & took the club moneys at 4 o/c and after tea we took Mrs Looker a drive our first too it was very pleasant.

June 5th

At last my night dress is finished & I cut out my front body. Did some gardening. Will¹⁸ came home with Tom to see Mrs L. she thought him so altered. The black has not been well lately & today had a dead kitten & was ill so the boys killed & buried her tonight.

June 6th

Mrs Looker left today I have thoroughly enjoyed her company her kind sympathy has done me good she seems to me sweeter than ever, after seeing her off I called on Mrs Beecher and Mrs Thompson & asked Miss T. to take my class she was not at home Mrs T is so nice.

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June 7th

We had such a thunderstorm last night have not seen such vivid lightning for years some rain but not hot. Did some more gardening, wrote Mrs Smith²¹ & Lizzie. A little more rain.

June 8th

Pleasanter today not so hot. Wrote a P.C. to Mrs Brown# to expect me Monday at 4-42. I have been busy today preparing for my absence & showing Bessie some things about the gardening set her also to help me pricking out the everlasting flowers & some marigolds in the bed.

June 9th

Whit Sunday and a dull day it threatened for rain but did not come & 'tis quite cool went to school & church twice, Mother also went this morning. We had Dr English again today he thinks this will be his last day. Miss Thompson wrote me a line to decline taking my class.

June 10th

A nasty cold day & light wind very bad for the holiday jobs. I am off to Enfield by the 2-57 train. Claremont Enfield here I am & arrived in good time my train

was punctual & I had a comfortable journey in spite of the wet & cold perhaps better than if it had been fine. Found all well Jessie looks better than usual Daisy²⁵ is in a state of excitement Harry has grown but is not altered at all.

June 11th

Mr & Mrs B, Daisy & Harry left soon after 9 o/c this morning they go to Dover cross by the 1 o/c boat & on to Zurich getting there at 9 am tomorrow. Mr & Mrs Goodman, Emily G. & Miss Hunt go with them Mr & Mrs G went to Dover Friday to cross yesterday to break the journey a little. Wrote to Mother & Lizzie still damp & cold but not much rain heard from Emily Abbey tonight Lizzie is in bed & has had the Dr in & is better & much improved.

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June 12th

Heard from Lizzie she was still in bed the Dr saw her yesterday says she is better & may get up today she wants me to go and see her – I will try to next week if I can get a train to suit, it makes me anxious about my darling sister, looked at the time table & found one to go to Roydon¹³ have a few hours there & back here in the day so think I will go Friday. Wrote Mother & sent her Lizzies also said I hope to go & see her Friday. Wrote Mrs Brown# & set out & began a singlet for May & a pair of thin Zephyr drawers we went for a drive this afternoon.

June 13th

Heard from my dear Mother she is pretty well Mr Abbey¹² called to see them in town & told her Lizzie was ill, white cat has 2 kittens. Went down town & paid bills finished May's drawers & singlet ready to take with me tomorrow also the other white drawers. Wrote a P.C. to Lizzie saying I may come & wrote Bessie Wirdnam.

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June 14th

A fine but dull day went to Roydon Collins drove me to Waltham X this morning & I reached Roydon about 11.30 found Lizzie at work in the kitchen she is better but looks so badly pale & very thin and Alfred²⁷ is pale & thin too but such a sweet darling all my chicks were glad to see me, am glad I went am more satisfied about my precious sister. We had a nice chat though it seemed all too short I left by the 6.35 train May & Arthur²³ saw me off with Vic she has two puppies Miss Westlake & the three children met me at WX & all had gone right in my absence.

June 15th

I was tired last night & feel limp today wrote a long letter to Mother & a P.C. to Lizzie & sent Harry papers. Percy's school reports today. Jessie & Ralph went with Percy did not stay long as it rained a little & looked black like thunder.

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June 16th

Sunday a letter from Jessie to Percy dated 13th from Zurich. A letter came for Mr Brown# from Messrs Speyer so I wrote & sent it on writing to Jessie#. We all went to chapel this morning and this evening Percy & I went to St Mary's.

June 17th

Wrote to Flo⁶¹ not knowing her address had to enclose it to Tom to forward it being Flo's birthday tomorrow, had a P.C. from Lizzie she keeps better but so weak & her back very painful. Cut out two shirts in flannelette for Arthur²³. Percy has a holiday today & went a long walk with Howard Harris brought his friend in here to tea.

June 18th

Heard from Mother Tom is out for a day or two on business she keeps well. Made Arthur's first shirt to send it tomorrow. We went for a drive started at 5 o/c it was very pleasant a little cool. Heard from Emilie Abbey⁶ she is anxious about Lizzie and made me more so, hope it is only anxiousness on Emilie's part.

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June 19th

Still dull and looks rather threatening the glass falls a little too wind has been east lately. Wrote Mrs Brown#, Mother & Lizzie & sent the latter a shirt for Arthur²³, also packed a box of tomatoes & sent to H Thomas we went to Waltham today & over the Abbey did not get home to tea till past 6 o/c had a P.C. from Lizzie to say she is only a trifle better & weak I am reading "Dawn" by Rider Haggard, it is very interesting but not an elevating sort of book.

June 20th

Miss Westlake had a long interesting letter from Daisy. Wrote Mrs Looker had a P.C. from E Abbey & a letter from Em by the last post, Aunt Sewellⁿ is better Em⁹ says. We had a game at tennis this evening the first this year I did so enjoy it Percy & Miss Westlake marked out the court. Collins took me down town & I paid the butcher, baker & milk also & got some oranges & gooseberries. A lovely day.

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June 21st

Heard from my dear Mother such a nice letter & she sent me Aunt Sewell's. Wrote Auntie & Lizzie this afternoon had a telegram from Mr Brown# asking

me to "send old Continental Bradshaw book by post" sent it off at once. Collins taking it down town it cost 5½d finished May's Zephyr drawers & made Alfred²⁷ a thin singlet we played tennis again this evening.

June 22nd

Heard from Lizzie she keeps better & writes cheerfully. We went for a drive this morning & this afternoon played tennis till the three little folks came Maud, Max & Horace Ploughman.

June 23rd

Sunday had a letter to forward so wrote Jessie & sent it.

June 24th

Wrote Janet² Sewell & to Jessie to send letters on, a big packet some for S. Brown & W H Brown cost 1/3. Ralph heard from his Mother. Bertie Harris came in & we had a good game of tennis began Arthurs²³ blouse & cut out & began two singlets for Arthur & Harold finished Arthurs shirt.

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June 25th

Heard from Emilie Lizzie keeps better I am so thankful, the rain seems to have cleared away and it is a lovely morning. We went for a drive at 4 o/c for a little way sent off Harris on the Ridgeway & dozen tomatoes. Heard from Mother she has been poorly tired she did too much last week, they have heard from James & Mother is writing him this week says I can too also Tom, wrote Emilie Abbey⁶ & I can enclose to Emilie.

June 26th

We tried sound the bells today & find the doors are all wrong will not sound at all, so sent to have them attended to. Heard from Mrs Thorne# the tomatoes arrived in good condition. We went to the tournament & much enjoyed it but it was so hot quite upset me & I had a bad sick headache. heard from Jessie Brown# sent a letter to send on her Mother is very ill wrote Jessie & sent Lizzies.

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June 27th

Wrote Jessie Brown# Tom & Emma Abbey for Tom to enclose. Had a P.C. from Tom tonight asking me what he can get for Mother & suggested an umbrella which I think the thing. Wrote a P.C. for Percy to post tomorrow early saying that would do or a cap, finished Arthurs²³ blouse & began an apron for Mother.

June 28th

The man came yesterday to see to the bells they are all right it was only one, did not properly understand them. I am glad they are right but vexed to have

brought a man down for nothing, we are going to the Goodmans this afternoon to a hay party warm work it is so hot again.

June 29th

Wrote Lizzie & sent the parcel yesterday & finished Mother's apron. Wrote her & sent it today began a pair of baby shoes for Steadman infant hope to go & see her and baby soon. Heard from Lizzie this morning she keeps better & gets stronger but Alfred²⁷ is sadly

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June 30th

Sunday and such a hot day & my dear completes her 77th year hope she will have a pleasant day with her two boys. Willie was to go down yes'day till Monday. Had a P.C. from Lizzie the parcel arrived Alfred²⁷ is a little better but still sadly. We went to chapel this morning & this evening Percy & myself went to St. Mary's.

July 1st

Wrote Mrs Fox & a note to Walcot & sent a big box of tomatoes. Finished the baby shoes & went for drive and took them to Mrs Swatt nee Steadman she is not strong yet looks delicate, small but health looking baby. She was pleased with the shoes & tomatoes I took her a few, Jessie was in raptures with baby we all nursed her, name to be Ruth Louisa. Heard from dear Mother she is pretty well but feels the heat great & now has a plague of visitors she sent me a pill with it. Sewell is in London.

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July 2nd

Heard from dear Mrs Looker she is getting stronger & I am so glad, she hopes to come & see us on her return journey again & that is good news, had a P.C. from Emilie, Alfred²⁷ is still very poorly, little sweet I am sorry. Took my pill last night so do not feel over strong today. Wrote to Mrs Smith²¹, Mrs Stubbing, Emilie Abbey⁶ and Mrs Brown#. Began cutting out a blouse for Harold want to make him two suits have the galatea* for it.

**strong twill weave cotton fabric*

July 3rd

Wrote Mother & Aunt B have finished cutting out the two suits & made a beginning to make them. We had Bertie Harris to tea & tennis this eve.

July 4th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ Mr H Sewell is going to stay at Longford a day or two. Wrote Mrs Brown#, Mrs Fox, & Tom & sent two latter boxes of tomatoes. Paid the a/c's this morning & this evening took Miss N Jessie & Ralph a long drive through Cooper & Chequers Lanes it was a lovely drive.

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July 5th

Heard from my darling sister not altogether good news she has to give up again but the Dr consents for her to wait till I got there poor darling I am sorry there is again necessity for giving up. Had a P.C. from Thusis (*Switzerland*) but Jessie has not yet said the date of their return. I wrote Ada Goodman yesterday & she said their folks said the 11th wrote Jennie, Lizzie, Jessie Brown# and Aunt Sewell.

July 6th

A letter to forward so wrote a line to Jennie again today I have had a nasty headache all day & it has been so hot. Finished Harold's two blouses.

July 7th

Sunday dull but fine & warm. We went to church this morning & I did not go out again had a good rest & read finished reading "Chronicles of the Schenberg Cotter Family" it is a good book & I just began "Little Lord Fontleroy" by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

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July 8th

Heard from Mother she is nicely I am glad to hear, Tom was pleased with the tomatoes they went safely & well. It has been dull & a little rain but not enough to do any good.

July 9th

Had a P.C. from Jessie Brown# her Mother keeps about the same has walked down the garden with help Jessie is better herself & I had a P.C. from Walcot thanking me for the tomatoes. Percy heard from Mother they came Thursday about 7 o/c Harriet had a holiday & went to the Crystal Palace. We started for a drive after tea but it came on to rain so we had to turn back. I have finished one pair of knickers.

July 10th

Wrote to Lizzie saying I hope to be there Friday or Saturday & to Mother with James's a wet morning but it cleared up & we went to Epping forest and enjoyed it greatly.

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July 11th

And such a lovely day. Wrote Aunt Hall¹⁴ & went down town & paid the weekly a/c finished the other knickers for Harold. Mrs Brown#, Daisy & Harry arrived before 7 o/c Mr B went on to Swindon as he wants to be home for Sunday, they do look well all so thoroughly tanned & they have enjoyed the trip.

July 12th

Heard from Lizzie she keeps much the same gets very tired poor darling. Wrote Aunt Cleeve³⁵ and am off to Roydon¹³ today by the 4-40 train. Just as I was ready to start the journey at the door it began to rain with thunder & lightening so I was afraid to venture. Sent Mother & Lizzie a P.C. to say I will go to Roydon tomorrow morning.

July 13th

Roydon here I am all right found Lizzie sadly but so busy. Arthur²³ is not well cold & bad throat Alfred²⁷ is better Mr Abbey¹² has his cattle bad has one heifer killed today.

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July 14th

Sunday May & Harold went to church with me this morning, Arthur²³ is not the thing & being damp stayed at home Mr Abbey¹² and his cowmen had a job dosing heifers gave 27 ... they fear they have what is called black leg, it is a worry for him Lizzie is staying in bed.

July 15th

A nice day but high wind just a little rain to christen the apples.

July 16th

Washing day the changes are all dry but it came on to rain too soon to dry the sheets. The Dr came today says Lizzie is better than when he saw her before & he will come again Friday. Wrote a few lines to tell mother & wrote Mrs Brown# tonight.

July 17th

Did the ironing except the tablecloths & dried the sheets & most of the towels we have had some heavy storms today. Mrs Carwardine & niece came to tea & we had a nice chat another poor thing died with black when will it stop.

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July 18th

Mr Abbey¹² went to town today about his drainpipe from his yards & then went to the veterinary college & one of the professors came home with him & was very interested in the cattle & the calves with bad faces they want one of the latter sent up to the college & a limb of a young bullock that came home while the gentleman was here.

July 19th

Wrote to mother a long letter. We had two men from the college down today they took a photo of the sick bullock the affected leg poor creature, it was sad to see it a fore leg so swollen & the blood seemed oozing out of the skin, that makes six have died from it the hay gets on slowly the weather is so stormy.

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July 21st

Sunday such a high wind & stormy. We went to church this morning Mr A three chicks & myself. Lizzie has not been so well such severe pain in her stomach is better now.

July 22nd

We had quite a large wash & dried all nicely, and this evening gathered a lot of white currants for the evening.

July 23rd

Mr Abbey¹² had a narrow escape of a bad accident this morning the traces broke when he & old Daniel were in the trap & both were thrown out Mr A's leg came on some iron & the skin was grazed & old man was not hurt. We prepared the currants today to preserve tomorrow & did our ironing. This evening Mr & Mrs Stubbing with nurse & baby came over for an hour. Mrs S looks very delicate but the baby is but a month old & such a big fine boy. Mr Abbey¹² had gone to the Hamlet so Arthur²³ took Mrs Stubbing round to see the cattle. Heavy rain tonight.

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July 24th

Osborn⁴⁰ came down today and brought Percy he is a nice child & this evening after tea I drove the four children up to the Hamlet they did enjoy it we started at 5 o/c & got back about 7-30. Mary is very kind the chicks delight to go there she is still without a maid, was very cheerful but looks so thin. I made the white currant jam 8lb.

July 25th

And a stormy day the day goes on so slowly.

July 26th

The doctor came today Lizzie will need his attendance for another 3 days I was disappointed he has given her leave to give up a little time on Sunday. Wrote to Mother.

July 27th

Wedding day of the princess & prince of wales she is now countess of fife. I have been very glumly today head bad & limbs ached had a big cooking this morning two large currant pies and one small one & apple turnover & a portion of dough for cakes all looked well, wet morning & fine after.

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July 28th

Sunday my head has been most severely bad today hardly know how to bear myself. Went to church this morning with Mr A, May & Arthur²³ was not the thing so stayed at home. Lizzie got up at 4 o/c & stayed up to 9 o/c and did not seem any the worse for it.

July 29th

A busy day we did our coloured batch & dried nicely. Arthur²³ is still poorly partly cold & partly his stomach out of order. Lizzie does not seem any the worse for getting up so has been down again today. Mrs Coleman called this afternoon to enquire for Mrs Abbey having heard from Mother.

July 30th

And such a hot day we did our coloured ironing & the washing dry. Aunt Cleeve³⁵ wrote yesterday wanting Lizzie to go & see her for a fortnight but of course she cannot so had to write and decline. I am sorry the sea air would have done her good. Just as we were sitting after tea Osborn⁴⁰ drove Mary and the three children down for an hour.

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July 31st

The doctor did not come today but I wrote Mother to let her know Lizzie is not any worse for sitting up it is hot weather again good for the hay, they finished cutting today.

August 1st

And so hot, thundered a little & I expect storms went round.

August 2nd

Wrote Mrs Smith²¹ and took May & Alfred²⁷ to Stortford had the latter's hair cut & did some shopping am very tired tonight.

August 3rd

Wet morning fine after the Dr came today & is pleased with Lizzie's progress & I am in hopes after his next visit will give us leave to go away as the children's holidays begin from now.

August 4th

Sunday and a lovely day. All four children went to church with us this morning, Alfred's²⁷ first time at church & he was pretty quiet & very good. Heard from Mother she felt the heat a good deal, she enclosed a note for Emilie's birthday. Ellen has gone home today to stay tomorrow.

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August 5th

And a busy day a woman just did a little for us but could not stay long & it has been so stormy not good weather for the holiday folks we wrote to Mother.

August 6th

We did our ironing & cleaned Lizzie & Arthur's²³ bedrooms. Miss Sydenham & her sister came to tea. Mrs Chapman called this evening also Mr C & Mr Olney so we have had visitors today, began Lizzie's bonnet retrimming it.

August 7th

Heard from Mother today telling us dear Aunt Baverstock³⁶ has gone to rest she passed quietly away on Saturday took cold Wednesday had been so well before. John was there on the 27th & Aunt then walked around the garden on John's arm & the help of her stick, I wrote Aunt Wheeler a lovely day. Mr A began harvest today.

August 7th today heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ she tells me Mrs Brown# died last Saturday. Strange Aunt B & Mrs Brown should die the same day.

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August 8th

I took the three eldest chicks to Broxbourne by the 3-23 train we had a row on the river which we all enjoyed, the first time the children had been for row & they were charmed then we had tea a walk in the grounds & they tried the archery & throwing at Aunt Sally we came home by the 7-5 train the children all highly pleased with the outing, it has been a lovely day.

August 9th

And a dull day Mr Abbey¹² went to town so we arranged for Emmie & May to go to the Hamlet to tea I to drive them up at 3 o/c but it rained so fast we had to wait ½ an hour then went. I took the boys for the drive it rained all the way home and most of the evening the Dr came today says Lizzie is much better and may go away next week. Wrote Mother fixing next Wednesday.

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August 10th

Stormy day heard from Mother she does not want Lizzie next week & I am quite vexed she is keeping those brats longer tiring herself to death. Janet² came this evening she is pretty well.

August 11th

Sunday we went to church this morning Mr Pye gave notice the church is to be closed the next two Sundays.

August 12th

A stormy or rather a damp day we had to dry our wash in doors.

August 13th

Washing day but not good drying it was too still but the changes &c are ready for ironing. Janet² is not having over good weather, the children have a pair of stilts & are learning to walk in them Arthur²³ gets on famously.

August 14th

A lovely morning shirts & towels soon dried we did our ironing, at dinner time it began to rain & has kept damping since a great pity Mr A hoped to finish carrying his sainfoin^{vii} and begin barley cart tomorrow.

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August 15th

A lovely day & they are at barley cart. We went for a drive tonight. I drove Janet & the 4 chicks nearly to Harlow it was so pleasant.

August 16th

Janet² left this afternoon by the 3-23 train. Mr Abbey¹² & Osborn⁴⁰ went to town this morning to answer the summons of watering the milk. Osborn brought Percy down to spend the day the five children went with me to see Janet off she had May & Harold weighed May weighed 53lbs Harold 55lbs as we came back Mrs Carmendine overtook us in the landau a pair of hooves she took up 4 children. Alfred²⁷ was too shy & walked with me Mrs C had Tweenie & Alice's child with her so we had a good party to tea. Mr A & Osborn⁴⁰ got back about 7 o/c & had tea got on better than they expected the fine was £1-10 on each churn – a small fine but expenses came to about £9.

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August 17th

Wrote Aunt Sewell¹¹. A little rain in the morning but fine after & they are carting barley.

August 18th

Sunday Mr Abbey¹² drove the four children & myself to Broxbourne church a lovely drive did not care for the service so quiet & cold. Mary & Osborn⁴⁰ came to tea with Frank.

August 19th

So mild & sultry we did our wash & cleaned Lizzies bedroom not to have much to do tomorrow before we start, hope it will not be quite so hot this evening. Mr & Mrs Allen of Ware called had a pleasant chat but did not stay long.

August 20th

A lot of rain last night & this morning we are off to Drayton.

^{vii} Pink flowering plant grown for grazing, hay or silage.

Colne Mead here we are safely. Willie & Tom met us at Liverpool Street then Tom took Arthur²³ to the stores to get a new suit of clothes & Lizzie, Alfred²⁷ & myself came on & had tea. Mother & Tom are nicely. Will¹⁸ heard from James¹⁰ such a cheerful letter.

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August 21st

We made 6½lbs of greengages into jam this morning a stormy day & high wind.

August 22nd

I am getting more into my old ways now, we wrote to Mrs Looker to be sure & come on her way back & I think she will.

August 23rd

We had a good baking today & made some apple jelly a nice lot but not a bright enough colour to please me.

August 24th

A busy day and the fete at the Hall grounds. Arthur²³ went with Arthur Barry soon after we had such a heavy thunder storm but they found shelter & did not return till about 6 o/c. when Arthur came. We had a lot of furniture to find room for Tom bought at a sale.

August 25th

Sunday fine till church time this evening when it rained fast for awhile. The last Sunday for the old clergyman in charge next Sunday we are to have our new vicar.

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August 26th

A nice day & we did our washing & dried all.

August 27th

Mother heard from Mrs Looker she will come Friday & stay till Monday. Made 2½lbs of white plum jam.

August 28th

Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ & Janet² they tell me Jack's⁴¹ health is failing he has had a bad illness Aunt Hall¹⁴ has sent for him to come home. Aunt & Will¹⁸ go to Ilfracombe next Monday & take Em. Alice Waldegrave keeping house at Longford with Willie & the children and Fan⁶² is home this week went to Wick with Janet² one day, returns to Bristol this week & taking Mab²⁴ to send her to Folkstone to school with Miss Reeves, the Reeves are at Bristol now. Wrote to May & Aunt Sewell & a note to Janet² asking her to come here one day next week if she does not go to Paris & I sent May the Liddington magazine to read. Mrs Barry came to tea & Mrs Ratcliffe brought her three children this evening.

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August 29th

Another lovely day. This evening Tom took Lizzie, Alfred²⁷ & myself for a punt down the river nearly to Harmsworth it was delightful we all enjoyed it the first time the little boy had been on the water Arthur²³ went fishing with Arthur Barry & the Williams.

August 30th

We wrote Aunt Wheeler for her birthday I went to meet dear Mrs Looker she is looking better but not very strong.

August 31st

It is very hot think we must have thunder, we took Mrs Looker a walk by the river this evening.

September 1st

Sunday and a hot day. Our new vicar conducted the services today do hope we shall like him he gave a little address in which he promises fair says he will be firm without being obstinate & kind without being weak.

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September 2nd

Mrs Looker left this morning, took the two boys & saw her off, wonder shall I see her again & when, never here I expect.

September 3rd

I had such a nice letter from my girl this morning. This afternoon about 3-30 who should walk in but Mr Abbey¹² he had business in town and the rain last night they had a heavy thunderstorm so could not do much on the farm today.

September 4th

Very hot again. Arthur²³ & I started for Uxbridge but lost the train so mean to go tomorrow.

September 5th

Heard from Janet² she is coming today. Tom is gone with Taylor to a place near Ipswich to value for probate will be away some days. We went to Uxbridge & did our business and came home to tea. Janet is here came about 6-30.

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September 6th

Had a big cooking this morning & cooked myself too feel very tired it was so hot. We had the Misses Barry & Arthur to tea & supper. Janet is staying till tomorrow is sorry not to see Tom Mother is better today.

September 7th

Janet² has left us Arthur²³ & I went to see her off. It rained a little but not much. Em has gone to Ilfracombe with her father mother & Jessie Brown[#], Mab²⁴ is with Fan Fan⁶² & going to Folkestone to school Flo⁶¹ is at Longford with her children & Ems three. Willie is there too North St. shut up.

September 8th

Sunday and a hot day Lizzie has decided to go home tomorrow with Arthur²³ as Tom is uncertain when he will return. Went to school & church twice our new vicar came & spoke to me says he will call on us this week.

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September 9th

Very hot again. Lizzie & Arthur²³ left by the 2-5 train Alfred²⁷ went with me to see them off & was so good & happy dear little pet did not mind a bit parting with his mother & has been again this evening. Oh how I miss my darling sister. Tom returned about 8 o/c this evening very tired he enjoyed the sea breezes at Felixtowe.

September 10th

Very hot & I have been busy with a large wash but it has all dried splendidly & the mangling is done. I took my pet a little walk by the river this evening he is a dear good boy. We heard from Lizzie they got home all right.

September 11th

We did our ironing and cleaned 2 bedrooms I also made soup, some white plum jam so have had a busy day. Wrote Lizzie and took Alfred²⁷ to see Mrs Ratcliffe & her children at first he was shy but after had a game with them then we went to see Taylor for him to come Friday & dig up potatoes.

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September 12th

A very hot day again we finished cleaning upstairs to my surprise Mother told me this evening she is going to Norwood tomorrow – never said a word before & only just informed me of the fact now it does seem unkind to be so literally left out I cannot help feeling how little Mother cares for her daughter. Her Lizzie gets right little consideration.

September 13th

Had a hamper of damsons from Lizzie preserved 15lbs. Taylor has dug up the potatoes and gathered in most of the apples.

September 14th

Had another hamper from Lizzie today with a couple of fowls & some butter & pears, wrote & thanked her.

September 15th

Sunday my small boy has been so poorly today I have not left him stayed with him nursed & petted him, gave him a powder before breakfast hope it will do him good he seems better tonight.

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September 16th

Tom went off this morning they go to Lincolnshire tonight for a day or two so we shall be quiet. My precious boy has been nicely today. I am glad felt anxious about him yesterday. We did our coloured wash amongst mine was a pair of Tom's trousers hope I shall make them a success. All dried well & it has cleared and seems inclined to be fine again.

September 17th

Such a frost last night the poor marrows are drooping feared it will stop their bearing & the marigolds felt it the sunflowers & dahlias did not get punished. Went out & paid the butcher. Have finished Arthurs²³ waistcoat and did up the mending from the wash.

September 18th

Heard from Mother & wrote her to send on Aunt Sewell's¹¹ & wrote E Abbey had a P.C. from Lizzie saying they are well & a telegram from Tom to say he will be at Norwood tonight home tomorrow.

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September 19th

The harvest festival today I sent up a basket of vegetables and Tom & I went to the service & much enjoyed it the church is prettily decorated & we had a large class & six clergymen it looked quite grand and an excellent sermon from Mr Emmett he is adept.

September 20th

Stormy again but not much rain Tom cannot get away till next week had the rain water tank cleaned J. Johnson did it.

September 21st

It is cold I quite long for a fire wrote to Lizzie.

September 22nd

Sunday went to school & church Tom brought Alfred²⁷ to church & he was a good little sweet had such a bonfire this afternoon & a visit from Gertie Bridgman¹⁹ she is looking well & not any older was not here long so we could not have much of a chat I was glad to see her.

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September 23rd

My pet is not the thing today but has been a darling while I was washing folding, was rather cross his appetite is not so good we dried nearly all.

September 24th

And such a pouringly wet day did the ironing Alfred²⁷ is bright today. Tom came home tonight saying he starts on his holiday tomorrow.

September 25th

And a lovely day but cold & slight wind till the evening. Tom was at 9 o/c for pad. To catch a fast train to Swindon to spend the day there & go to Wick for an hour if he can he has such a nice clock for Mr & Mrs Smith²¹ & a dial to be illuminated with a bright light at the back am sure they will like it. Wrote to May & Lizzie took Alfred²⁷ down by the river this afternoon it was so pleasant he is so loving the water. After tea I went to see poor Hoods he is very ill the wonder is he lasts so long.

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September 26th

Wrote Mr Sewell for his birthday & went to post & then to the Barrys to tea took Alfred²⁷ with me & he was a dear good boy, Arthur²³ has kindly promised to come right away & take Alfred²⁷ for walks while Bessie is away. I cannot leave the house.

September 27th

Had a parcel & letter from Lizzie sending Alfred²⁷ some warmer things it is milder now should have put them on had they came last week. Took Alfred²⁷ to post with me & to order meat for Sunday & then a run down by the river. Wrote Mother tonight.

September 28th

Took Alfred²⁷ down by the river for an hour this morning. It was so lovely we both enjoyed it and after dinner did a lot of gardening. Bessie went home this afternoon for a week I do not mind being alone now hope I shall not get nervous at night Alfred²⁷ is my only companion.

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September 29th

Sunday and a quiet day with my pet only saw the Smith boy & father all day but have not felt bit unsure or anxious yet & slept well last night. I have a nasty headache today wrote Janet² & John the latter to congratulate him on his engagement. Heard from Aunt Sewell¹¹ sending me a good budget to read. Jack⁴¹ is leaving India his health continues so bad he hopes to reach home about the middle of November.

September 30th

And a stormy day but I did my coloured wash did not dry much out of doors.
Alfred²⁷ is a good little boy.

October 1st

Wrote Lizzie & a note to forward letter to Mother did my ironing and mended & dried it all Arthur Barry took Alfred²⁷ for a walk this afternoon.

October 2nd

And such a lovely day Arthur²³ took Alfred²⁷ for a walk again & had tea with us the vicar called yesterday afternoon.

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October 3rd

Wrote Daisy²⁵ & Em & to Lizzie to return Willie Abbey's letter Mrs smith²¹ sent it back with the butter today, heard from Lizzie the new maid is there & seems likely as far as they can judge. Lizzie has a bad cold May also wrote me Mrs Beecher called this afternoon & had a long chat they are leaving Drayton in a few weeks going to Hayes. Mr B has engaged himself to a new firm there & I have promised to finish the years club money taking & collecting and then Mrs Beecher will finish up the books.

October 4th

Such a wet morning finer after but Arthur did not come Emilie Cox has taken round the magazines & will come in & help me tomorrow awhile.

October 5th

Heard from Bessie's mother she is helping her daughter till Monday. Heard also from Mother she is coming today & she has arrived all right.

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October 6th

Sunday Mother went to church this morning & I went this evening. We just started for a walk this afternoon but it began to rain & has been damp since.

October 7th

Such a heavy rain in the night & a perfect hurricane of wind & it has been a wild day. I began washing, wrote Mrs Smith²¹ & took to post & paid grocer & baker & went to Browne's to get them to make us a false bottom to the kitchen stove. Bessie return this eve.

October 8th

Washing done & all dry & folded cut out Arthurs²³ night shirts two. Mr Ratcliffe came in this afternoon & had some strawberry plants.

October 9th

Did the ironing & this afternoon went for a good stroll by the river.

October 10th

Cleaned our bed room and this afternoon took Alfred²⁷ for an hour by the river saw Arthur Barry & he took Alfred²⁷ in the boat little pet he was so pleased & then I went to see Mrs Beecher to talk over the business of the clubs, she is better, has been poorly.

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October 11th

Dear James¹⁰ birthday and a damp nasty day. Mother did the cooking & we cleaned the dining room have taken down the white curtains and got the red ready to go up they were undone to be cleaned & look very nice.

October 12th

And a lovely day. Took Alfred²⁷ to Uxbridge had his hair cut and did a bit of shopping. Feel quite tired tonight.

October 13th

Sunday went to school & church Mother also to church Alfred²⁷ did not go he has a nasty cold we went down by the river for an hour this afternoon.

October 14th

A most lovely day & we have had quite a wash of coloured most things ready for next summer dried well Mother heard from Lizzie with a lb of butter she says she is keeping nicely and so far likes her new maid she tries to get her work done so in that is the provenance.

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October 15th

Wrote to Ada⁴⁷. My darling has been so poorly this morning in my arms most of the time so I did my work ironed & under difficulties he did not eat anything till dinner then to our surprise made a good meal & has been better since. Went up to the schools & took the club moneys, called on Mrs Hogarth they are leaving, sale on the 29th of furniture the house is not to be sold Mr H drinks so the business has gone wrong rather. Mrs H thinks it best to live near the business. I am sorry for her & very sorry they are leaving. When got home found Miss Barrys here at tea.

October 16th

Mother heard from dear James¹⁰ yesterday he is well & writes cheerfully. Such a wet day. Mrs English & her daughter called. Alfred²⁷ is better today got the parlour curtains ready to go up and finished one of Arthurs²³ night shirts.

Notes on some families.

The Browns: Mrs Jane Brown née Thorne was born 1848 to a farming family at the Marsh, Wanborough. Her father, Ralph (1785) married (1844) Mary Brunsdon (b.1814) also from a farming family at Snodshill (where the Cox family also farmed). Mary's brother John Brunsdon²² (1831) is mentioned in the diary. In 1870 Jane Thorne married William Henry Brown (1845) whose father Samuel (1800) (mother Jemima, 1802) was a farmer in Highworth. 1891 puts Jane Brown, William (a banker) and their children Henry (1872), Jessie J (1878) Samuel (1881) at Claremont, Culloden Road, Enfield. Jane Brown's brother Henry Thorne farmed at Walcott Farm. He married Sarah (b. 1850).

ENDNOTES mostly refer to a relative of Mary Cox.

¹ 1887 is the year that Richard Jefferies died.

² Janet Sewell, born 8 February 1841. Cousin of Willie Sewell (Em's Husband). Janet Laidlaw Sewell was a teacher. Father John Sewell (1807)

³ Tom Cox. Mary's youngest brother. Born at Coate on 4 April 1855. He married Sarah Annie Akers (1866-1942) at Liddington 16 Sep 1896. She was the daughter of a farmer (William Akers of Moredon Farm, Rodbourne Cheney, Moredon. Mother: Emma Wakefield). An art expert, Tom died on 30 August 1927 aged 72.

⁴ Lizzie, Mary's sister—Fanny Eliza Abbey née Cox, born 4 January 1849. Died of tuberculosis on 17 November 1891, aged 42 at Roydon.

⁵ Mary's mother: Fanny (Jefferies) Cox, born 30 June 1812. Died 28 January 1901 at West Drayton.

⁶ Emilie Abbey. Step-daughter of Mary's sister Lizzie, born 5 August 1847.

⁷ May, Adelaide Mary Abbey born 2 Feb 1881, Mary's niece.

⁸ William (Willie) Sewell, born 19 February 1849. Husband of Mary's cousin Emily Hall and also the nephew of Mary's uncle George Sewell.

⁹ Emily (Hall) Sewell, [Em], born 1 February 1852, wife of William, cousin of Mary.

¹⁰ James Cox, born 11 October 1846, Mary's brother. James emigrated to New Zealand in 1880 when Mary, Tom and his mother moved from Coate to West Drayton. His diaries were donated to the Alexander Turnbull Library (NZ) and used in the 1995 publication *Nearly Out of Heart and Hope* by Miles Fairburn.

¹¹ Eliza Jefferies, b. 18 August 1813, Mary's aunt married to George Sewell. See note.8. Lived in Lansdown Road, Swindon.

¹² William Abbey b. 3 December 1822? brother-in-law married to Lizzie. Lizzie was his second wife. See note 4.

¹³ Lizzie and William Abbey lived at Temple Farm, in Roydon, Essex.

¹⁴ Mary's Aunt Hall née Martha Jefferies, 12 July 1818.

¹⁵ Mary Chapman married William Abbey's son Osborn—Lizzie's stepson.

¹⁶ Kenneth William Robert Sewell (Kenny) b. 8 March 1886. Em's son.

¹⁷ Percy Abbey, b. 7 March 1886. Son of Mary and Osborn Abbey. See note 15.

¹⁸ Mary's brother William, born 11 August 1843. He married twice: 1) 17th June 1871 to Emily Alice Bridgeman (born 1841), 2) 7th September 1878 to Sarah Wirdnam (b. 1856). He lived in London.

¹⁹ Gertie: Gertrude Virtue Bridgemen (b. 18 January 1850) was the sister of Emily, see note 18.

²⁰ Mary's cousin, Joe, Joseph Hall (b.2 January 1854). Em's brother.

²¹ Mrs Smith, Baptised Anna Maria Reeves, 28 August 1829 (from a farming family in Liddington) married James Smith (1821), also a farmer. Mrs (Hannah) Smith's sister Jane Reeves (1833) lived with the couple at Liddington Wick Farm 1881-1891. descended from Ann Jefferies (bp. 1729—daughter of John Jefferies (b.1686)— of Draycott whose daughter Jemima Bendry (1761) married Harry Reeves in 1784. They had 13 children.

²² John Brunnsden (1831) also farmed at Snodshill, Coate with his brother Henry. By 1901 he lodged at the Spotted Cow, Coate with landlords Mary and Daniel Smith. See endnote 45.

²³ Arthur William Abbey, 8 January 1897, Mary's nephew.

²⁴ Mab: Helen Mabel Sewell b. 27 April 1881. Mary's cousin Em's daughter.

²⁵ Margaret Elizabeth Sewell (Daisy) b. 4 October 1882. Cousin Em's daughter.

²⁶ Mary's brother William married Sarah Wirdnam. Bessie was Sarah's brother John's wife, Elizabeth born 1858.

²⁷ Alfred Jefferies Abbey, 11 May 1886 — Mary's nephew.

²⁸ (John) Richard Jefferies (the writer) 6 November 1848—Mary's cousin.

²⁹ John Cox 18 November 1844—Mary's cousin.

³⁰ Walter Wirdnam, 1860, sister-in-law's brother.

³¹ William (1825) and Sarah (1834) Woolford

³² Jessie Jefferies née Baden born 2 February 1853. Richard's wife.

³³ Ellen Mary Wheeler 31 August 1836. Related to the Jefferies family. Her Father, Charles Anthony Wheeler (1805-1888) married Mary Jane Jefferies of Draycott on 16/9/1835. She is descended from Mary's great great great grandfather John Jefferies and his son Thomas.

³⁴ William Hall, 8th September 1815. Mary's uncle.

³⁵ Aunt Cleeve, Mary's father's⁵³ sister née Eliza Ann Cox, 4 May 1824 (Snodshill)—4 Feb 1903 (Kent).

³⁶ Sarah Baverstock née Choules of Chiseldon, b. 13 August 1799 Married farmer Richard (b.1796) on 8/7/1822 in Chiseldon. Sister? of Mary's grandmother Elizabeth Cox. Died 3 August 1889.

³⁷ Henry James Jefferies (Harry) b. 14 June 1952, emigrated to Texas. Mary's cousin. Richard Jefferies' (the writer) brother.

³⁸ Harold James Abbey, 2 December 1882, Mary's nephew

³⁹ New Baby Francis Abbey, son of Osborn & Mary Abbey. 1st May 1888.

⁴⁰ Osborn James Abbey 1857 (wife Mary Chapman 16/1/1860), Mary Cox's brother-in-law's son from his first marriage.

⁴¹ John Jefferies Hall (Jack) - Mary's cousin, 4/7/1862. His wife was Mary Isabel née Matthews (1865). Ethel Mary (27 October 1888) was the first of five daughters.

⁴² Elizabeth (Betsy) Jefferies née Gyde. Born 27 September 1817. Left Coate Farm for Bath.

⁴³ Robert Billing husband of Sally Jefferies Sep 1849.

⁴⁴ Mary's cousin. Sarah (Sally Jefferies) Billing 2 July 1853.

⁴⁵ Harry Woolford (Rawlings), 11 October 1866. The illegitimate son of Mary Rawlings who married the assumed father, John Woolford.⁴⁶ When he died Mary married Daniel Smith who continued to run the Spotted Cow at Coate.

⁴⁶ John Woolford bp. 9 July 1827 died 22 February 1888.

⁴⁷ Ada—Emily Akers. 15 Sep 1863. Orphan by 1871. Her mother Emma (Wakefield) Akers 1827-1869 (did she die in childbirth?) and father William Akers (farmer) 1825-1871. Ada is the sister of Tom Cox's future wife Sarah Annie born 1866.

⁴⁸ Kathy—Kathleen Mary Sewell 12 March 1888.

⁴⁹ Richard Harris b. 1827. Farmer at Medbourne in 1881, died 16 March. 1881 census: wife: Sarah & niece Ada Emily Akers⁴⁷. (Elizabeth Harris (1833) was the Akers' family housekeeper in 1861—any relation of Richard?)

⁵⁰ Ada's⁴⁷ siblings. Charlie Akers 1855. Annie is probably Sarah Annie 1866 who married Tom Cox. .

⁵¹ James Smith b. 1821 Farmer at Liddington Wick.

⁵² James Edward Goddard Bradford (1828-1912) was a solicitor, who was in the High Street, Swindon (i.e. near the Jefferies' bakery), was late in life to marry Charlotte B. Tyndale (b. 1842). Their daughter Annica Hilda V born 13 March 1886 was just 2 when she died.

⁵³ William Cox b. 17 January 1809 died 9 May 1863, Buried Chiseldon Churchyard. Memorial: 'Sacred to the memory of William Cox who departed this life May 9th 1863 aged 54 years also Fanny Cox who died 28th January 1901 aged 88 years - buried at West Drayton, Middx.' Mary's father,

⁵⁴ William Herbert James Cox b. 15 November 1883 in Norwood. Mary's nephew (bro William's¹⁸ son).

⁵⁵ Charles Anthony Wheeler (1805-1888) married Mary Jane Jefferies of Draycott on 16/9/1835. She is descended from Mary's great great great grandfather John Jefferies and his son Thomas. See note.33.

⁵⁶ Mary Jane Wheeler, 24/6/1811, née Jefferies of Draycott.

⁵⁷ Frances Elizabeth Heath? b. 1874 Highworth.

⁵⁸ Jane Reeves, 1833. Mrs. Smith's sister.

⁵⁹ Ellen Kirtley 1867. Niece of Aunt Baverstock. Mother is a Wheeler

⁶⁰ 26 November 1858. Mary's cousin. (Richard Jefferies' youngest brother.) Married Louisa Reeve b. 1861 in Guildford.

⁶¹ Flo: Florence Eliza Hall, 18 June 1856 married William Bott (1/10/1856) & lived in Bristol. Alan Longford b. 5 November 1886 would be the chick that Mary refers to. Mary's cousin.

⁶² Fan: Fanny Catherine Hall b. 5 November 1850. Remained single. Mary's cousin.