

The diary of Dr John Mills of Yateley, 1876 to 1880

As transcribed by David and Valerie Kerlake

The original is at Hampshire Record Office

May 1876

Beckenham

Monday 1. Very cold and dull for the 1st of May. Occasional showers, and very black clouds passing over. Mary much better. M and I, went to Service at 11, it being SS. Philip and James. John and Emmie came down at 3.50 and returned at 5.57.

Tuesday 2. Went up by the 9.41 to Victoria. Saw William in his office. Heard that Harry got to Harrow at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Looked in at the Church of St John the Evangelist opposite LCD station. Then to Coop, up to Parliament St to Pall Mall, calling at two House Agents. Then it rained and hailed. Cabbed to Madame [Prattins]. Saw her. Then to Lottes. Saw her and she walked with me as {far as} Chandos Street, where I made enquiries about the Surgical Aid Society for Mary. By bus to Chancery Lane, into Lincolns Inn Fields, to {see} about a house. Then walked to Ludgate. Had some lunch. To Debenhams, into Old Broad Street and Bishopgate to several house agents, and by 3.35 to Fenchurch Street Station to meet Mrs Leith, who was coming up from Essex. Percy Leith came with her. I took her and her maid to Cannon Street, saw the latter off for T. Wells, and we went down to Beckenham by the 4.30 train. Mrs Leith looking very well.

Wednesday 3. Lovely bright weather, with cold wind. NNE. Mary mending daily. Bosley here at work. After lunch Mrs L, M. and I, went to the Crystal Palace. Saw the Easter Extravaganza - St George and Dragon. Not worth seeing.

Thursday 4. Very tired and out of sorts. Mrs Scott and one of her sisters spent the day with us. Mary so well, that she went out both before and after lunch, and came out and dined with us. We play Bezique in the evening, which Mrs Leith takes to as eagerly as she did to Croquet.

Friday 5. Fine and bright. Cold wind. We none of us went out, except in the garden.

Saturday 6. A beautiful day, with glass inclined to fall, and look of thunder in afternoon. At 2.30 had Waghorns carriage, and we all drove to Chiselhurst Station. Saw Mrs Leith off and then home.

Sunday 7. Mary feeling so well that she went to 11 a.m. Service, and was not tired. I as usual to early Celebration and Sunday School. M and I, in the evening to New Beckenham. It is a very fine Church, with a cold service. We did not hear Mr Green as we hoped to do, he being sick. Walked home with Mrs and Miss [Pierce].

Monday 8. Fine but bitterly cold. Maggie has a dressmaker from London, to stay in the house. Heard from Mrs Lester that she wanted to come this evening, and she

arrived by the 3.50 from Maidstone. I went to Clapham at 11.25. Lunched with Lucy, and home by 3.11. Found Elizabeth and Nellie here. They went home at 8.18. We had a capital game at Bezique.

Tuesday 9. Maggie and Mrs Lester went to town at 10.45, M. to do some shopping, and returned at 1.48. I did a great lot of machining. Harry Johnstone came to us at 4.53 to spend a night on his way to Radley.

Wednesday 10. I had intended to go on a househunting expedition, but was put off by fancying that one of those I was going to see, must be let. Had 2 gardeners at work. Harry Johnstone left at 3. He has grown into rather a nice young fellow.

Thursday 11. I went by the 9.32 to Swanley, and a few minutes after me Lucy, Miss Brayne and Henry arrived. We had a carriage waiting and drove to Kingsdown, where we spent a pleasant day. Saw Tom Hooper in the afternoon. Frank Dave was at home. I had not seen him since our return. We got back to Swanley by 7.26, and I was at home by 8.5.

Friday 12. The Prince of Wales returned safely yesterday and was most cordially received both in Portsmouth and London. Mary has a bad cold, and I feeling very tired. Maggie very busy. She has had a dressmaker in the house all the week and she and [Mary] have been constantly at work.

Saturday 13. Rather cloudy in morning and glass falling hoping for rain and to get rid of these cold easterly winds, but it became quite bright in afternoon. I went to town by the 9.40. To Coop, India Office for pay, Oxford Street, Ludgate and home by 2 p.m. This afternoon killed two moles in the garden. That is I killed one, the cat another. They are very troublesome.

Sunday 14. When we went to early Celebration the wind was S and SW, cloudy, a few drops of rain fell, but it got fine and wind in N. in the evening. I to School as usual, M. to 11 Service I went in the evening, but M. did not. Marys cold very heavy. M. and I had a short walk after 4 p.m.

Monday 15. Drizzling rain, which stopped us from going out house hunting, which I was not sorry for, as I have written to Lumley, for the particulars of several houses in his list. I did not go further than the Post Office and in the garden. Mary much better. We have put an advertisement for a house into the Guardian.

Tuesday 16. Quite fine. Glass rising again. Maggie has caught a cold, which is troublesome. Mary much better.

Wednesday 17. Maggies cold bad and chest painful. I did not want to go out, but M. thought she should get better, so I went by the 8.32 train to Elephant and Castle. Walked thence to Waterloo Station and by train at 9.30 to Ascot. There I took a carriage and drove to Winkfield. First looked at a house opposite the Rectory. Did not much care for it. Then to another beyond, called Scrope Lodge with 22 acres of meadowland, but a most wretched little house. Then to Major Kitsons, Elmside, a very nice house, but with a very poor garden and little land. I looked all over this and could have got it furnished for a year. From this I returned to Ascot Station, where I

had an hour to wait. Thence to Addlestone (changing carriages at Virginia Water). Saw a house, which I did not like good gardens and a large paddock, but situation bad and house very gloomy. Had a sharp run to catch the next train, then on to Esher, whence I walked across the marsh to Claygate, and saw a house there which had been very strongly recommended by Barrett & Co. But I did not like it, for the soil is bad clay, and the Church is as cold as the soil. Got back to the station in good time and passing from Waterloo to the Junction Station got home by 1/4 to 8, and found Maggie very unwell indeed. Got her to bed as soon as possible and gave her medicine. I was very tired but had to go down to the chemists.

Thursday 18. M. very poorly all the first part of the night, but about 2 a.m. I gave her some medicine* that made her very sick, after which she got better and slept. Came down in the evening. I only went as far as the P.O. during the day.

*{inserted at bottom of page} Bessie came unexpectedly in the forenoon. Stayed till 4 p.m.

Friday 19. M. much better. I went to London by the 9.41. First to the Cooperative, then to Williams office, but he had gone down the line. I then went to Clapham and found Lucy just ready to come down to us, so we came together. After lunch, she and I had a short walk. Looked over the grounds of Down House. William came to dinner and we had a very pleasant evening. They returned at 10.7.

Saturday 20. There seems some chance of a change of weather, warmer, and the wind backing. M. getting over her attack wonderfully, only has a little cough.

Sunday 21. M. well enough to go to early Celebration, and also to 11 Service with Mary. Weather much warmer. I went to School and Church as usual. In the evening alone.

Monday 22. A change fairly set in. Wind SSW. Dull and cloudy in morning. Some rain in afternoon. Did not go out. Went to Litany at 11.

Tuesday 23. A bright warm day, with occasional showers. Poor Mary laid up again. M. and I to Litany at 11. After lunch we called on Mrs [Pierce], Mrs Hoskin both out, Mrs Craven and the Draytons, both in.

Wednesday 24. Wet all day. Bosley was here till 3 p.m., and did a deal of work, planting out things in the kitchen garden. M and I went to Litany. Mary very poorly.

Thursday 25, Ascension day. M. and I to Celebration at 7.30. Did not go to Church again. Had a very pleasant walk to Bromley in afternoon, the first time for several weeks.

Friday 26. To London by the 9.41. To Williams office and wrote some letters about houses. Then to the Cooperative, then to Hamptons Estate offices, Pall Mall East. By bus and tram to Clapham by 1 p.m. Lunched with Lucy. To Herne Hill by 2.14 and there met Miss Coulcher from Dover, and brought her home, to stay for a few days.

Saturday 27. A very dull misty morning. Very busy all the forenoon planting out Pyrethrum that Mr Drayton gave me, and doing other gardening. After lunch M, Miss

Coulcher and I, went to the Crystal Palace. The chief attraction was a concert by 4000 children of the Tonic Solfa Association. It was very interesting.

Sunday 28. Miss C. went with us to early Celebration and to morning Service. I to school as usual. At 4 we went for a walk by Bromley Grove, Stone Farm and so home. In the evening instead of going to the Parish Church we went to St. Agathas, and were not much pleased. It looks just like a Roman Catholic chapel, and the singing is so loud as to be quite painful. Mr Williams did not preach. A very odd looking man did - a good sermon. We walked to Kelsey, with Miss Mortimer, who [brought us] a message from Sister Mary ([Parnell]) at Wantage.

Monday 29. Fine day. Mary better - was able to go in the garden and gather flowers. In the evening Mr and Mrs Cameron dined with us, and we had a very pleasant evening, with nice music.

Euston Square

Tuesday 30. Getting ready for a start in the morning and at 3.18 we all left. Mary and Maggie went on to Holborn Viaduct and thence to Euston Square. Miss Coulcher and I got out at Ludgate, where I saw her into a Gt. Northern train for Finchley. Then I went to Townsends and got a hat, thence to Johns office - he was away. From Broad Street by Underground to Gower Street, and thence to Euston Square very tired. M. had gone with Bessie to Shoobreds, to get hats for the girls of the Indo-British Schools in Bombay, Mrs Douglas having asked her to do so. We found Mrs Montgomery and her widowed daughter Mrs Jacob staying at Elizabeths.

Beckenham

Wednesday 31. Mary pretty well. Down to breakfast at 8. Today the doctor told Elizabeth that Graham has got valvular disease of the heart. I had decided upon taking Graham and Mary to Chagford but I begged her before going to such a distance, to have another opinion, which he has consented to do. Soon after breakfast M and I went out to Regent Street, looking for a bonnet. I left her and went to Dr Sibsons and consulted him about myself. I found him very kind indeed. An older man than I had expected. He said my heart was quite healthy, but pushed up too high by fat about the stomach and also found my liver a little congested. Ordered me to leave off whiskey and take Clarets or any wines without added alcohol, to take lemon juice with my food. From this I went on to Lotties, where M. soon afterwards came in. We lunched there, and after walked back to Euston Square. Stayed there till 9 p.m., then home from Holborn V.

June 1876

Beckenham

Thursday 1. Very tired. Began Dr Sibson's regime. Mrs Cameron came in and asked us to go to Croquet as we did, instead of Bromley. Met a Dr and Mrs Smith - rather pleasant. He had been in India but retired some time ago. When we had done playing I was almost too tired to walk home.

Friday 2. Rather better today. Went to Clapham by the 11.25. Found Alice Shakell there. Lunched and after we all went to Victoria where we met Willie [Davis] wife and child, who went home with Alice. Then Lucy and M. went on to the Water Colour Society, while I went to the Cooperative and after joined them, walking through the Park. We did not think much of the Exhibition. We got back to Victoria in time to do some shopping and get away by the 5 p.m. train, slip coach. Very tired but not so much so as yesterday.

Saturday 3. Elizabeth having decided upon Graham seeing Sir W. Turner I made an engagement for 12 today. So I went to Ludgate by the 9.41. [...] to 3 or 4 house agents, and Johns office. He had gone to Bentley and Douglas was going to spend his Whitsun holidays in a boating party up the river. I went by underground to Gower Street thence to Euston, where we had an open carriage and Mrs Montgomery and Mary, drove with us to Sr W. Turners and they drove about while we were inside. We were kept some time. Sr W.T. was most kind. He would not take any fee. When we left, we drove in the Park, seeing the riders in Rotten Row, then along Oxford Street calling at Stella Lamp Depot and Mudies and so back to Euston Sq. Sr W. Turner has recommended Bournemouth, and Dr Smith who came in to see Elizabeth said it was very far preferable to Brixton, and so the Devonshire trip is given up. I stayed till 4 p.m. and then got away by the slip.

Sunday 4, Whit Sunday. As usual to early Celebration and 11 a.m. Service. I to School, morning and afternoon. When I got back from 2d School, we walked to the Jones, and had a long chat with them. Then to the Camerons. Did not go to evening Church, but read at home.

Monday 5. A dull day, with occasional drizzle. Bad for the holiday folks. All the morning working at the machine. At 3 went to Kelsey park, where there was a great Gathering of Temperance folk, our own and Mr Elsdales from Kennington, and also a Cricket match, got up by Mr Hoare. M and I helped at cutting sandwiches &c. We got home by 6.30, when it began raining.

Tuesday 6. Again machining till lunch. After went to the Dog show at the Crystal Palace. It was not particularly good. I was much struck with the very small number of Skye Terriers, and the great number of St. Bernards.

Wednesday 7. At work in the garden in the morning. In the afternoon called at Mrs Owens, but did not find her well enough to see us.

Thursday 8. This day last week Anne left, to get married, and we have supplied her place with a girl who is in the habit of going to Elizabeths, when they are in want of temporary help. She is a much pleasanter and I should think better servant than Anne. Cook has been going on very badly for some time, being very impertinent to Maggie, so today I took an opportunity to give her a bit of my mind, to her very great astonishment, for I had never spoken harshly to her before. After lunch we went over to Bromley, and took Ellen with us.

Friday 9. M. has been suffering for some days from a bad tooth, so we went to town this morning, by the 9.34 Mid Kent, to London Bridge. Got [Snellings] list of houses, then went to Brooks in the Borough. Then by tram to Newington Crescent, where M had her tooth out under Gas. Thence to Clapham, but found that Lucy was away at Rochester. So having had some lunch we went to Victoria, to the Coop, thence by bus to Euston Road, returning to go to the Zoological Gardens, but it came on to rain, so we went to Euston Square and found Bessie at home. After about an hour there it became fine, so we walked to the Gardens. Saw the Princes Collection which is very interesting. The New Carnivora House is magnificent. We stayed as long as we could, then walked back to Euston Square and dined with Bessie and Douglas, getting home by about 10 p.m.

Saturday 10. M. a good deal upset by her tooth drawing, and feeling considerable pain in the gum. In the afternoon only called at the [Shedes] and then went as far as the Beckenham Cricket Ground and then to Church. Last Saturday, while I was in town Lucy spent the day with Maggie and I found her here when I came home. She went back about 8.15 and at 9.15 William came in. He had been down with the Queen of Hanover to Dover, and as the special stopped here on its way up, he came to see us. I walked with him to the station at 10.7. Very cold all day and dull.

Sunday 11. Cold wind but fine. Church and Schools as usual. M. took Mrs Cameron's class, Mrs C. being laid up with Lumbago. We called and enquired after her during the afternoon.

Monday 12. An extraordinarily close, sultry day. As if a thunderstorm were near. We went by Mid Kent to New Cross and thence to Bexley. Walked thence to Bexley Heath, to see a house. Found a place that in many respects would do. Nice grounds to the extent of 4 acres, capital glass, good outhouses, and the sitting rooms good, but the bedrooms small, and the servants accomodation very bad. Price rather too high - £125, besides £18 or 20 taxes. We got home by about 4.30. The effect of my affair with Cook last week, with a second little talking to a day or two after has been excellent. She is most pleasant now.

Tuesday 13. A very dull day, with occasional drizzle. At 2.53, went to Sydenham Hill and called on Mrs Nicol, who has a very nice house close to the station. Her mother was with her, a very pleasant looking old lady, but with a strong Irish Brogue. Mrs N. was as pleasant as she always was. On our return we wrote some letters and then went to Church.

Wednesday 14. There was a refreshing shower in the night. A delightful day. At 12.8 we went to Bromley. Thence took 3d class to Sevenoaks. Went and saw a house in the village of Riverhead 1/2 a mile from the station. A pretty little cottage with 3

acres of land, small, and rather too close to water. It is on the edge of a park, and looks out into beautiful pastures. It is not likely that we shall have the chance of getting it, if we wished it, as there are already several persons after it. We got home by 4 p.m., both very tired.

Thursday 15. Glass falling, cloudy, wind SW. In the afternoon we walked to Bromley, taking Ellen with us. Had 2 men at the garden yesterday and one today.

Friday 16. I went to town by the 9.41 train. To Williams office, then to Coop, and walked across the Park and up S. James Street, to Dr Sibsons. He thought me decidedly better, but insisted on cutting down my food, that is to say bread and vegetables. I then walked into Regent Street and to Hamptons in Pall Mall, and enquired about some trousers. By bus to trains and got to Clapham by 2. Found M. there who had come up by the 11.25. Hearing from Lucy that Charlie Duffin was very poorly, we went to Victoria, and thence by underground to Bayswater. Found C. in bed, so I did not see her. Just got back to Victoria in time to catch the 6.5 train.

Saturday 17. Alice and Nellie Petrie came down to us by train arriving at 11. It was not at all a fine day, but we got out the Croquet things for the first time, and managed to have a very good game. The ground though small and not very true does well enough, and we liked the 4 [rich] hoops. At 4 p.m. Bessie arrived. At 7.51 I met Henry and Virginie, the latter coming to stay a few days, and then I saw Bessie and the other two off by the 8.5 to Charing Cross. On my way home met Henry going down for the 8.18, turned with him, and he told me that Virginie the elder has gone over to the Church of Rome - this, when she was in London the other day. As yet we know no further particulars. Alfred wrote to tell Lucy of it. The step had been taken without his consent or knowledge.

Sunday 18. As usual, to early Celebration. School - (M did not go) - and 11 and [7] Services. V. to the 2 last.

Monday 19. A very hot summers day. V's fiance Dr Quinton came at 3. After that we had a capital game at croquet, M and Dr Q. against V and myself. We won, though at first we seemed to be much overweighted. He returned by the 8.5.

Tuesday 20. Wind S.E. and very hot. Captn Saxby has predicted very bad weather from this the 20th to the 24th. No sign of it at present. Picked our first peas today, Ringleader sown Febry 23. At 5.30 we had Waghorne's pony carriage and took a delightful drive, to Bromley, round by Plaistow, looking at the Church, round into the Widmore road by Freelands Place back into Bromley and across by the station, down Hayes Lane to Hayes, and as far as Keston Mill. Back by Well, Wickham and Elmers End. This pony and carriage are both very nice and one gets over the ground capitally.

Wednesday 21. Still very hot. Glass falling slowly. In the afternoon we took V. to Clapham and left her there. We dined. Intensely hot and close.

Hollingbourne

Thursday 22. Very hot. Busy packing and gardening. At 3.11 met Mrs Lester at the Station, and we all three went down together to Maidstone. Her carriage was waiting for us at the station and we drove to Hollingbourne - called 6 miles but I think not more than 4 1/2 - but a very hilly road. The village is prettily situated at the foot of the centre range of Kentish Hills, and is divided into upper and lower. The former where Mrs Lester lives has the Church, Vicarage and a fine old Manor House and is on the old Pilgrim road to Canterbury. Mrs Lester has a very comfortable house, with stabling, cowshed, two small fields, but very little garden. The Vicarage is next door to her. It began raining late in the evening.

Friday 23. Raining all the morning and till 3 p.m., when Mrs Lester, M and I took our waterproofs, and walked up the steep hill at the back of the village which is the Sittingbourne Road. It must be very beautiful in fine weather. Made the acquaintance of Mr Gibson the Vicar and his wife. Rain ceased altogether at 3.

Saturday 24. A fine morning. In the afternoon we drove with Mrs L. and Miss Gibson to the next village, Harrietsham, to call at the Rectory. Went in and had tea on the lawn. It seems a nice place. Rectors name, Riddell. After tea played Croquet at the Vicarage, M and Miss Gibson against Mrs L. and self. We won.

Sunday 25. No early Service here, and having no School, I have quite a holiday. Went to Church at 11. It is a rather nice old Church and has lately been reseatd by Sir G. Scotts son. S. G. Scott is Mrs Gibsons brother. After early dinner M and I took a walk along the Pilgrims road (westward), and after evening Service (5.30 we and Mrs Lester, Mr Mrs and Miss Gibson walked along it to the eastward, a walk that M and I took after returning from our drive yesterday.

Monday 26. After dinner Mrs Lester, Mrs Gibson, M. and I had a beautiful drive, through the village of Leeds to Sutton Valance, the situation of which place is most picturesque. The village lies along the face of a very steep hill, and the view from it over the Weald of Kent is most beautiful. I looked out for Chart Sutton, where William learnt farming 40 years ago, but could not make it out. For Sutton Valance we drove across to Staplehurst, put up the horse, and looked at a house. It had capital grounds, but was bad in itself - faced right upon the Village Street and had a public house just opposite. The situation of the village is rather good. We got home by about 7, having driven between 18 and 20 miles. After tea had a short game at Croquet.

Tuesday 27. After dinner M, Mrs Lester and Mrs Gibson went out together and Mr Gibson and I walked over the hill to Huckinge, to look at a house to be let there. Rather a nice little house with lots of garden and fields to be had with it, at a very moderate rent, but so horribly isolated. Very pleasant in summer, but it must be terrible in winter. After tea we had another fight at Croquet. This time Maggie and Miss Gibson were victors. While playing a wonderful black fog came rolling over the hills from the N.E. called here a Sea Roke, and said not to give cold.

Beckenham

Wednesday 28. After a very pleasant visit, left soon after 10. Mrs Lester drove us to Maidstone and by 1.30 found ourselves at home again. Weather very sultry and

threatening. In afternoon some distant thunder and a few drops of rain. At 6.50 by train to Sydenham Hill, and dined with the Nicols. A large party - 18. Everything in very good style. Met some old Bombayites - Col. and Mrs Whitehill, Mr and Mrs Lidderdale. Got home by 11 p.m.

Thursday 29. After early dinner, M and Ellen went over to Bromley. I went to Clapham - called to see Lucy. Found with her Mrs and Alice Paton and Harriet Tierney. Stopped a few minutes and then went on to the Oval to see the match Gentlemen v. Players. Saw the latter out for 238 and the Gentlemen go in. The great Grace was bowled by Emmett's 3rd ball for 0. A bad beginning. Got home by 8 p.m.

Friday 30. M and I left by the 9.50 for Norwood Junction and at 10.28. went by L B & SI. to Lewes. Had 35 minutes to wait there, so had a look at the county town of Sussex. Not much of a place - not equal I should think to Maidstone. Thence went on to Rotherfield to see a house there. Found delightful grounds garden little farm conservatory hothouse, everything we want, but the house so very tiny - not a room more than 12x12 and 7 feet high. It would be impossible to live in it, and no church within a mile. The agents description stated that the drawing {room} is 18x18 - it is really not 13x10. It is very disappointing to find such a house for otherwise it is a charming little property. When we got back to Lewes, we ought to have had only 7 minutes to wait, but our train was 20 minutes late and consequently we got to East Croydon too late to catch our Norwood Junction train, and our only resource was to walk to Addiscombe Road and take the mid Kent train to New Beckenham and consequently did not get home till 6, instead of 5.

July 1876

Beckenham

Saturday 1. To Victoria by the 9.41. Thence to Harrow, getting there at 11.17. Went to Kittys. George who is on leave was waiting at the station. At 1.5 went up by bus to Harrow and to the Briars. Dined there and then Henry and I went to the Cricket Ground to see a match between the school and I Zingari in which the latter had much the best of it. Indeed the boys play did not give much hope for their success against Eton on the 14th and 15th. Went to the station for the train due at 8.11 but as usual at Harrow it was 30 minutes late consequently we missed the 9.25 train at Victoria and had to wait till 10.15, not getting home till 11 p.m.

Sunday 2. Both very tired but up to early Celebration. I to School, both to 11 a.m. Service. I went to afternoon School and after it M. met me and we went to the Jones to take some forms which arrived from Mrs Cleveland this morning. Stayed till 5. Did not go to evening Church, but sent Ellen instead. Mr Drayton came in and walked round the garden.

Monday 3. Busy in the morning, and at 1.50. went to Crystal Palace Station. Thence walked to the Queens Hotel to see Dr and Mrs Johnstone, who are staying there. Sat with them for some time, and they brought me home in a carriage. He is better than when he left Bombay but still very [ill]. He was much pleased with Beckenham and would like to get a house here for a time.

East Woodhaye

Tuesday 4. Left by 8.52 train for Victoria. Cabbed to Paddington, thence by 10.15 Express to Newbury, and by carriage to the Hassards at East Woodhaye, 5 miles distant. Found Mrs H. very well, the Coll looking fairly well but very lame - going about on 2 sticks. They have a pretty little house and 8 acres of ground. Hassard drove into Newbury and brought back Col. Anderson. Mr Owen, a most [amusing] Curate who lives close to them, dined with us.

Wednesday 5. Coll Anderson left about 11. He does not look a bit older than he did at Dharwar. We walked with Mr Owen to look at a house called Stargrove. Much too large for us, besides being very damp and badly supplied with water, but a beautiful property of about 30 acres. Had a very pleasant walk. After lunch Mrs Hassard went with us in the pony carriage (I driving) first to a house called The Elms - very dear and very damp - then on to a pretty little house called "The Grove", but with very little ground and very little accommodation, too far from Church and the Churches near here are not such as we could wish. We were most politely received by the present occupants by name Davis. We then drove as far as High Clere.

Thursday 6. After lunch, drove out. We intended to have gone onto the downs, which are close at hand, and about 1050 ft above the sea, but the weather was so threatening that we did not venture, but drove about the lanes. The country here is very pretty - densely wooded except on the hills, lovely distant views. Rain in evening.

Friday 7. After lunch we drove with Mrs H. to call on a Mrs Bruxner who was anxious that we should see her house which she wants to let for the winter, but it is far too large for us, a beautiful house and grounds but no land. After this we drove to High Clere Park to see a cricket match between Highclere club and Hungerford, the latter being beaten. The playing was very slow.

Beckenham

Saturday 8. Did our packing and at 12.50 said goodbye after a very pleasant visit. Got to Paddington 30 minutes late. Cabbed to Victoria where we found Harriet Tierney awaiting us and came home by the slip coach at 5. Found all well, but no rain - everything dried up. We had had heavy rain at intervals as far as Slough.

Sunday 9. M and I to early Celebration, and I to School as usual. Harriet with us to 11 and 7 Services. Hear that the Johnstones have taken the Roberts house for a month.

Monday 10. After lunch Harriet, M and I went to the Crystal Palace. They went in, and I went to the Queens Hotel to see the Johnstones. Then found them at the Palace. Saw Myers' Hippodrome - no great things - also the Aquarium. Some new bedding in the gardens.

Tuesday 11. Weather terribly hot. Rain much needed but no appearance of it. Glass going higher and higher. Did nothing particular today. Burrell came in the afternoon and brought some celery plants &c.

Wednesday 12. The Johnstones came in to Roberts house yesterday and I saw them in the evening. Today Mrs J. called after lunch and walked with Harriet and M. into the Village. Harriet and I dined at the Jones, and M. came in after.

Thursday 13. Heat increases. Garden going to the bad. After lunch the Camerons called. At 3.45 we had Waghornes pony carriage and drove to Bromley, then across the line by Bickley Station through Southborough, onto Bromley Common as far as Trinity Church thence to Keston as far as the Fox. Then down the hill and to Addington, up the hill to Shirley Church, then back to Wickham Street and so home. A long drive. Unluckily hazy and no views.

Friday 14. I went by the 9.41. First to India Office for Fund - [Bennetts] - Hamptons. Cabbed to Dr Sibsons calling at Lumleys for their list. From Sibsons by bus to Newgate Street. Got pattern of paper for Cora. Got Debenham's list. Then by underground to Onslow Square, where Maggie and Harriet Tierney had gone by a later train. Met Mrs Tierney. Lunched there. Then we went by underground to Baker Street and cabbed to Lottes - she was not at home. Got a cup of tea then walked into Regent Street and cabbed to the Cooperative. Home by 7 p.m. After saw the Johnstones.

Saturday 15. Dr Sibson insists more than ever on my avoiding bread and vegetables, so I am eating biscuits. In Lumleys list have found a house which seems very nice at

Thatcham 2 1/2 miles from Newbury. We have written to the Hassards about it. It is close to the Church which is very handsome and with good Services.

Sunday 16. M was too tired to go to early Celebration or to morning Service. I went to both, and to School as usual. We both went in the evening.

Monday 17. Heat very great. No rain. Today commenced packing. Began on the big box in the pantry. By Dr Sibsons advice, got up early and had a walk before breakfast. In the evening we went as usual to the Johnstones.

Tuesday 18. Had a short walk before breakfast. After finished the box we began yesterday. After lunch by train to Sydenham Hill and called on Mrs Nicol. Very hot indeed. Got home before 5. Johnstones in evng.

Euston Square

Wednesday 19. To town by the 9.41. First to Albert & Unwins (hairdressers) - [Pacton] - Gorrings and Coop, then to Royal Academy, where we remained till 5.30. There were some very good pictures, though nothing to cause a regular crush. Met Mrs and Miss Fuller and had a long and pleasant chat with them. By 6.30 to Euston Square. Found Elizabeth there. She had just come up from Bournemouth to see her doctor. John and Emmie dined with us. Douglas away for his holiday.

Beckenham

Thursday 20. About 11.30. M and I walked to Bakers in Holborn to look for a magnifying glass for Alfred. Then walked up Oxford Street and to Lotte by 1.30. Lunched there. After to Regent Street, and walked all the way back to Euston Square. Left at 8.50 by cab for Holborn Viaduct. Home by 10 p.m.

Friday 21. Busy packing. Wrote to the Vicar of Thatcham near Newbury about a house he has to let. In the evening to the Johnstones.

Saturday 22. Packing, and in the evening gardening. About 7.30 Elizabeth suddenly came in - quite unexpectedly. Bessie and the two young ones had gone off to Bournemouth so, as she had to see her doctor again next week she came to spend Sunday with us.

Sunday 23. M[']s chest rather uneasy, so she did not go to early Celebration, and as it rained rather sharply at 10.45 neither she nor Elizabeth went to 11 Church. I went as usual to early Celebration and School. After afternoon School I went to the Jones, had tea with them and home again in time to go with M and E to evening Service, and after I went for a few minutes to the Johnstones.

Monday 24. Elizabeth left by the 11.18. Both of us busy packing till tea time. After gardened and went to Johnstones.

Tuesday 25. Heard from Vicar of Thatcham that his house is let. M. much disappointed. She went to London by the 9.41 on business called at Lumley's who

had not heard and would not believe that it was let. While M. was away, I did some packing and we went on [when] she came back.

Wednesday 26. Had a holiday from work, as we could only pack for a short time after breakfast. M's cough and faceache troublesome At 12.40, Mrs and Miss Fuller and Edith Douglas came to lunch, and we had a very pleasant afternoon. Had a game at Croquet. I saw them off at 5.20, and at 6.45 we went to the Jones's and had a quiet dinner with them alone. Had a very nice evening.

Thursday 27. Hard at work packing today. The Jones, have most kindly offered to take in all our things, but I do not like having our very heavy boxes taken up their nice stairs with the chance of tearing paint and paper. In afternoon called on Mrs Owen, and the Hopkins and Mrs Pierce. Saw them all. In the evening to the Johnstones.

Friday 28. I went to town by the 9.41 train. First to Williams office then by bus up Park Lane to Brook Street. Saw Dr Sibson, who recommended a run into Scotland or Yorkshire. Then walked down Bond Street, calling at Lumleys and one or two other agents. To Charing X. by train to Cannon Street. Called at Marsh, [Millners & Co] agents then to Ludgate Station. Had some lunch there and home to Beckenham by 3. Very tired indeed. Did not go to the Johnstones.

Saturday 29. Had up Mr Curtis to arrange about our boxes. He is to take them all at 8/. the first month, but if kept more than one at 6/. a month. He is to come on Monday, pack the davenport and take away all the big things. This is a great relief. In the afternoon we went to the Jones. Saw Mr Jones, who was almost angry at our not sending the boxes to him.

Sunday 30. M's cough still bad, but her face better. She went to early Celebration and to 11 Service. I to my School for the last time. At 5 we went to the Camerons and had tea with them. Then to Church. Looked in at the [Shedes] and while there the Jones, who had been at our house, came in to look for us and we walked with them to the station.

Monday 31. After breakfast Burrell, who had been down on Saturday helping me, came again. Mr Curtis came and before 1 p.m. we had got everything heavy cleared away. Then began the very troublesome work of clearing up all little things. We worked till dusk. Mrs Johnstone called and M. walked home with her to say goodbye.

August 1876

Clapham

Tuesday 1. Busy up to the last moment putting together all our little things and at 1.18 bid goodbye to the Heatherlie, and went to Mrs Green at Clapham, where we were soon made quite at home. In the evening went to Williams, where we found Lucy, who had just returned from Blockley. My birthday, but not a very pleasant way of spending it.

Wednesday 2. Up early. Left by train at 8.50 and to London Bridge, where we took the train for Blackwater. Got there at 12.10 and found General Elwyn waiting for us with his brougham. It was about two miles to his house - Holly Hill Yateley. As soon as we thought of this place M. had written to Bertha Sidebotham. Mr S. had written to tell the Vicar, Mr Sumner, a grandson of the late Bishop, that we were coming to look at a house and he had written a note asking us to lunch with him, but General and Mrs Elwyn had already asked us to do so. We found the house small, i.e. only two sitting rooms, but with nice garden and fields, in all about 10 acres. But the great drawback was that General E. will only let it for the remainder of his term - 16 years - and as we should be subtenants it would be very difficult to get rid of it if we did not like it or find it suit us. The climate seems excellent and the country nice - good society. After lunch General E. drove us to the Vicar, who showed us the Church, and was very pleasant, though not nearly so high as we have been used to at Beckenham. I think the Services would do, and Mr Sumner seems disposed to go quietly forward. He says that the Church feeling in the Parish is excellent. We returned to Holly Hill, had a cup of tea, and then to the station and got home by about 7 p.m. It is a very roundabout journey to Blackwater, going all round by Redhill and Guildford.

Thursday 3. Quite a wet morning. After lunch I went to Victoria and to several House Agents, especially to Cronks 23 Cockspur Street, to enquire about two houses - one near Wrotham, the other at Knockholt. M. went to 327, where I met her, and we had a very pleasant evening, meeting Andrew [Jakes] and his wife and Augustus J. The last I had not seen since we left Harrow - the first since 1841.

Friday 4. A drizzly day. Writing letters in the morning. Among others to General Elwyn, telling him that we had decided that we could not tie ourselves to his house for so long a time, with the almost insuperable difficulty that there would be to letting it again if necessary. Having seen in the day's paper an advertisement for a house and 12 acres of ground at Horsell, close to Woking Station, after lunch we started off to Clapham Junction and thence to Woking. When we got there it was raining, but we found the house about 3/4 mile from the station. It was no go. Rather good grounds but house not fit for a gentlemans occupation, and village generally poor looking. When we got back to Clapham Junction it was raining hard, so we cabbied home.

Saturday 5. Went by the 11.35 to Beckenham. First to Bank and Curtis's, then to the Heatherlie. Saw Mrs Dalglish and the two Miss Langs. The eldest is very pleasant looking, the younger not so much so. Paid rent and sat some time. Then round the garden and after on to Johnstones. Had some lunch. Mrs J. had gone to London, but came in while I was there. Home by 5. In the evening we went to Lucy.

Sunday 6. To Holy Communion at 8 a.m. at the Parish Church. Celebrated with much reverence though not Eastward position. At 11 to St Andrews. Met Mrs Walthers, who walked a good part of the way back with us. She told us that Mr W. has got the Senior Curacy at St Matthews, Brixton, worth £250. About 4 p.m. William came in and we returned with him. Went to evening Service at S. Johns. General Elwyn has reopened communications about his house, asking us to take it furnished for 2 or 3 years.

Monday 7. Bank holiday, so did not go out anywhere house hunting. Writing letters. Wrote to General E. offering to take his house furnished for the 6 winter months, and after that if it suited our health and we found it large enough, permanently, on condition that he transfers the lease to us, as I will not take any place as a sub-letting. M. was rather out of sorts during the morning. We went out for 3/4 hour on the Common before dinner and to the rise in the evening.

Tuesday 8. Writing till lunch. After we trammed together to Westminster. Thence M. went by bus to Oxford Circus and Lottes. I went by underground (heat most intense) to Mansion House, to a lot of house agents for lists &c. Cheapside, R. Exchange, Bishop gate St, Moorgate, St Pauls Church yard. By bus to Oxford Circus and to Lottes. Found M there. We stayed till 5, then home by bus and tram.

Wednesday 9. By tram to London Bridge, thence by 11.20 train to Dorking S E Station. First to Whites, the agents, then to Miss Weatherby's, 5 Rose Hill, a very pretty part of the town. Lunched there, then to see Meadow Bank, a house of Mr Cubitt's, a beautiful site close to S E Station. 5 minutes from Parish Church, but a miserable house. Home by the 4 p.m. train. In the evening to William and Lucy.

Thursday 10. Having heard at Whites yesterday of a house near Leatherhead, we went today by tram to Vauxhall and thence by S.W.R. to Leatherhead. There took a carriage and drove to Little Bookham. It is a charming drive of 3 miles through beautiful country, through Fetcham and Great Bookham. At the former a magnificent looking house and park belonging to Mr Hawkey. We found the house the most ill looking externally of any we have seen, and nothing to make up for it except that the grounds were very good - 12 acres in all. When we got back to Leatherhead we had more than an hour to wait for the train, so looked about the place and into the Church, which is very interesting. On arriving at Vauxhall went by tram to Victoria. Did some business at the Cooperative and then home by tram. It is rather a tedious job getting from Victoria to Clapham by tram. In the evening had a letter from General Elwyn saying that his landlord made no objection to the lease being transferred to me, and offering us the house for 6 months on very liberal terms, and asking us to go down and spend a night.

Friday 11. Writing &c. till lunch. Then trammed to Westminster, to India Office, and got my pay. By underground to Blackfriars. Got some neckties and a hat. Then to the Oval and saw a match between Surrey and Middlesex. Home to dinner and in the evening to Williams.

Saturday 12. After lunch to Beckenham. First to the Heatherlie and settled everything there. Maggie made the acquaintance of the Miss Langs. Then to the

Johnstones and after that to the Camerons for a few minutes. We had not time to go to the Jones', which I was very sorry for. We had promised to go to Lucy in the evening, which we did.

Sunday 13. To early Celebration and 11 a.m. Service at the Parish Church. The heat intense. About 4 William came up and at 5.15 we returned with him and went to evening Service at St Johns.

Monday 14. Got a card from Mrs Lester to say that Coll L. was to be at the Charing Cross Hotel today, to meet his dog Frolic. So I calculated by what train he would come up and went and met him. Then I had lunch with him, and after I went to Robersons for a drawing book for M, and then to Cooperative and back to Clapham (Lucys) to dinner, where I found M, who had gone there to lunch.

Tuesday 15. By the 9.40 from London Bridge to Yateley. General Elwyn met us at Blackwater and we spent a very pleasant day, not returning till the 7 p.m. train, which is so slow that we did not get back to Clapham till 10.15. We liked the place better this time than the first, and saw it more thoroughly. If nothing occurs to break our plans we shall go there about Oct. 1.

Wednesday 16. Had a very busy day packing up all our things both to take with us and to leave behind. I had asked Lester to dine with us and instead of coming at 6.15 he arrived at 4.30, which delayed us a good deal. Mrs Green gave us a very nice little dinner and just as we had finished John and Douglas Petrie came in and we all walked down together to Williams. At 10 Lester and the Petries went off together by train to Westminster and home. William and Lucy are to go to Worthing on Friday, taking their 2 maids with them.

Ilkley

Thursday 17. Up at 6.30. Got all our work done and by 9.10 were off for St Pancras and at 10.30 started by the Scotch Express, Midland. I never travelled in such a punctual train. The road generally good, but in some parts rather rough. The pace round some of the curves rather alarming and the feel of being suddenly pulled up by the Westinghouse brakes, with which the train is fitted, rather startling. We reached Ilkley at 4.43 and found Lotte waiting for us on the platform. She had found rooms that we took for a week and at once settled into them. Last night in London there was a great change for the better in the weather, and this morning it was quite cool and continued so till we got to Sheffield, but from that gradually got hotter. In the evening it was pleasant out on the hill side.

Friday 18. A cool pleasant night, but this morning very dusty with a strong E. wind blowing. After breakfast, we went out about the village with Lotte. Then M and Lotte went onto the hill side but I stayed at home. In the evening M, L. and I went up the hill to the reservoir and went nearly to the top of the hill, about 500 feet above our house, and that is about 125 above the river. At present I see no great beauty about this place. One looks up the valley of the Wharfe, but the country is mostly bare and the moors are hardly worthy of the name. The air may be very good but that seems to be the chief attraction. The place is very full. Yesterday evening we met Major

Hawthorne, who is here with his wife and a lot of his sisters, and in the same house with us are the Lidderdales.

Saturday 19. M. rather out of sorts. The rooms we have got are not very comfortable. We have only taken them for a week. Out on the hill for 2 hours before dinner. M. suffering much at times from colic. About 5 the Hawthornes came in and Mrs went with us and Lotte onto the hill. M. very poorly at bed time, so much so that I had to give her some calomel and opium.

Sunday 20. M. slept pretty well but was in great pain again this morning, so much so that she could not get up to breakfast and we did not go to Church. Continued very poorly till one p.m., after which she got much better. Lotte and I went to Church in the evening. M. sat on the hill for a short time.

Monday 21. M. all right. Out on the hill much of the day. In the evening we went to see some luminous moss which Gertrude Denny had discovered in a little cave on the hill side. I think this place rather grows on one, but certainly Monday is a bad day for it as the whole place swarms with trippers.

Tuesday 22. Out before lunch on the hill. After M and I went for a walk by the river and found a cricket match going on, with which we amused ourselves. After tea found that we could have some very nice lodgings next Monday, so have determined to go on a little excursion to Settle or that neighbourhood on Thursday when we give up our present lodgings. With Lotte we had a nice walk up the hill above the Wells. It was too cold to sit about. Wind has come strong from the west and the lights have been lovely all day, making the landscape more beautiful than we have yet seen it.

Wednesday 23. Heard from M.A. inviting us to Virginie's wedding on the 14 Sept, which we shall not be able to go to. They sent to us from our new lodgings that we could not have them till tomorrow week, so as we can stay where we are till Friday, we are going tomorrow to Bolton Abbey. On the hill morning and evening.

Thursday 24. Had a wagonette and pair and at 10.15 Lotte and Evie, Gertie and Connie Denny and ourselves started. Weather threatening. A few drops fell before we got to Bolton. Drove in to the Stridd. The drive from this to Bolton beautiful. Lovely peeps at the Abbey and river. Put up the carriage close to the Stridd. Here the river Wharfe is penned in by low walls through which it has cut its way, but I had expected to find the Stridd a chasm of 80 or 100 feet deep, instead of which the channel is no more than 10 or 12 feet deep. The Stridd itself, where the boy of Egremont was pulled in by his dog is about 5 feet wide. It is a beautiful walk of about a mile through the woods and meadows to Barden Tower, and the view both up and down the river from Barden Bridge is lovely. We spent about 2 hours roaming about and sketching and then sat down on the rocks by the Stridd and had our lunch. Just as we had finished, it began to rain - not heavily. We sat about under the trees until 3.15 when the rain ceased and we drove back to Bolton. The afternoon turned out very fine but the rain made the grass so wet that it rather spoilt the pleasure of our visit to the abbey. This is very beautiful, both in itself and more particularly in its position on a beautiful green sward, raised some 25 feet above the river Wharfe, the valley surrounded by fine woods. The west part of the building is most beautiful, but partially concealed by a great tower commenced in 1520 and still unfinished at the

time of the dissolution in 1540. Though it has spoilt the effect of the west front it has probably materially protected it. The nave west from the central tower is still used as the Parish Church and is very nicely fitted up. We went to Evensong at 5.30.

Opposite the west front is Bolton Hall, the Duke of Devonshire shooting box. The central part of it was the main gateway into the abbey grounds. Below the abbey the river is crossed by 59 stepping stones placed with great regularity. At 6 we had tea in a cottage just outside the grounds, and got home without more rain, but rather cold, at 7.45.

Friday 25. Busy packing. Got most of our boxes taken to our new lodgings to be kept till our return. Sat a little time on the hill and then dined with Lotte and at 2.50 left for Settle, which we reached at 6 p.m. After numerous changes and a wearisome journey found the town quite close to the station. Went out for a walk up a very steep hill behind the town, from which we got a good view of the surrounding country, with which we were disappointed, as it did not seem to promise any sketching. Back to our hotel, The Golden Lion, and had a supper tea and [came] to bed, but without much hope of sleep as our bed was so uncomfortable looking and we could not get it altered.

Saturday 26. Our anticipations were fulfilled. Slept very badly and moreover M. was rather out of sorts in the night. After breakfast went out and made enquiries about the place, and from what we heard thought that Malham would be better worth seeing, but could get no carriage to take us there. It is 8 miles direct from Settle, but the road is so bad that they prefer to go round 13 miles and always charge it as such, so we determined to go from the old station to Bell Busk and run our chance of getting a conveyance thence to Malham. Settle is rather a neat little market town, with a very foreign look. 3/4 of a mile from it is the village of Giggleswick. We got to the old station with difficulty, the regular omnibus having been taken off to go to a cricket match at Clitheroe. There was only an old brougham in its place and when it came up to the hotel there were 7 or 8 women stowed away inside. So M. and I got on the box with the driver and I held onto the luggage which was put on top without any fastening. We left the station at 12.40, and on reaching Bell Busk at 1, there was no carriage of any kind, so the Station Master sent off a boy to Kirby Malham, 4 miles, to order one and we filled up the time writing letters, reading the Leeds Mercury, and also went to a farm house and got some milk and bread and butter, and about 3 a waggonette arrived and by 4 we reached Malham. Had drizzling rain part of the way and it soon set in for a wet evng. But for all that we had a walk for nearly an hour. Malham is quite a small primitive village, not a shop of any kind in it. The Church is 1 1/4 miles off at Kirby Malham. There is a good deal to be seen here if the weather will let us see it, but the glass has fallen much and it looks as if the weather had quite broken.

Sunday 27. Glass rising and weather looking better, but still unsettled. At 10 walked to Kirby Malham, 1 1/4 miles to Church (10.30). It is a fine old Church but in dismal condition. Full of square oak pews like sheep pens in a cattle market. It is capable of holding 7 or 800 people, but there were not more than 90 or 100 present and really I do not wonder at it. The Service cold and unattractive and the sermon the most unchristian production I ever heard, without either religion or morality. Indeed it was rather a defence of suicide than anything else, and besides this the clergyman is very unpopular from being exclusive and not knowing any but the few rich people among

his congregation and parishioners. When we got back from Church we found the inn full of trippers from Bradford, Burnley &c and very noisy they were. We went off for a walk to Malham Cove, a wonderful semicircular cliff of limestone, nearly 300 feet high, from the base of which flows a considerable stream of clear water, forming one of the sources of the river Aire. While here it came on to rain heavily, but as long as we remained under the cliff we were quite dry, for its top overhung its base by 6 or 7 yards. However we had to leave our shelter and then had a wet walk home. By soon after 5 the trippers had all left, and as it was fine we started forth on another walk, to find our way to the great wonder of this place, Gordale. We did not intend going there this evening but were tempted on and certainly were well repaid for our trouble. Going up a valley, high cliffs on each side, it seems to narrow to a point, when turning sharp round a corner one finds oneself standing between two stupendous cliffs, one perpendicular, the other overhanging 12 to 16 feet, and from between them at a height of 60 feet a stream of water rushes through a circular opening in the rock and then forms a small fall at the feet of the cliffs. It is really a very grand sight, wild to a degree. It was dusk when we got back to our inn, having had lots of good air and exercise today. We found it quite quiet. Glass rising and promise of a fine day tomorrow.

Monday 28. Last evenings promise was not kept. It rained much of the night and today it hardly left off at all till 5 p.m. We occupied ourselves drawing and writing letters, and the post brought us the Guardian, which was a great help. There are no London papers to be got here - only the Bradford Mirror. Poor Maggie was suffering from face ache all day. At 5.30 we started for a walk and went right up to Malham Tarn, a beautiful little lake in the hills, about 580 feet above the village. On the western bank is a fine house belonging to Mr Morrison, a Londoner, the great man of these parts. The lake is full of fine trout and perch. The water from it flows out in the direction of Malham Cove, over which it would naturally be expected to fall, but when about half way to it, it suddenly sinks into the earth and reappears it is said some way below the village, not the stream that comes out beneath the cliffs of the cove. They are said to come from a spring in the moors to the south of the Tarn, the water of which in like manner sinks into the earth. The water of the Tarn is said to be intensely cold and hard. Indeed all the water of the limestone district is very hard, and all the people save rain water. The Tarn is said to be 3 miles from the village, so our walk was about 5 1/2 miles and the greatest height reached 600 feet. M's face was very bad all the evening and continued so until bed time.

Tuesday 29. Heavy rain set in again in the night, and when we got up the weather looked worse than ever. M. got hardly any sleep till 5 a.m. after which time the pain ceased and she got some sound sleep. Again writing letters in the forenoon. About 4 p.m. the rain left off and we walked up the road by which we went to the Cove on Sunday, but went on right up the hill till we got 640 feet above the village. I went up a rocky mound and got a good view of Malham Tarn but it is much further from the village by the road than by the other side of the Cove. The views down the valley are finest from this side. All this part of the Craven country consists of limestone rock, in some parts as much as 1000 ft deep and to this formation are due the perpendicular cliffs and scars, and the sudden disappearance and reappearance at a distance of streams of water. Extensive caves also occur as that of Ingleborough. The heather is very scarce, the hills being covered with fine short grass. About Malham the trees are almost entirely ash, with some sycamores and thorns. Lower down the valley a few

oaks. Elms seem entirely absent. Stone walls instead of hedges are a hideous feature. There is at present no arable land, though a good deal of land was evidently under the plough some years ago. No hay ricks are seen, the hay being entirely stored in stone barns.

Wednesday 30. The morning again wet until breakfast time. At 10.30 we walked over to Gordale, on our way looking at Janets Force, which is a very trifling affair. We remained at Gordale Scar till 2.30, M. getting two good sketches. Wind very cold and weather threatening. Several visitors to the Scar. We got home by 3 p.m. and immediately after rain began again, harder than ever and continued almost all the evening. I somehow managed to catch a bad cold in my head and went to bed very seedy.

Thursday 31. Had a very bad night. M's face and my head both bad. Found the morning bright but very stormy looking. At 9.50 left the Buck Inn, where we have been well cared for and made comfortable. But for the rain we should have enjoyed our stay here very much. As it is we are very glad we came, and particularly so that we were here instead of at Settle. Mr Benson drove us over to Bell Busk in a Perth Dog cart with pair of capital cobs. From Bell Busk our journey was most tedious. First we changed trains at Skipton, then had to wait one hour and 40 mins at Shipley. We went into the town to try and get some photos of Malham Cove &c, but Thorton, the photographers, shop was shut. It rained most of the time that we were there and continued to do so more or less all day. Reached Ilkley at 2.30, took a fly and went to our new lodgings, which we found ready for us. Then to Lottes and got a letter from Gnl Elwyn - quite satisfactory. The landlord is willing to endorse the lease to me. Had some dinner. In the evening we went to supper at Lottes, it being the last evening of the Denny girls being with them. Poor M's face worse than ever.

September 1876

Ilkley

Friday 1. Had a wretched night. M. up for 2 or 3 hours and hardly got any sleep till daylight. Made enquiries about a dentist. Found that there is a very good one at Bradford. He lives here but will not see anyone. I went to his house and saw his wife (Mrs Martin) and from her learnt that he does not go to Bradford on Saturdays. So we got our dinner early and went over to Bradford by the 2.50 train. Got to his house at 4.15. Had to wait an hour, when he took out a tooth which I was sure was the cause of pain - though it was not decayed it was loose and had an abscess at the root. This proved to be the case. M. had it out without gas, and being loose it gave no pain, but she got immediate relief. We got away by the 5.50 train and came home with Mrs and 3 Miss Hawthornes whom we met at the station, and were well pleased with our afternoons work. The train only stopped once, at Burley, and we were in Ilkley by 6.30.

Saturday 2. M. had a good night and is entirely free from pain. I still feel some effects from my cold of Thursday night. A rather dull morning. Yesterday while we were away Mrs Lidderdale called. Mrs Waller and the Dennys went away also. In afternoon Lotte went with us for a walk along the Burley road. We went into the top of the Cow rock (410 feet above our house and 550 above the station). When there it began to rain and there was evidently a heavy storm coming up from the west, so we turned homewards as fast as we could and just reached the shelter of an unfinished house in time to avoid a torrent, and after waiting nearly half an hour we got home all right.

Sunday 3. To the Wooden Church morning and evening. Day fine.

Monday 4. Before dinner Lotte M and I walked up the Keighley road behind the Wells House. Views beautiful. Air bright and clear. Settled to go sketching by the river in afternoon but it became quite dull and hazy, so only took a walk on north side of river. Lotte and Evie had tea with us and we played whist. Evening when they went home.

Tuesday 5. Raining and blowing very hard all night. High wind but bright this morning. Glass rising. After dinner called on Mrs Lidderdale, then with Lotte walked through Middleton woods, up the hill to the W. Then home by the Lodge. A very pleasant walk. In evening glass falling again.

Wednesday 6. Heavy rain and high wind. In the afternoon got only a short walk. Tead with Lotte and played whist. Raining hard when we went home.

Thursday 7. Glass slowly rising. Weather looking rather better. Out on the moor by the little lake for a short time after dinner, as it looked rather brighter. M. went to the same place to try and get a sketch, but the sun became clouded over and all light lost. So we started to try and get to the Valley of Rocks but found the moor so wet that we had to turn back, and had a long walk along the Leeds road. Sun came out bright again and it was very pleasant, after having one sharp shower.

Friday 8. The weather looking more promising, we determined to be off to Fountains Abbey, which we have been long wanting to do. We left by N.E. train at 10.30, reaching Ripon at 12.17. Took a carriage. First went to the Cathedral or Minster, which is well worth seeing. The first sight on entering the Nave is very fine, and there is much that is interesting, but we did not go all over it as we wanted to make the most of the fine weather, and go on to Fountains Abbey. This is about 3 miles from the Minster, and stands in the grounds of Studley Royal, the seat of Lord Ripon (Earl de Grey and Ripon). The village of Studley Royal consists of about 15 or 20 houses just outside the park gates, one being that of the Vicar and the rest labourers cottages (no beershop). The Church is in the park, quite new, commenced by Lord Ripon before he became a Roman Catholic (about 17 years ago) and now being completed by his wife. It is a beautiful object, standing on rising ground at one end of a long avenue, at the other end of which, though much beyond it, appears the old Minster of Ripon. The effect is very striking and the contrast most pleasing. At one end the new white, delicate looking Church, at the other the grand dark mass of the old building. After a drive of about 1/3 of a mile through an avenue of limes one turns off to the left by a broad piece of water through a short but most perfect avenue of beeches, reminding one of the "Grand Gothic arches" of Savernake Forest, to a lodge and gate leading into the more private part of the grounds. Here one leaves ones carriage, some stabling being erected for the accommodation of visitors horses, and paying 1/ each at the lodge enter some of the most picturesque and beautifully kept grounds that I have ever seen. The trees are glorious, and there are many really magnificent individual specimens of firs, beeches, chestnuts &c. There is a great deal of artificial water and velvet like lawn, with about 2 1/2 miles of walks, with seats, temples &c placed at the most exquisite points of view. We did not take this long round but went by the shortest way to the Abbey (3/4 mile) and greatly delighted we were with these. They are of immense extent, covering originally [twelve] acres. A very fine tower (1684) on the north side is in good preservation. The nave and choir are 300 feet long beyond which is the Lady chapel or chapel of the 9 altars - 50 x 140. This last is the most beautiful part of the Church. On the South of the nave lies the Cloister court, a charming spot, into which opens the Chapter house, Kitchen and great Refectory. This last must have been a grand hall 109 feet long by 46 1/2 wide. Also on the south side and at the west end of the nave is a long row of Cloisters formed of double intersecting arches. They are 300 feet in length, and at the S. end are carried across the river Skell. Besides these there are many other buildings, the two houses for strangers, the Infirmary, Abbots House and many others of which little more than the foundations or a few feet of the walls remain. The little river Skell flows along the south side of the valley in which the Abbey stands, and the space being confined by lofty banks the river has been arched over in many parts. Besides the end of the Cloisters above mentioned, the Infirmary, a great part of the Abbots house, the Refectory belonging to it, and its Kitchens, Ashyard &c stand actually over this river. It is this little river than further on forms all the ornamental water already referred to. On the north side of the valley are sandstone rocks, from which the stone for the buildings were quarried. These ruins are far grander and more imposing than those of Bolton but the situation is not nearly as fine. No part of them are in use at the present time. Maggie made a sketch in the Lady Chapel. We were disturbed for about 10 minutes by rain, but otherwise had it fine, and here the rain is not so troublesome as at Bolton, for though both inside and outside the buildings of the Abbey &c there is nothing but grass, it is kept so fine and closely cut that one can

hardly get wet on it. The place is thrown open to the public till 5 p.m. daily. (Visitors are not admitted after 5 but they are not hurried out at that time). The reason of the 1/ admission fee is, that there was much misunderstanding about paying guides, so the 1/ was established and nothing is allowed to be given to anyone. We returned from the Abbey by the opposite side of the water to that we had gone in, and found the views more beautiful. We got to the station at 6, and left at 6.20. Had 40 minutes to wait at Arthington and did not get home till 9.15, after a delightful day. Found that they had had more rain here.

Saturday 9. More rain in the night. Had a short walk before dinner. M. meant to have sketched after, but it rained from 2 to 5. After that we had a little walk with Lottie but the rain again turned us back and was very heavy in the evening and at night.

Sunday 10. Finer today. At 8 to early Celebration at the Wooden Church. At 10.30 to the Parish Church where Revd Mr Gorham preached a very good sermon for the S.P.G. I suppose he is brother of Ellen G. In the evening we went again to the Parish Church, where a Mr Burnett preached - also for the S.P.G.

Monday 11. We had a very bad night, M. being constantly disturbed by violent sickness, so that neither of us got much sleep. This continued until nearly 9 today, so she did not get up till 1 p.m. After dinner a good deal better and she had a little walk with Lotte.

Tuesday 12. M. almost all right again. She and Lotte went up the Wells road and she sketched, while I walked on up the Keighley road and had a beautiful walk over the moor till I could see the chimnies of Keighley and Bradford. In the afternoon Lotte had a carriage. Took us for a drive on the other side of the river, thro' Denton Park as far as the village of Asquith {?Askwith}. The river is very pretty. About 1 1/2 miles below Ilkley Bridge are some stepping stones like those at Bolton Abbey. Lotte came and tead with us. Evie was to have come also but did not. She is very peculiar. I was much grieved to see in the paper today, the death of my kind friend and adviser Dr Sibson. He died quite suddenly while in Switzerland for his holiday.

Wednesday 13. Busy packing in the morning. After dinner with Lotte we had a very pleasant {walk} on the other side of the river as far as the Stepping Stones. We have found out this walk too late - we should like Ilkley better if we should ever come back to it as we know its capability better than we did. Tead with Lotte and Evie and played whist.

Hornsea

Thursday 14. Virginie's wedding day. At 11. sent off a telegram with love and best wishes to the Bride and Bridegroom. At 11.20 we wished goodbye to Lotte and Evie, at the station and started for Hornsea. We had 1/2 an hour to wait at Leeds and 45 minutes at Hull. At the latter we took a short walk in the town. From Leeds almost the whole way the country is very flat. At Milford we crossed the old Gt Northern line to York, and at Selby the present line. Near Brough came in sight of the Humber. Here flags were flying all about the neighbourhood, in honor of the Prince of Wales' visit to Mr Sykes at Bartingham Thorpe for the purpose of being present at Doncaster Races. We reached Hornsea at 5, and were met by Mr and Mrs Trevor, who took us

to the lodgings they had got for us, close to their own house, and we spent the evening with them.

Friday 15. In the morning M and I with Mrs T. went to the beach, and Trevor met us. It is a sleepy kind of place - no harbour - an open sandy beach, with low earthen cliffs above and below the village. A few cobbles on the shore, but the men seem an apathetic set, doing very little fishing. Indeed the population is much more agricultural than marine. The village, which contains 1600 inhabitants (and is I believe called a town), lies between the sea and a beautiful freshwater lake called Hornsea Mere, about 5 miles long. After dinner Trevor and I had a walk to the south side of the Mere. The view of the town from this point is really beautiful. At 5.30 we went to Service. The church is a very fine one, well restored about 3 years ago. Tead and spent the evening with the Trevors. They have living with them Mrs T's mother and 1/2 sister, Mrs and Miss Morphew.

Saturday 16. I spent most of the day looking on at a cricket match between Hornsea and a neighbouring village, Sigglesthorne. It was a poor affair. Neither party mustered a full eleven, indeed Hornsea had only 8. They were badly beaten. Mr and Mrs Trevor tead with us. We have got very decent lodgings - a small sitting room, fair bedroom, and a second as a dressing room for me, with a very pleasant landlady. We found our second lodgings at Ilkley most comfortable.

Sunday 17. Rain in the night but cleared up. Fine and bright by church time, 10.30. Found ourselves in for S.P.G. sermons here, as we were last Sunday at Ilkley. From 2 to 3.50 there was rain and thunder and lightning. At 4.45 M and I got a very pleasant walk. To Church at 7.30 and after sat with the Trevors for a short time.

Monday 18. Fine morning. At 10.45 the Trevors and ourselves started in a pony carriage for Beeford, his fathers place. We first called at the Vicarage of Atwick and looked at the little church which is being entirely rebuilt, a pretty little red brick building. Just after leaving this we had a light shower. We reached Beeford about 1 p.m. and were very kindly received by Canon & Mrs T. and two daughters. Spent a pleasant afternoon. Left again at 5. Had a sharp shower for 10 minutes and got home by 6.30. Canon & Mrs T. and one daughter had preceded us. At 7.30 I went with several others of the party to an S.P.G. meeting at the Schoolroom, where Mr Vivian, the clergyman who preached yesterday, Canon Trevor and T.T. all spoke.

Tuesday 19. Glass risen much - a lovely day. Before dinner on the beach, M. sketching. After Mrs T. M and I went to the other side of the Mere, and M. began a sketch. I went to 8 a.m. Service and after down to the station and I also went there after dinner for my paper. Tead with the Trevors and played Bezique.

Wednesday 20. Glass still rising, but weather dull. At 11.20 T.T. Mrs and Dora with our two selves went over to Hull. The object of our going was to take Dora to a Dentist, as she has been allowed to neglect her teeth to such a degree as to seriously affect her health. She goes into Hull every Wednesday for a singing lesson so having left her there for this we look[ed] about the town till 2 p.m., when we met Mrs and Dora at the Dentists. The little one had two teeth out (without gas). After this we went and saw Trinity Church, having before this seen St Mary's Cowgate. Both very fine, but the first a really magnificent Church, of great length and height, with a

central tower, but unfortunately only the Nave is used. All east of the tower is empty, the altar standing under the tower. This of course quite spoils the beauty of the Church and it is not likely to be otherwise as the living is in the hands of [Pimson's] trustees, and therefore must always be held by a low Church man. St Mary's on the other hand is held by a high Churchman and I suppose a wealthy man. It is in most perfect order, every window full of beautiful glass, and is at all times open for private prayer. I suppose it is a family living as the late and present Vicars were father and son, Revd [I]. Scott, relations of Sr G. Scott, and they have themselves done a great deal both to enlarge and beautify the Church. I have nowhere seen more beautiful modern stained glass. In Trinity Church the effect of the east window from the west end is very fine indeed, but distance lends enchantment and when seen close by, the work is very coarse. We found them putting up a very fine new organ to be opened next week. From the few notes we heard it seems to be an exquisitely toned instrument. We left Hull at 4.20 and were back by 5. Spent the evening at the Ts and played Bezique.

Thursday 21. Being St Matthew's day there was early Celebration and we went to it. Glass falling. I hope we are not going to have rain, as we want to go to Beverley tomorrow. In the afternoon M and I went along the road on the S. side of the Mere for some distance, and then on our way back she sketched for 3/4 hour. Mrs Trevor, Mrs Morphew and Dora tead with us.

Friday 22. A beautiful morning. At 11 we (that is the Trevors (Mr & Mrs) M and myself) started in the pony carriage we had on Monday, and drove to Beverley, (12 miles) an almost flat uninteresting journey but the end of our journey well paid us for it. Beverley has two very grand churches, the Minster and St Mary's. We went to the latter [a] first, and spent nearly 1 1/2 hours there. It is very beautiful - has been very well restored, some of the work still remaining to be done. There are some very curious features, particularly some interlacing arches in the North aisle of the Chancel. We went on from this to the Minster a church of surpassing beauty. I have long wanted to see Beverley Minster but had no idea of its being so beautiful as it is. In both these churches there completeness and uniformity of style are very striking, for though in the Minster there are various styles, Early English, Decorated, and perpendicular they all flow into one another so easily that one does not feel any break in their continuity. Both inside and out, they are beautiful - outside the Minster is especially grand. The town of Beverley seems very comfortable, without much of the manufacturing character that disfigures so much of Yorkshire. This of course is due to the fact that in this low lying district of Holderness there is no coal. We got home about 7, and had tea with the Trevors.

Saturday 23. Such a change from yesterday and we congratulated ourselves on our good fortune. It has rained almost all day. Mr Trevor and I played at Billiards after breakfast, and he and Mrs and Dora tead with us. He went away to a Committee meeting, and we had a game at Bezique.

Sunday 24. We went to early Celebration and to 11a.m. Service. Another wet day and glass falling There was no walking to be done. We went to 11 a.m. and evening Service and after for the last time to the Trevors. Gave Dora a tip - to her great pleasure.

Euston Square

Monday 25. Very heavy rain in the night and at 6.30 when we got up, so I went to the Inn and ordered a fly at 8.45. Mrs Trevor and Maggie rode down, and I walked to the station. T and Dora met us there. The rain had ceased and during the day it was fine. We left at 9, going to Hull with Signor Lancelot. Only waited a few minutes there, then on to Doncaster, where we joined the Gr Northern. We reached Kings Cross at 3.45 - 30 minutes late. On looking for our baggage found that Maggie's black Portmanteau was missing, but there was one so like it left unclaimed that I felt sure that someone had taken ours by mistake. So having deposited this at the Cloakroom we went to 44 Euston Square and as soon as I had got a cup of tea and washed up a bit, I went back to the station and found as I hoped that our trunk had been brought back so I took it triumphantly to Maggie's great satisfaction. Found all well, Mary looking wonderfully much better than when we last saw her.

Tuesday 26. Directly after breakfast walked with Douglas as far as Holborn Viaduct and went thence to Beckenham. First to Curtis, then to Mr Caton - saw him, Miss Langs - saw only Mrs Dalglish, then to Mr Wraytons. Called on Mrs Stride, but she was out. Looked in at the Church and found her there. Then to Waghorns to enquire about his pony - he had sold it, then to Camerons. Left Beckenham by 1.18 train. Went to Clapham Road but Lucy was out, so had some lunch and then to Mrs Greens. Back to station and so to Victoria. To the Coopve and got a ticket for Elizabeth. Then walked to the Strand and looked at a Papyrograph. Walked as far as 7 Dials and then by bus to Euston Road, getting home in time for dinner. John and Emmie came in after dinner.

Wednesday 27. Directly after breakfast M. and I went to Islington to enquire after two Cooks - no good. Then by bus to Regent Street - bought a lamp like our own at [Honeys] and sent it to Mrs Trevor. Then to the Soho Bazaar, where M. stayed more than an hour enquiring for servants, but without any result - none of these Londoners will go into the Country. We lunched at Simpsons, and then by bus and tram to Clapham, where we found Polly with Lucy. I then went to Mrs Greens - met Mr G. by appointment and arranged all about getting our things down which we had left with them. He is to bring them all when he comes to take the inventory on Monday next. Dined with Lucy and William. Home by rail.

Thursday 28. At 12. M and I went by Underground to Queens Road station. Thence to Mrs Fullers, 70 Kensington Gardens Square. Found her at home and Mrs Orr staying with her. She asked [us] to lunch so we first went to 63 and 103 Hereford Road to see Charlotte but failed in finding her. Then to Kildare Terrace (21) and saw the Johnstones. He has been ill with Bronchitis but is better. They say they are going to Bournemouth on Saturday. Then back to Mrs Fuller. Her daughter and the son who is in Sr G. Scotts office were there and we got some information for Elizabeth about the studies necessary for an Architect. They think that that profession may suit Graham. We wanted to have called on Mrs Scott, but had not time. In the evening, Elizabeth, Bessie, M and I dined at Johns and Mary and Graham came after. Met there Mrs Duncan and Mr Birch, an architect, cousin of Emmies. He has lately been at Yateley and speaks very highly of the country there.

Friday 29. Soon after breakfast M. and Bessie, Mary and I went out. We all went together as far as Queens Road Bayswater, where Mary and I got out and went to Mrs Clarke Records' and chose a hat. Then went straight home in time for lunch. M. and Bessie went on to Earls Court and called at Mrs Thomson's but did not see her. She was not up. Then they went to Mrs Scotts. After lunch I went up Seymour St. to a bootmaker to give some orders and then called at Harrington Square (16) and saw Rose Jenkins and her mother and sisters. Blanche J. has some very nice pictures. When I got back Maggie had come in and was ready to go out again, so we walked to 12 Margaret Street, where Lottie is lodging but she was out. We then went on to Carters and ordered some boots. Then back to All Saints Church in time for Evensong. Met Lotte there and M. went with her to her lodgings while I ran down into Oxford St and bought some flowers for Mary. We then walked home. Miss Wardell (Marys former governess) and her niece Miss Goodyer dined with us, as also a friend of Douglas, a Mr Powell.

Saturday 30. Very wet. Directly after breakfast M. and I walked to the top of Tottenham Court Road. The buses being all quite full we cabbied to the Army and Navy Coop, where we did a great lot of business. Then we came back by omnibus. Still wet, and after lunch worse than ever till about 4.30. M. having found something wrong with one of her boots, she got yesterday, I took it myself to Carters. Had our last evening at Euston Square as we are to be over at Clapham all day tomorrow. We have enjoyed our little visit very much indeed. They are so affectionate and make us completely at home. Each visit seems pleasanter than the last. This time it has been a great treat to see dear Mary so much better, and Elizabeth also looks better than for a long time past.

October 1876

Euston Square

Sunday 1. Soon after breakfast we went to Tottenham Court Road, then cabbied to the [Mains] at Westminster Bridge and thence to Elephant and Castle. Went to the new Church at Newington, a very fine building but at present looking very bare, and I should think very bad for hearing as well as speaking in. We then walked to Kensington Park and by train to Clapham. After dinner William and I walked to Mr Greens, and across the common. Went to Church with him and Lucy at St Johns, and directly after wished them goodbye and to the station hoping to catch a train at 8.34, but it had been taken off this very day, and we did not get back to Euston Square till past 9.30. After supper did some packing

Yateley

Monday 2. Up at 6. Got all out packing done in good time before breakfast (8) I went across to the Euston Station and got a Bradshaw to make sure of our train, as there is often a change in October. At 9 said goodbye to all the dear ones and went to Charing X where Burrell met us with our little dog, now called Tim, which, with a good deal of trouble, we kept in the carriage with us. At London Bridge looked out for Mr Green, who was to go down by the same train, taking with him a lot of things of ours, but we could not see him. Got to Blackwater at 12.5 but no Mr Green. Took a cab and went to Holly Hill. Found everything that the Elwyns could do done for our reception. A very decent woman, Mrs Rackley, to cook &c pro tem and a nice looking girl as housemaid. About 1 their agent arrived but it was not till 2.15 that Mr Green made his appearance with our things to our great relief. About 4.30 all our things from Beckenham were delivered. We found that the cow, Daisy, calved yesterday morning. Mr Green and the other agent left about 6, and so we take possession of our new home. This time really a country house.

Tuesday 3. Being very tired last night we were not down till rather late and the first news that greeted us was that the cow Daisy was sick. I gave her a dose of medicine, and just then farmer Ellis came in and strongly recommended sending for a cow doctor who lives at Eversley Blackwater, 3 1/2 miles off. So our man James was dispatched and about 1 p.m. the man came and at once set to work to do his best, but the disease, milk fever, had got such hold of her that the case very soon appeared to be hopeless. He hardly left her all day, and was constantly backwards and forwards. Besides this I got two or three of our boxes unpacked, that we most urgently needed the contents of and Maggie put the things away, so that on the whole we had a very busy and anxious, day. At bed time the cow was evidently dying.

Wednesday 4. The poor cow lived till 4.30. Fortunately we are relieved from all anxiety about the calf, for Capt Mason, who had agreed to take it, sent for it this morning. A man also came and took away the dead mother. Had a little rain in the morning, but in the afternoon it was fine, so we began digging up potatoes, which are spoiling much from the late rains. Went on unpacking and putting away. We seem to like the house better now that we have come to know its details than we did when we saw it before. The bedrooms are much nicer than those at Beckenham, and though we

have only two sitting rooms we shall be able to supplement these by one of the bedrooms, still leaving us one large and one small room for visitors. Just as we had got to bed, Mrs Rackley knocked at our door and told us not to be alarmed if we heard moving about, as the sow Sally was about to be confined.

Thursday 5. Began rather earlier rising than we have been used to, 7 instead of 8. Heard that Sally had got 12 little ones. On Tuesday I was put into rather an awkward position about the cow. About 4 p.m. the farrier recommended me to send for the butcher and have the cow killed, as she would then sell for several pounds for meat, but if she died she would only fetch a few shillings for her skin. I had to do what I thought General Elwyn would have done for himself in the case, as all the loss is his, and I decided not to let her be killed for meat as the flesh must be to a certain extent diseased, but to try all means to save her if possible. I wrote at once and told General E. what I had done. Today I had the satisfaction of hearing from him entirely approving of the course I followed. Today we picked a large crop of pears, which he had on one tree, as they were falling every day. Also got the rest of the potatoes dug up and taken indoors. In the morning M. and I were busy unpacking. In the afternoon we were in the garden.

Friday 6. Heavy rain from 6.30 a.m. to 10. After fine. Continuing our household works, and in the afternoon we had a very pleasant walk through the Village, and along the Reading road. On our return we met Mr Sumner the Vicar. The Village consists chiefly of houses lying scattered round a fine open common. The weather is very warm, quite too steamy for this time of year. Sold 4 1/2 bushels of pears for 18/-

Saturday 7. Again heavy rain till nearly 1 p.m. Today we have finished all our unpacking and have got everything stowed away, even to the book box and the large packing case, neither of which did we ever empty at Beckenham. Indeed we find that we have a great deal more room here than we had there. There are so many fixed closets and shelves besides abundance of wardrobes and chests of drawers. Then we have the coach house, and a room by the hayloft to stow boxes in, and good cellars, larders and dairy below the house. One thing we much want is a good coal cellar. That is very bad being outside the house and open to the air. We have two Alderney cows giving about 6 1/2 pounds of butter a week and a large poultry yard, at present giving about 4 eggs daily. After dinner we walked across to Sandhurst, to the Church, which is pretty and where we find they have Celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on the 2nd 4th and 5th Sundays in the month. It is about 20 minutes walk from us. We then walked along the Wokingham road till we came to a bridge over the railroad, where there is a capital view of Wellington College.

Sunday 8. We intended to go to early Communion at Sandhurst, but there was such a dense wet fog that we did not do so. We went to our own church at 11, and were pleased with Mr Sumner. He preached an excellent sermon, and as if from the heart, far better than we have been in the habit of hearing at Beckenham, and the Service generally was very decent and orderly. The lessons were read by Mr Corrie, the owner of Yateley Hall. We find that there is Celebration of Holy Communion next Sunday at 8.30 a.m. There are services at 11, 3 p.m. and 6.30. Mr Sumner has only been here one year and he has already remodelled both the church itself and the services. It is a very plainly or even ugly building outside, but he has made and is

making it very nice inside. The evening was so wet and I had a sore throat so that we did not go to church in the evening.

Monday 9. Very wet in the morning but after fine. After dinner James and I got in 300 young spring cabbages, also manured the asparagus bed. Mr and Mrs Sumner called. After M and I went out for a walk. We went up the lane opposite our gate, which brought us out onto the heath, and onto the High road to Exeter on the famous Hartford Bridge Flats, so well known in the old coaching days. Here I think was the famous piece of hospital ground mentioned by Nimrod in his article in the Quarterly Review. It keeps up its character now, for it is as smooth as a croquet lawn and not a stone as large as a hazel nut to be seen on it. Here we found a glorious open breezy heath with fine distant views. We walked back to within about 1/4 mile of Blackwater Station and home by the road, having had a delightful walk.

Tuesday 10. The rain came on again about midnight and hardly ceased till 1 p.m. today. About 3 Mr and Mrs Tindal from Eversley called. Then we went for a walk, into the village, then up a lane behind Yateley Hall, and came out on Cricket Hill. Then home by a lane which brought us out at the foot of our hill, between Yateley Lodge and Mr Stilwells grounds. While we were out Mr and Mrs de Winton Corry of Yateley Hall called.

Wednesday 11. Rained tremendously during the night and at intervals till 3 p.m. when with a heavier shower than any before it cleared up. At 4.35 we went out and walked by the back way to Blackwater Station. This took us just 40 minutes. We returned by the main road, taking 35. Glass rising, and a bright clear sky.

Thursday 12. A lovely morning and continued bright till noon. After the wind backed to the E of S. and it became cloudy. Just as we had sat down to dinner a lady and gentleman were announced, and proved to be Emmie Petrie and Sam Eggar who had ridden over from Bentley. It was a great pleasure seeing her. After some food and looking round our place, they left again about 3, and directly after Captn and Mrs and Miss Mason called. They seem pleasant and homely people. At 4.15 we started for a walk to York Town. Got to the station in exactly 35 minutes. Found that York Town begins immediately on the other side of Blackwater Bridge, and extends for about a mile, till it merges into Cambridge Town beyond this at no great distance, Bagshot. The grounds and the Professors houses of Sandhurst College lie on the left of the road. We went to see Mr Alcock about a horse and he promised to bring one to show us tomorrow. At 5 it began to rain slightly and continued to do so almost till we reached home, but not enough to wet us. After 6 in rained more heavily till bed time. Our little dog Tim was rather sick all day, but I do not think that there is anything serious the matter with him. On Wednesday we sent off a little basket of butter, eggs and fruit to Euston Square.

Friday 13. No rain, but dull. Glass rising. After breakfast rain set in again and continued at intervals till past 3 p.m. At 4.15 we walked as far as Blackwater. A fine night. Tim all right again today.

Saturday 14. Wet again till 3 p.m. A nice old lady, Mrs Rush called. After that we went out and returned the Sumners call. Only found Mrs at home. She seems a rather nice person but shy.

Sunday 15. A lovely morning and continued fine all day. To early Celebration at 8.30, and to Service at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. It is a novel experience to be walking to and fro in pitchy darkness without light of any kind. It will not be pleasant in winter.

Monday 16. A lovely day. One or two light showers. Very busy in the morning, unpacking box from Cooperative. I have missed my snakeskins. Hope they are not lost. After dinner we went out and called on the Masons and Corry. Both out. And when we came in Mrs and Miss Becher called. Then we took a short walk to give Tim a run.

Tuesday 17. Fine weather. Hard at work in the garden, both M. and I weeding &c till dinner. After walked to the Village and a little way along the Reading Road.

Wednesday 18. Continue to have nice bright days and making good use of it in the garden. At 10 to Church, being St. Lukes day. Mr Sumner read only the preCommunion Service. After dinner we walked to York Town and made some little purchases. The prevailing S.E. wind makes it rather warm for long walks.

Thursday 19. Fog in the morning, but beautifully bright after. After dinner called on Mrs Rush (out) and on Mrs Becher. From Cricket Hill walked to Hartford Bridge Flats and met Mrs and Miss Becher. Looked in and had tea with them as we returned. They are very pleasant. Yesterday while we were out, Mr Sitwell called, and apologised for his wife not being able to do so.

Friday 20. A very dull day with N.E. wind. No sun. At 10.10 walked to Sandhurst Church, thinking the Service was at 10.30. Found it was at 10, but we got in time for the Litany. After Service the Clergyman came up and asked us whether we should like to see the church, and he showed us all over it. It is an exquisite little gem, an old church most beautifully rebuilt 7 years ago by Street. Then he took us to his Schools and was altogether most pleasant. He is not the incumbent. The Rector is a very old man and some time ago was offered the choice of resigning the living or having someone put in charge. He preferred the latter and this gentleman, by name I believe Deacon, was put in by the Bishop of Oxford. We had a very pleasant morning. Got through a great deal of work in the kitchen garden. In afternoon we only walked a short distance to Darby Green to get some brooms. There was a very little rain at one time.

Saturday 21. Very dull all morning with cold N.E. wind. Working at the sewing machine and also picked a lot of Spanish chestnuts of which we have two trees. After dinner Mrs Denny, wife of Dr.D at Blackwater called. As soon as she was gone we went for a walk, and went as far as the extreme end of York Town, about 3 1/4 miles, and did some little matters of shopping. The afternoon turned out very fine with exquisite sunset. On our return found that the De W.Corrys had called again. Yesterday we put up 4 fine cockerels to fat.

Sunday 22. Up early and went to early Celebration at Sandhurst at 8 a.m. Mr Deacon was not there but we had a very nice Service. At 11. to our own Church and again at 6.30 p.m. A cold dull day, with fine drizzle in the evening. We took a lanthorn to light us to and from church, and when we came away, there was quite a procession of

lanthorns, which were lighted in church. Heard this morning from Lotte that she would be with us on Tuesday.

Monday 23. A wretched day. Thick fine drizzle, neither fog nor rain all day. After dinner our horse arrived. We had been waiting for it to return the Tindals call, believing that {their} road {was} at Eversley, but on enquiring from James, I found that though in Eversley Parish their house is within 1/2 a mile of the Robins Grove, so not more than 1 1/2 miles from us. So in spite of the bad weather we walked there, but unfortunately met them on the road and agreed to go there on Saturday aftn. He has a Billiard Table and invites me to go and play. We walked on as far as their house.

Tuesday 24. We expected Lotte this afternoon but she wrote to postpone her coming till tomorrow. After dinner we had the carriage out for the first time and drove to Blackwater, then to York Town, through the grounds of the Staff and old Colleges, which are very picturesque about the two lakes, and home by Sandhurst village. A very dull cold day but no rain, and in the evening more promise of fine weather than lately, wind having veered to the S.

Wednesday 25. A beautiful day. At 10 to Service at Sandhurst Church. At 3 Mrs Rush called again. It seems to be the fashion here, if you are out when a visitor calls, to return the call immediately. At least both the Corry's and Mrs Rush have done so. Then just as we were going out, Mr Deacon the clergyman at Sandhurst called. Then we drove out, called at Dr Dennys but Mrs D. was out. Then took a short turn to the station to meet Lotte. At the station we met Mr and Mrs Corry and spoke. Lotte arrived all right at 4.40.

Thursday 26. A very dull day. No sunshine at all. After breakfast gathering chestnuts. Mr Sumner came in. I promised to work in the Sunday School, and M. to do some visiting. After I walked some distance with him, and had a good deal of talk about Church matters. After dinner M. and I drove to the Hall and saw Mrs and Miss Corry. Then home and started for a drive with Lotte. We took Tim with us, but he got so frantic, that having got as far as Mrs Bechers we were obliged to turn home again. Then we took a walk as far as Darby Green.

Friday 27. Fine with a little sun till 11, then dull. At 10 we went to Service at Sandhurst, and after it, we all walked with Mr Deacon to his cottage, a tiny little place high on the hill close to Mrs Blakeleys, with a glorious view. In afternoon we drove to York Town, then by Hawley Church into the high road again by Dr Denny's, along the road onto the Flats as far as the turning to Cricket Hill and so home.

Saturday 28. M. and I went to Church at 10, it being SS. Simon and Jude. At 2.45 we drove to the Tindals, where M. and Lotte having called left me. They drove to York Town, and I remained and played Billiards. Walked home.

Sunday 29. To early Communion M and I. Then at 11, we all three went to Church. It turned out beautifully bright so after dinner we had a walk. In the evening M and I went to Church. Beautiful moonlight.

Monday 30. A lovely day. After dinner we went for a drive. First to Eversley, where we looked over the church. It is so nice looking outwardly that ones expectations are raised, but not to be at all fulfilled by the interior. It has been restored since Canon Kingsley's death, as a Memorial to him. It gave me the idea of being like a Greek Church. There is something altogether incongruous about {it}. From this we went by Eversley Blackwater crossed the river, and went on to Finchampstead Ridges, a tract of high open common from which most extensive and beautiful views are obtained. From this we descended towards Wellington College by a straight road, planted on each side for half a mile with splendid specimens of Wellingtonia Superba. This is the work of Mr Walter of the Times, who has an estate here. From this we went through Sandhurst Village and the College grounds to York Town and so home by Blackwater. I do not think I ever had a more beautiful drive, and on a clear day, so that distances could be seen, it would be finer still.

Tuesday 31. A brighter day than yesterday. Not a cloud from sunrise to sunset, with a brisk wind. Doing a lot of work of sorts. M. and Lotte had a walk. After dinner some friends of the Coles, Miss Rymill and Miss Woods, two young ladies from Sandhurst called. After this we walked to the Village, at the back of the Hall to Cricket Hill and so home. A sharp frosty feeling night.

November 1876

Yateley

Wednesday 1. A sharp frost, white. Ice in some places 1/4 inch thick. Bright sunshine all day. After breakfast walked with Lotte as far as the bridge near Sandhurst. She went to Celebration at Sandhurst. Then home and with M. to Service at our own Church. After I went to the Sumners and then with Mr S. to the Schools. I have undertaken the office of Superintendent of the Sunday Schools, to begin next Sunday. After dinner we drove to Fleet Pond. It is about 4 miles, a great part of the way through Mr Raikes Curries place Minley Manor. On our return went to Blackwater and home by the lower road. Sharp frost so I put our hurricane lamp into the porch.

Thursday 2. Very dense white frost, but I think not so cold as night before. Cloudy till 9.30. After very fine, wind drawing to westward. Before dinner James and I busy picking chestnuts, of which we have a great lot. After dinner drove to York Town, then to Frimley. Home by Hawley. Saw where they are making the new S.W. branch line from Ascot to North Camp. It passes close to York Town and Frimley.

Friday 3. No frost. Glass falling. Dull morning afternoon fine. We walked to Yateley Mill which is down the lane by the Plough. Here there is a footbridge across the river and also a ford. We then walked round by St Church and home by the usual road. Sent a hamper to Euston Square.

Saturday 4. Heavy rain during the night, but left off before morning. We took Lotte to the station for the 10.36 train, and after drove along Hartford Bridge Flats for 3 or 4 miles. Home by Vigo Lane which leads from the Flats beyond the Cricket Hill turning, at the back of Yateley Manor. Had a very nice drive. In the afternoon had a short walk.

Sunday 5. Today commenced my duties at the Sunday {School}, taking charge of the 1st class of boys and being Superintendent. Had 13 boys, for the most part much younger than at Beckenham. Some nice little fellows among them. The School seems to be far better managed than at Beckenham. We went to Service at 11. Did not stay to H Communion. Had a walk at 3. Beautiful afternoon. To Church at 6.30. We took for the first time a hurricane lamp, and coming home we had quite a large party availing themselves of our light. Lotte left us yesterday, having we think, decidedly benefitted by her visit, which has been a complete rest to her. During the week past, we have heard of the death of our poor old friend Mrs [Rampke] a happy release after her nearly six years of suffering, and to the poor daughters it must indeed be a great relief, as they have long known that all their loving labour would not restore their mother to health. We have also heard from Fanny, that Eliza has had a great fall back, but is slowly recovering.

Monday 6. A very dull day. We began getting the manure out of the straw yard into the fields today. After dinner we drove to Sandhurst to return Miss Rymill and Miss Woods' call. We met them just at their gate, so they turned back, and we had a pleasant chat. Then took them in the carriage as far as our turning. Miss W. knows

Harry and his party. Then we called on Mrs Rush - out, then home. Left the carriage and walked to Mrs Bechers where we had a cup of tea and a talk. They Mrs and Miss B, have more life in them than all the rest of the Village. Feeling quite frosty.

Tuesday 7. A dense white frost, but not very cold. Beautiful day. Finished carting out the manure and drew in 3 cartloads of mortar rubble for the lower cowshed. Drove out and called on Mrs Gibson, then to York Town, to several places, cook hunting, and home through the college grounds and Sandhurst.

Wednesday 8. Very thick white frost. After fine. At 11 I took James with me and went to see the beasts at Blackwater fair. I saw one rather nice looking Alderney Cow, but on getting my neighbour Mr Cobbett to look at it he recommended me not to buy it, as its milk was so very poor. There were a lot of fine Devon oxen, the most striking feature, a good many horses and ponies. Came home to dinner. After M and I drove to the fair and then home by Cricket Hill. It was bitterly cold. At sunset it clouded over as if rain was coming. Glass has been falling all day.

Thursday 9. Little if any frost. Not white. Cloudy for the most part till noon. After bright but very cold. Heard from Mrs Dalglish that my snake skins, which I almost feared were lost, were safe at the Heatherlie. After dinner we walked to the Village and round at the back by Yateley Mill Lane. At 5 p.m. a thermometer on the grass in the middle of the lawn stood at 27.

Friday 10. White frost. At 10, we went across to Service at Sandhurst. At 1. M. went to see one of her poor people on Darby Green, and at 1/4 past I picking her up en passant, went to the station and met Bessie. We did not go out again. Mr Mason called about 3, to ask me to go over to the Tindals and play at Billiards, but we were at dinner. At 4 Mrs and Miss Becher came to aftn tea and I walked home with them. Freezing sharp.

Saturday 11. So cold last night that I had to put the large Honey's lamp, into the porch. It is a capital thing as it throws out a good heat, without making any smell. After dinner we drove to York Town, then through the S.C. and M.C. grounds and Sandhurst Village, home. My feet so painful of a morning, that I can hardly walk, but getting better through the day. Glass falling much.

Sunday 12. Rain began at 11 last night. Much too wet to go to Sandhurst to 8 a.m. Celebration as we hoped to have done. At 9.45 I went to Sunday School, and M. and Bessie followed to Church. Continued raining all day, and M. and B. did not go in the evening. I went, and read the lessons, Mr Stilwell being away.

Monday 13. Rain all day. Hardly got out at all. Today a woman belonging to the village, by name Mrs Newell came to apply for the situation of cook. Though for some time here, she had only just seen by our advertisement in a Reading paper, that we were in want of a cook. It seems hopeful. We heard from young Fan yesterday, that having applied to Mr Vulliamy for a small additional allowance, to enable Bessie to go with them to Cannes, he had taken Councils opinion and on it had withdrawn what he had already been granting for the boys and professor, so that they are in serious difficulty and Fanny is going to sell out some of her County [Bank]. We should be sorry for her to do this, so I have today written offering to lend her £150.

Tuesday 14. No rain and the weather has become as warm as summer. After dinner we drove first to York Town, and got some worm medicine for Tim. Then through the Staff and M.College grounds, by Longdown, to Wellington. Up the Avenue to Finchampstead Ridges, and down a steep hill into the valley, crossing the river at the ford at Yateley Mill.

Wednesday 15. Heavy rain in the night, but beautiful all day. After dinner drove to Farnboro' Station a very pleasant drive home by Frimley and York Town. Heard from Fanny that she accepts our offer of help. Heard from Lucy that William is coming to us on Saturday. He comes first to Guildford to shoot.

Thursday 16. Again heavy rain at night, but a lovely summer like day. Having heard an excellent account of Mrs Newell from the lady to whom she referred M. went and saw Mrs Mason, who spoke very highly of her, and then went and arraged with Mrs N. who is to come to us next Monday. After dinner I went with Mr Mason to Mr Tindalls and played Billiards and after met M and Bessie at tea at the Masons. They are very pleasant people.

Friday 17. Another beautiful day. After dinner drove through Yorktown to Waterers Gardens at Bagshot. It is a long hard pull of nearly 3 miles from Blackwater Station to the Jolly Farmer (formerly Golden F.), where the Portsmouth Road diverges, almost entirely up hill. I ordered 100 seakale plants.

Saturday 18. A wet drizzly day. Heard from William that he would be at Farnboro' Station at 1.52. After breakfast went to the Village and paid grocer's and butcher's bills and paid Mr Sumner a visit. When I got home it was raining so hard that I decided that it would be better not to go to Farnboro' with the carriage as I felt sure that William would prefer coming in the cab. He arrived at 2.40. In the afternoon he and I got a walk, up Cricket Hill, as far as the Flats.

Sunday 19. A brilliant sunrise and contrary to what we could have hoped a fine day. M and I went to early Celebration, and as I had to be in Sunday School at 10, I breakfasted with Mr Sumner. M, Bessie and William came to Church. After dinner we all walked to Sandhurst Church. There we met Miss Rymill and agreed to go to afternoon tea on Tuesday. M. was very tired and did not go to evening Service. The rest of us did, and I read the lessons.

Monday 20. Dry but dull, with northerly wind. As William could only stay till the afternoon at 11. he, Bessie and I went by Eversley Church, through Bramshill Park, round by Eversley Blackwater, over Finchampstead Ridges and home through Sandhurst. At 4 William left us in a cab from Blackwater. I went with him about 3 miles, then walked back and met M. and Bessie by Frogmore. Weather fair and cold. I think William seemed to enjoy his outing.

Tuesday 21. Did a lot of work about the house and garden. At 1 Douglas Petrie arrived, having driven over from Couldrey. He dined with us, and left at 3. Then we drove to the Vicarage to enquire for Mrs Sumner, who had a baby yesterday morning and after went on to early tea with Miss Rymill and Miss Woods. The latter is a cousin of Revd E. Wickham, the headmaster of Wellington College, and of the Mr

Wickham, whose wife was such a great friend of Mary Annes. She knows M A and Henry very well.

Wednesday 22. Busy improving the strawyard. At 12, two Miss Eggars came over from Bentley, dined with us, and took Bessie back with them. After M. and I went to Sandhurst P. Office, then across the fields to the Village and home.

Thursday 23. Again at work on the yard, of which I think we have made a capital job. After dinner M and I went together to the old man Whites cottage. Took him some soup and O.G. Then to the station and home by the lanes. Much cooler this evening.

Friday 24. A wet day. Began getting ground ready for seakale, but could not do much. At 1 p.m. it cleared up a little so I drove to the station and met Jeannie Woodcock. After turned out quite wet again.

Saturday 25. A very wet morning, but though it did not get bright, we managed to get a drive after dinner, by Eversley Blackwater, Finchampstead and Sandhurst.

Sunday 26. A lovely morning. M. and I to early Celebration, I remained to breakfast with Mr Sumner and after to the School. M and Miss Woodcock came to 11. Service. After dinner it became showery, and when starting for evening Church it was raining fast, so I went alone. Read the lessons.

Clapham

Monday 27. Tremendous rain all night, and so wet this morning, that I sent for a fly to take us and J.W. to the Station. At 1/4 to 12 I find from James that he had ordered it for 12.30. instead of 12, J W's train being due at 12.2. So I had the horse harnessed as fast as possible, and got her down to the station on time. M. followed in the fly, and we came up by the 12.36 train reaching Clapham at 3.30. Found Lucy and William well. Fanny Johnstone was waiting to see us. She returned by the Brighton train from Victoria.

Tuesday 28. A beautiful morning. William shooting at Canterbury. Directly after breakfast M and I trammed to Newington and M. had a tooth stopped. Then we walked on to Brookes in the Borough and did some shopping. Home to lunch and after did a great lot of work at the Cooperative. Home by 5.30. Bezique in the evening.

Wednesday 29. At 10. by tram and bus to Oxford Street and had a successful shopping. By 1.20 got to Euston Square. Found Mary looking very fairly well. She Graham, Alice and Nellie are all that are at home. Lunched and stayed till 4. Got home by 5.30.

Thursday 30. This being St Andrews Day and the day of intercession for Missions, we went with Lucy to Church, but finding that there was only to be Celebration of H.C. M. and I came away again. After lunch L. had a carriage and we drove first to Louise, where M. got a bonnet, then to Lottes where we left M, and L and I went into New Bond Street. Back to Lottes and had a cup of tea. Then to Whiteleys and on to Charlottes. Got back by 6.15. Found William in a great taking, believing it was past

7. He had come home at 5 instead of 6 by mistake and did not find it out till our return.

December 1876

Clapham

Friday 1. After breakfast I went into the City, did a little shopping, and saw John at his office. We had a long chat. He has been out of sorts, lately, feeling the depression in business very much. Got home to lunch expecting to find Harry there, but he did not come, so after I went to Beckenham. First to the Heatherlie and got my snake skins, then to Elmside and saw Mrs Jones for a few minutes. Home by 5.45. A very wet evening and I got damp.

Yateley

Saturday 2. At 10.40 left Clapham and by the 11.20 train from London Bridge. By the time we got to Redhill, it began to rain and continued to do so all day. Found the carriage waiting for us at the station. Had a wet drive home. Found that everything had gone on all right in our absence. James had not absented himself at all.

Sunday 3. A very threatening morning. I was not very sorry that there was no early Service being both tired and having a bad cold. M. went with me to Sunday School and took a class, two Miss Masons being away. It rained a good deal in the afternoon but cleared up for us to go and return from evening Church. I read the lessons, as Mr Stilwell has not yet come back.

Monday 4. Glass fell all yesterday and last night. This morning (28.20) lower than at any time during the year. Heavy rain all day. Could not go out at all. The waters are so much out between us and Sandhurst that for some days past James has taken the boy Frank home on the horse. This is a great inconvenience and makes it very undesirable to have a boy from the other side of the water, so I have given F. notice for next Saturday and must try and get someone from the village. Cold very troublesome.

Tuesday 5. Wet almost all day. Cold very bad. Was to have read at a Penny Reading this evening, but did not venture out, so sent an excuse.

Wednesday 6. Glass rising. A lovely day. Maggie went to Church as Service at 10.30 had been given out, but after waiting for a long time it turned out that Mr Sumner had forgot all about it and gone off to York Town. So when she came back, it being bright and warm like summer, we drove to York Town, and did some shopping. Did not go out again. My cold better, but still heavy.

Thursday 7. Weather again changed. Raining heavily all day. By the early post heard from Charlie Duffin that she was coming to us today by the 1.37 train, so as it was far too wet to go down with the carriage, I sent James down with a letter and to get a cab and bring her up. I hardly thought she would come, but about 2 p.m. she arrived.

Friday 8. Rain till 1 p.m. After dull. After dinner M took Charlie for a little drive. I walked into the village, saw Mr Sumner and went with him to the School and to see a

sick family. After to Cables and Gadds. Sold all but 2 of the little pigs, 2 for 18/- each, 7 at 16/6.

Saturday 9. The old horse went quite lame yesterday, and finding it still lame this morning, I sent it off at once to Mr Alcock, who sent back a big gaunt white beast. After dinner we went for a drive, to York Town, through the Sandhurst grounds and home by the lower road from Blackwater. For some time past we have been quite cut off from Sandhurst Village by the water, and while we were away James took the boy home several times on the horse. As this is a very inconvenient arrangement and Frank was very stupid, I gave him notice to go this evening, and have taken on a younger brother of James in his place.

Sunday 10. At 9.30 I went to School, and at 11 M. and Charlie came to Church. It was a dull day, but without rain. M and I went in the evening. Mr Stilwell is home again and read the lessons.

Monday 11. A fine day with one light shower at 8 a.m. We took Charlie to the 10.36 train and then drove on to Alcocks, where we exchanged the white beast for a really very nice horse.

Tuesday 12. Again wet, raining constantly till 4 p.m. Yesterday afternoon we went to see M's old man, but he was so drowsy, that it was no use trying to speak to him. Then we walked up across the heath beyond Cricket Hill to the laundress. Today after 4 we walked to Cricket Hill.

Wednesday 13. To Service at 10.30. Then at 12.30 drove to York Town, and after waiting about a long time met Tudor Trevor, who came by train due at 1.37 - was 20 minutes late. After dinner we drove round Yateley Green, at the back of the Hall, and almost to Hartford Bridge. Home by Cricket Hill. Trevor has come to town for a few days. He goes back to India in February.

Thursday 14. A dull day but no rain. Took T.T. to the 10.36 train. At 3 Mr Sidebotham arrived and put up with us. Dined at 4. At 6 we went with him to Church, where he preached. Then Mr Sumner came back and supped with us. He left at ten, and I sat up with Mr S. while {he} had a pipe. Did not get to bed till past twelve.

Friday 15. At 10.36 took Mr Sidebotham to the train. He stopped for 1/4 hour at Mrs Gibsons where he picked up a neighbour clergyman who was returning by the same train as himself to Farnham. I then drove to York Town and home. It was a drizzly damp day. At 1, Graham Petrie arrived with Alfred Eggar, with whom he is staying. They lunched and left at 4. Mr and Mrs Stilwell called and sat for a good hour. She seems a very pleasant person.

Saturday 16. Another wet morning and till 2 p.m. Then we took advantage of a break, and went and called at the Wyatts, (Hawley Rectory). Then on to York Town drove home by Cricket Hill. Met Mrs and Miss Becher who had been calling at our house. We took them back with us for a cup of tea, and then I walked home with them.

Sunday 17. A dull day but fortunately no rain. We went to early Celebration. I breakfasted with the Sumners. Then to School. M came to Church After dinner we went and saw M's old man, taking him some dinner and wine. To evening Service. Intensely dark.

Monday 18. Rain again at night and till 2 p.m. Busy making an easel for Mrs Trevor, having finished two for M to give Lucy at Xmas. After dinner we drove into the Village, and M. called on old Mrs Rush. I could not go in, as there was no one to hold the horse.

Tuesday 19. A very dull misty day. After dinner we drove to York Town, and when we got home walked to Cricket Hill and then to Tyler's. It began to rain at 8 p.m. very heavily.

Wednesday 20. Rained all night and at intervals till 1 p.m. At 3 we went out, taking James with us in livery. Called at the Masons, (at home), then at the Tyndalls. Saw Mrs T. whom I like - a very sensible homely woman. Then at the Hall, (out), and got home without any rain, which was very fortunate. About 7 p.m. it began again as hard as ever, and the glass which about noon seemed a little inclined to rise, fell rapidly.

Thursday 21. The shortest day. At last a change for the better. A lovely morning and the glass rising. Being St.Thomas' day we went to morning Service, and after dinner drove to York Town. At 6.30, to evening Service, and heard a very beautiful sermon from Revd Mr Bateman of St John's Norwood. After Service we went to the Masons to supper and had a pleasant evening.

Friday 22. Another beautiful day. At 10.30 I went to Service. M. did not, as she had a cold. Found that two lights of the new east window had been put in. They consist of single figures, in a scrollwork of 3 shades of green. In the centre lancet, our Lord in the act of blessing; in the north St Peter; in the S. St John. I do not at all like the figure of our Lord, and the face is very weak, and looks like a woman's. In other respects the windows are pleasing and by no means commonplace. After dinner we drove to York Town and took Tim with us. He behaved much better than the last time we tried him. On our return we walked as far as Tylers.

Clapham

Saturday 23. A wet morning, and so as M's cold was very bad we had a fly and went to the station by 12.36. It was snowing when we went there. This turned to rain and continued to do so all day. Our train was very late and very crowded. Travelled 1st class and had 3rd class passengers put in with us. Did not get to Clapham till nearly 4.30. Found Lucy and William well.

Sunday 24. A dull cold day. Snow lying on the ground. M. did not get up to breakfast. I went with L and W. to St. Johns. After dinner W and I went and saw Mr and Mrs Green, and he and I went to evening Service.

Monday 25. Christmas day, and a very dull gloomy one. Some thin rain. M. unable to go out. I went to St. Johns and stayed to H.C. After lunch W and I. went to Euston

Square and saw them for about 10 minutes. Found Mary looking worn and tired. She has had little Jessie there for three days and that always tires her. Fred White at dinner, as also yesterday. I played 8 games of Chess with him, but had no chance.

Tuesday 26. Ms cold better. A dull very cold day, but no rain. Directly after breakfast W and I went down to Harrow. Got to the station at 11.20, went to Kitty's and stayed there till 1 p.m. Only she and Willie at home. They walked with us as far as the Headmaster's House, and we to the Briars, where we dined. Harry looking rather seedy and M.A. bad with neuralgia. After this we went to Polly's but she was out, so we walked to the station and on our way met Kitty Willie and Capt'n William. Got home by 5.30.

Wednesday 27. Rain again. Fine drizzle almost all day. Glass fallen and falling. After lunch Lucy had a carriage and took us to the Cooperative and Goringes, where we did a good deal of business.

Thursday 28. Soon after breakfast M and I trammed to Westminster and thence by bus to Pall Mall, for the Watercolour Sy. As she got out of the bus, she dropped her new scarlet Rampuri chudda in the mud and I am afraid quite spoilt it. It is a great pity. We spent 1 3/4 hours at the exhibition. It was not at all a good one. Thence cabbied to Euston Square. Found all well but Mary, who is still looking very worn and tired. I am sure it will do her good to come to us for a rest. She and Elizabeth are to come on the 16th next month. After lunch Graham and I walked to Holborn He went into the City. I looked out for some things which I could not get. It set in to rain heavily, and I got back to E. Square very wet about the legs. Luckily had taken a pair of boots, so with a good rubbing down and warming was none the worse. At 6.30 Lucy and William came, and after a pleasant evening we all returned to Clapham together.

Yateley

Friday 29. At 10.30 we left Clapham, taking Lucy with us. When we got to Blackwater, we found James with the carriage, but as it had begun to rain a little I put Lucy and M. into a fly and it was well I did, for before I got home it was raining hard and continued to do so till dark. Found all well at home. During the evening it blew very hard.

Saturday 30. Glass has risen a little, but it still looks very rainy. Mr Alcock did not let us have our nice horse back yesterday, but the old chestnut. So this morning I have sent James back with it. Got the horse home and as it cleared up at 2 p.m., we drove into the Village and round the Green. At 5.45 William arrived.

Sunday 31. Rained and blew very hard all night, but cleared up by early Service, to which I went but M. did not. I breakfasted with the Sumners. M and Lucy drove to Church. W. walked. After dinner W. and I walked to the station. Looked in at the White Hart to order a fly for W. tomorrow, and saw Mr Gomm's carving. M, W and I to Church in the evening. It remained beautifully fine all day.

January 1877

Yateley

Monday 1. New Years day. Rained and blew almost all night. Glass fell more than 1/2 an inch. William was so busy that he could not stay with us, and left at 9.45. Maggie went to Holy Communion at 10.30. I was disappointed in not going at all, but we did not like to leave Lucy alone. Tried to get a drive in the afternoon, but in vain. Walked as far as Mr Kelseys new house and looked over it.

Tuesday 2. Glass rose 1 inch. A beautiful morning. At 11. went out for a drive, by Firgrove to Eversley, through Bramshill Park, by E. Blackwater, Finchampstead Ridges. Home by Sandhurst Lane, where we found the water so deep it was over the step of the carriage. In the evening the wind came to SE and it began raining again.

Wednesday 3. Rained all night and is continuing to do so this morning. Did not get out at all beyond the garden.

Thursday 4. Wet all night and till 7.30 a.m. After that fine enough to take Lucy to the station. We were very sorry to part with her, having enjoyed her visit very much. From the station we went on to York Town. When we got home found a letter from Fanny to say that her two boys would come to us tomorrow, but as she had told them to come to Farnborough S.W. we had to telegraph to them to come to Blackwater, and being already cut off from Sandhurst by the water, even for driving we had to go into York Town again. Began to rain again at 8 p.m.

Friday 5. A fine morning and till 1 p.m., but the sky so red, as to be very ominous. This morning M. gave Mrs Newell warning, as she finds she cannot get on with her. At 1.15 I went to the station to meet Harry and Arthur. Before I got there it began to rain, and by the time we got home, it was coming down very heavily. We got a walk as far as the Village after dinner but it was drizzling all the time.

Saturday 6. Rained and blew all night and continued to do so all day. We were quite unable to get out. We could not go to Church.

Sunday 7. Again rain all night, but weather looking a little better. Fine at intervals. I went to Sunday School and M and Harry came to 11. Service. M and I stayed to H.C. In the evening we all got to and from Church without wet.

Monday 8. Rained again heavily in the night and doing so this morning. Water in the meadows higher than we have yet seen it. As there seemed no hope of fair weather after dinner we all started out in the wet up to Cricket Hill, at the back of the Hall and so home by the Village. At 6.30 I went to the Vicarage to a Choir Supper, which went off very well. Mr Sumner proposed my health. Got home a little before 11. On Friday evening just after supper White went off into a sort of fit. It was not like ordinary fainting, but more like a mixture of Hysteria and Catalepsy. She continued in it more or less for two hours. The next day, we sent her home in the carriage

Tuesday 9. Glass rising and looking fine. At 10.36 took the boys to the station. Got there all right, but I had only just turned homeward, when it began to rain, and by the time I got to Darby Green it was pouring. The mare took me home in just 10 minutes. This shower cleared off the rain for the day and we had a fine afternoon. We availed ourselves of it to go to York Town and after into the Village. White came back yesterday but is very shaky. Today it comes out that her fit on Friday night was brought on by Mrs Newell dressing up as a ghost and frightening her. She is however subject to such attacks.

Wednesday 10. Our hopes of fine weather are again disappointed. This morning a dense fog, almost rain. After dinner we went to call on the Masons to enquire after Mrs M. who had rather a bad fall last week. When we came out we found it raining, and it continued to do so all the evening. Blowing hard from E.

Thursday 11. Rain and wind all night and till noon today. At 1/2 past 1 drove to Mrs Rush's where we lunched. Met Mr Mason and a nephew of Mrs R. Mr Forman with whom after lunch I walked to Mr Tindals and had some good games at Billiards. Maggie sent James over with the carriage and I brought the 2 gentlemen to their homes.

Friday 12. At last some cessation from rain. A thick white frost, but after breakfast bright and pleasant. After dinner we drove to York Town, and after that walked to Mr Cobbetts. We have got over a sack of potatoes from Reading which I am afraid will not prove a good bargain, as already a great many are bad. There is some [.....] about the Washington and Point Lookout Ry, in which we have £1100. I have written to John Petrie about it and hope there is nothing serious, as it would be a loss of £72 per annum to us.

Saturday 13. Some rain in the night, but fair all day though some fog. After dinner drove to York Town and on our return walked to Cricket Hill. Called on the Bechers (out) and by the fields to the Village and so home.

Sunday 14. Heard from John Petrie that he did not know of anything having gone wrong with the Washington City Ry, but he knew that others had had their coupons returned, but others had been paid. M. went with me to School, as the Miss Masons could not go, they having a case of measles in the house. It rained in the night and both morning and evening as we returned from Church. Glass fell during the day hardly rising again at night.

Monday 15. Bright and fine all day. After dinner drove to the Village then up Vigo Lane to the Flats and on to Hartford Bridge and Hartley Row. The latter we found a really nice village, with good shops, and many nice looking houses about. A new Church looking like a music hall by some fashionable watering place. On our way back we looked at the little wooden Church at Hartford Bridge, lately built by Mr Burch. It is a simple unpretending little place but with nice feeling shown in it. There are only chairs but of these so many, that it is evidently well filled. The fine old coaching inn at Hartford Bridge still stands, but is partly let off in tenements. We came home by Cricket Hill and then drove again to the Village. Mr Mason came in and had a cup of early tea with us.

Tuesday 16. Raining again in the night and till 11 a.m. After dinner we drove to Hawley, to find Mr Searle the man General Elwyn wishes to be consulted when the cow calves. Did not find him, but sent a message. After went up on the Flats and gave Tim a good long and fast run. Home by Cricket Hill.

Wednesday 17. Rain at night and till past 3 p.m. At 4 drove to York Town. A very fine but wild sunset. Does not look promising for the weather tomorrow.

Thursday 18. A most gorgeous sunrise, which, if there be any truth in the weather maxims should bring rain during the day. Maggie made butter in a bottle, (as she has several times lately), and finished it all off herself without letting cook touch it. At 1.15 we drove to the station and met Elizabeth and Mary. E. and Maggie came up in a fly and Mary drove up with me. Soon after we got home, rain began again.

Friday 19. Rain all night and at intervals until 3.30 p.m. Glass rising. At 4 Mary, M. and I got out for a drive, as far as York Town. Then home by the Flats and Cricket Hill, and as far as Mrs Tylers. In the evening we are reading Kingsleys Life. It is very interesting. Elizabeth has brought down her Magic Lantern and a great lot of slides for me to give an Exhibition at the School.

Saturday 20. Glass risen steadily, since yesterday morning. Fine all day. Before dinner had a walk with Mary as far as Darby Green. After dinner we took my favourite show drive to Eversley, Bramshill and Finchampstead. Found the water still out in Sandhurst Lane.

Sunday 21. Strong white frost. M and I to early Celebration. I breakfasted with Mr Sumner and then to School. M and Mary came to Church. After dinner Mary and I took a short walk. I went to Church alone in the evening. Fine all day.

Monday 22. White frost. M and Mary walked to Darby Green to see M's cottages. Elizabeth and I walked on to the heath, by the lane opposite the Stillwells. Went on to the Flats by the lone public house, and home by Cricket Hill. After dinner we drove by Firgrove and Up Green to Star Hill and Hartford Bridge. Tried to see the little Church there, but found it locked. Then on to Hartley Row and some way through the Village. Home by the Flats and Cricket Hill.

Tuesday 23. White frost. At 9 a.m. Beauty calved; a cow C. After dinner we drove to Hawley to see Searle the man whom the General wished me to consult about the cow. As he was at work at Sir Charles Pressley's we drove to the gate, and just as we stopped, a deer passed by trotting up the road, and in 4 or 5 minutes the pack (the Queen's hounds) and hunters came up. We drove by Cove to Fleet pond, and fell in several times with the hounds, which were quite at fault. One poor dog we saw dying. Home through Minley Manor.

Wednesday 24. Rain in the night, but a beautiful day. Before dinner, M, Elizabeth and Mary walked to Cricket Hill, and I after calling at Mr Masons, went across the fields and met them. After dinner M. drove Mr Mason and me to Firgrove, to play Billiards. We had five games of which I won the first four. Walked home. Wind backing to S.

Thursday 25. Rain all day till 4 p.m. None of the ladies went out at all. At 5, I walked to the Village, and home with Mr Stillwell.

Friday 26. A white frost. Lovely day. I went to 10 a.m. Service at Sandhurst. Beauty doing well. Mr Deacon came to lunch with us, and after he drove with us to York Town, then through the College grounds to Sandhurst, where Mary and M. went over the Church.

Saturday 27. Rain all day till 4 p.m. Then drove into York Town.

Sunday 28. M. and I to early Celebration. Then I went to breakfast at the Vicarage and after to School. Rain threatening so much that neither Elizabeth nor Mary came to Church. M and I went in the evening. Rain at intervals all day.

Monday 29. Rain again all day, till 4 p.m. I walked into the Village by myself.

Tuesday 30. Rain from 8 to 10 a.m. After fine but with a violent NW. wind, which had been blowing a severe gale all night. After dinner, we drove to Farnboro' Station S.W. and about 1/4 of a mile beyond to the Tumble Down Dick Inn, then to Farnboro Village by the S.E. station through Frimley to York Town. Called at Gomms as we came home and M. and Mary saw his carving. Just as we got home, met General Elwyn driving with Mr Mason. He is staying with Mrs Connop.

Wednesday 31. Elizabeth and Mary left us today, after what has been a delightful visit. E and M. went to the station in a cab. I took Mary down in the carriage. As soon as they were off, we drove back to the Village. I went to a meeting of the Vestry. Home by 12., and [at] 1.20, M and I drove to the station, to meet Isabella Wilde. While waiting, found General Elwyn in the station, waiting for the train to go to Wokingham. Had a talk with him. Isabella arrived at 1.40.

February 1877

Yateley

Thursday 1. General Elwyn came to lunch and talk about the house, but we could not come to any agreement. I had offered him £105 for 6 months. He wants £115. At 3.45 I drove to the School taking with me the Magic Lantern. Sent back the carriage for M. to go to the station to meet Bessie Johnstone. I got all my preparations ready, and at 6 went across to tea with the Sumners. Returned to the School at 7, and at 7.20 commenced the exhibition of the M. Lantern, which gave very great satisfaction. I showed them as transparencies and they were very bright and sharp. Finished by 1/4 to 9. Packed up everything and was home by 9.30, very tired. Found Bessie had arrived. The occasion of showing the M. Lantern was the treat to the choir, ie. those who were not present at the supper.

Friday 2. Before dinner drove to Robins Grove and looked over it. Then took home the things from the School. After dinner took M, Isabella and Bessie to Robins Grove. It is a nice house, in many ways much better than this, and has a capital garden. We then drove on to Eversley, and saw the Church, and home by the direct road. We are much disappointed at finding that Isabella Wilde is obliged to go home tomorrow. We have asked the Sumners to dine with us to meet her, as they know her sister Mrs Sidebotham very well.

Saturday 3. Just as we were all starting to take Isabella Wilde to the 12.36 train, General Elwyn came in, and as he evidently wanted to speak to me, I resigned the reins to Maggie. Our interview ended in my offering to split the difference, which he seemed inclined to agree to, but asked me to wait till he went home and consulted Mrs E. After dinner we drove to York Town. The Sumners dined with us. He immensely delighted with a Curry.

Sunday 4. A lovely day. To School at 9.45, M and Bessie to Church. Stayed to Holy Communion. In afternoon they went to Sandhurst Church, and I to Mrs Bechers to see her little dog. In the evening I went to Church alone. Read the lessons.

Monday 5. Fine but dull. Mrs Newall left and Mrs Rackley returned. After dinner I took Bessie for a drive through Sandhurst and the grounds of the two colleges and York Town. Home by the Flats and Cricket Hill. Two Miss Masons came to afternoon tea.

Tuesday 6. After dinner called at the Stillwells. Then drove to the Gibsons. Called there. Drizzling rain prevented us going further 4.45 General Elwyn came in to say he accepted our terms and so we are to stay here till [30] Sept. At 6 Mrs and Miss Becher came to tea and spend the evening. I showed the Magic Lantern.

Wednesday 7. M, Bessie and I went to Service at Sandhurst. Met Miss Rymill and Miss Woods and asked them to early dinner on Friday. On our return we went across the fields to the Village, and home by Cricket Hill. I called at the Masons. At 2.50, we drove to Mr Masons, took him up, and went to Firgrove, where M. and Bessie left

us and went for a drive. He and I played Billiards till nearly 7. I had rather the best of it.

Thursday 8. In afternoon we drove to the Village. Left the Church work M had done at Mr Sumners. Then via Cricket Hill to Hartley Row. Home via Firgrove. After tea I showed the Magic Lantern to the servants with Edward and Frank Rackley. It was better than any former time.

Friday 9. Bessie and I to Litany at Sandhurst. At 1.30 Miss Rymill and Miss Woods came to dinner, and after I drove them and Bessie to Eversley, where they saw the church. Then home by Finchampstead Ridges, and left them by the Forester Public House, the nearest point to their own home.

Saturday 10. At 10.36 took Bessie to the station then to York Town. After dinner we walked to the Village, called on Mrs Rush, and the Sumners. Then across the fields and called on Mrs Noad, who is living in Mr Stilwells cottage at Cricket Hill. Her daughter has come as governess to the Stilwells, and lives with her mother. Our hens are laying well now. We had 12 eggs today.

Sunday 11. There was some rain in the night, but the day throughout was perfectly beautiful, like early summer. I went to School as usual. M. joined me at Church. Mr Sumner gave out the Lenten Services, of which we are to have a very fair amount. On every day in the week except Tuesday, there will be some Service. After dinner we were intending to go to Service at Sandhurst but just as we were starting, young Edward, who had arrived at the Military College yesterday, came in bringing with him a young friend [in] Mr Reid, who proved to be a nephew of old Mr Lestock Reid, seemingly a steady young fellow and I was glad to see that Edwards companion was one who did not seem likely to do him harm. We took them for a good long walk, over the heath to the Flats, then down to Cricket Hill, at the back of the Hall and so home to tea, after which they returned to the College and we went to Church. Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon on the waste of opportunities, and exhorting the people to use the opportunities offered them in Lent. After morning Service we went in and had a chat with the Masons.

Monday 12. Constant rain till 1 p.m. After dinner we walked to Darby Green to see a poor woman Mrs E Thrift, whom Mrs Rackley had reported as being very sick. Met Mr Corry who gave us a note from Mrs C. asking us to go tomorrow afternoon to hear some music.

Tuesday 13. Wet all day. Could not go to the Hall. At 7.30 went to the Schools to a Penny Reading, which was very successful. The rooms were crowded to excess. I read or rather recited Tennyson's Grandmother's Story. [Litany] first.

Wednesday, Ash 14. Service at 11. and again at 6.30 when Mr Sumner preached on keeping Lent.

Thursday 15. Dull but no rain. After dinner we took a new drive, over Cricket Hill, and instead of going through the gate of Minley Manor, we kept to the left, and by Minley House, down a long hill with very fine views to Cove, then under the railway

and to the shop for sweeties beyond the Tumbledown Dick. Home by Hawley and went by back lanes to Mrs Thrifts, getting nearly bogged in doing so.

Friday 16. Fine all day. To Church at 10.30. After drove to York Town, and got some meat at the newly established butcher, who comes over from Reading every Friday. After dinner, drove by Longdown and Crowthorne to Broadmoor Asylum.

Saturday 17. Wanting to put up my Dipleidoscope I was just going to Bunch's to get a post, when I found what would do in the garden so I set to work to put it into shape. On Thursday M. received the first Portfolio from her sketching club, and was quite satisfied with the critique on her performances. This morning two of the Miss Masons came to see the drawings before they were sent on. After lunch we were on our way to the station when we met Edward walking out to see us, so we took him up and drove over the Flats and Cricket Hill to give Tim a run. Then home. Edward walked with us as far as the church (there is Service on Saturdays and Mondays at 4 p.m.) and then returned to Sandhurst. After Church we went into the Masons as I wanted to borrow a chisel, and were introduced to the game of "Bags".

Sunday 18. Early Communion and School as usual. Church. Began raining just as we went out. We had asked Edward to dinner, but as he did not appear by 1.30, we began without him, and when we had almost finished, he and young Reid appeared. It was too wet to walk, so we had them in the house all afternoon. At 6 I went to Church. M. did not go.

Monday 19. In the morning finished the post and by noon got the Dipleidoscope put up. After dinner to York Town and home by the Flats. At 4 to Service and after to the Masons for a short time.

Tuesday 20. We are expecting Fanny Johnstone here either today or on Thursday. She is at Radley today and either goes on to Clifton, or comes here. Her movements are made about Arthur. At 3 M. drove Mr Mason and me to Foxgrove where we played Billiards. After tea we drove to the station on the chance of Fannys coming but she did not.

Wednesday 21. Service at 10.30. Sumners asked us to dine with them this evening. After lunch to York Town and the Flats. At 7.30 to Sumners. Beatrice Mason and young Charles S. from Sandhurst were there. Had a pleasant evening.

Thursday 22. At 3.43 met Fanny at the station and brought her home. Got my seeds from Veitch. James at once planted two kinds of early peas. At 6.30 to Church. The sermon was preached by Revd Mr Crowdy, minor Canon of Winchester Cathedral. When we came home it was raining fast.

Friday 23. M. and Fanny went to Service at Sandhurst I to Yateley. After Service had a Vestry meeting to receive Mr Blomfields report on the Church, and it was agreed that he should be asked to send in plans and estimates. When I got home found that Alcock had sent a new horse and taken the old mare away. A fine looking beast, but on trying it, it turned out to be a lumbering, slow brute. We drove by Eversley church then to Star Hill and almost to Hartford Bridge. Then home by Vigo Lane. I stopped at the School, where there was {a} meeting to elect two laymen to go

to the Ruridecanal meeting to vote for members to represent the Rural Deanery in the Diocesan Conference to be held at Winchester in June. We elected Mr Corry and Mr Stilwell. Today have had a cart from Mr Cobbett and got out manure onto the fields.

Saturday 24. Glass fell last night. Raining, but fortunately it ceased by 9.30 and at 10.36 took Fanny to the station. It has been a very short visit, but we are very glad to have seen her. After we drove on to York Town. After dinner we drove onto the Flats to give Tim a run. Saw Mr Garths hounds cross the road some way ahead of us. To Service at 4, after which Mrs Becher came home with us and had a cup of tea and we walked home with her.

Sunday 25. Fine. High wind. Early Celebration, Schools and Church as usual. Edward and another friend of his, a Mr Payne, came to dinner, and I took a walk with them on to the Flats and Cricket Hill and back to tea. After M and I to Church.

Monday 26. Heavy rain at 5 a.m. Hail and snow 9. to 10. After that fine with very cold wind. At 2.45 we drove onto the Flats to give Tim a good run and found it so intensely cold, that we were glad to turn round again. At 4 to Church and after that went in and had a cup of tea at the Masons.

Tuesday 27. White frost. At 9.30 snow. After fine and very cold. To York Town after dinner. In evening saw eclipse of the moon. At 6.30 to the Bechers to tea.

Wednesday 28. Again white frost and the greatest cold we have had this winter. A continuance of this weather would be very useful. At 11 a.m. we drove to North Camp Station S W Ry and met Ellen Wilde and brought her home. It is a very nice drive of 7 1/2 or 8 miles and on such a day delightful. In the afternoon we took a walk, first to the church, then across the Green to Robins Grove, home at the back of the Hall and by Cricket Hill. Mrs Becher brought me 4 ducks eggs all she could let me have.

March 1877

Yateley

Thursday 1. Another white frost and lovely day. Not quite so cold as yesterday, and less wind. As Ellen Wilde could not stay longer, we took her back to North Camp Station at 3.38. The drive was even pleasanter than yesterday. There was a delicious fragrance in the air, as of new hay. Yesterday Tim ran all but a mile and today all the way. At 6.30 to Church. Had a very full congregation. Weather changing again. Wind has gone to S. and glass is falling.

Friday 2. Rain in the night. Dull all day. At 10.30 to Church and after to York Town. After dinner walked to Sandhurst, and had a long and lively chat with Miss Rymill. Miss Woods was out. At 6.30 Mrs and Miss Becher came to tea, and we read together Henry IV, second part, leaving out all the Falstaffian part. It went off very well. After played Bezique. Drizzling rain.

Saturday 3. Rain at night and drizzling all day, but in spite of that we went to Reading by the 12.2 train, to make enquiries about a carriage, as we have to give up General Elwyns at the end of this month. We first went to Mackrells in East Street, and after to Fleming's near the station, where we heard of a good cob for sale. We went and saw it in Minster Street, had it brought down to Flemings and tried it in harness and finally arranged to have it sent over to us on Monday for a weeks trial and purchase if so disposed. Home by the 3.15 train, by a little after 4. Found Edward waiting for us. He had come to lunch and not finding us at home, had amused himself as best he could, till we came. Stayed till 5.30. A wet evening.

Sunday 4. Wet all day. I to School, M. to Church. Edward was to have come to dinner, but it was so wet that he could not get over in time. However he came about 3. In the evening we went to Sandhurst Church Edward walking with us as far as the P.O. I was rather disappointed with Mr Deacons sermon. The subject was Definiteness in Religion, but it wanted that quality itself. Very dark on the way home. Had only a small lantern.

Monday 5. White frost. Fine. About 3 the little mare arrived from Reading. We went to Church at 4. and on our return, took out the mare and tried her, as far as Dr Dennys then on to the Flats and home by Cricket Hill.

Tuesday 6. Fine but very strong cold wind. We were expecting Mary and Mr Bromfield but by second post heard that they had put off coming till tomorrow in consequence of Dr Kingsley's illness. We drove to York Town and showed the mare to Alcock, who objected to her age and small feet, but thought her otherwise a good little thing. Drove round by Frimley and Hawley home.

Wednesday 7. Rain in the night. Sleet and snow most of the day. At 10.30. I went alone to Service. At 3.20 we drove to York Town and then to the station. Snowing. Mary and Mr B arrived punctually at 3.41. Put them into a cab and we drove home in violent storm of snow. Bitterly cold and almost blinding, but were none the worse for it. The B's looking all right.

Thursday 8. Yesterday and Tuesday had two broods of chickens hatched, 4 and 6. Of the latter two died. Frost, cloudy and cold. NE by N. In afternoon M and Mary drove to York Town, found Edward at the College and brought him home. Then walked on to the heath at the back of Mr Stilwells. Mr B. and I walked to the Village and saw the church and home by the fields. Met the others at Mr Stilwells back gate. At 6.15 Edward returned to Sandhurst, and M and I went to Church.

Friday 9. White frost. Bright sunrise, but after hazy. Less wind and not so cold as yesterday. We all went to Church at 10.30. After dinner Mr B, M and I drove to York Town, and Mary at home. On Wednesday morning Mr Stilwell came in and asked us to dine with them quite in a friendly way, but as the B.s were coming we could not.

Saturday 10. Edward came to lunch, but not having asked in time, could not get leave to sleep out. After dinner he and Maggie took a walk. Mary, Mr B. and I drove by Wellington College up the avenue to Finchampstead Ridges, down a road we have never before tried, crossed the river near Eversley Cross Green and by Firgrove to our church, where we went to Service. After met M. and Edward.

Sunday 11. Lovely day. To School at 9.45. The others came to Church. Edward to dinner. After he and I walked up by Mr Cobbetts to the inn on the Flats. Then cut across the heath, (finding it very boggy) to Minley Manor and down the hill. Then home by Cricket Hill. M and I to evening Church. On our return found that Cowslip had calved.

Monday 12. Very dull and rain at intervals. Only walked at times. Did not go to Service.

Tuesday 13. Brilliant sunrise, but after 11. became wet. It cleared a little at 3, so I walked over with Mr Mason to Firgrove, and we played 6 games at Billiards, 4 of them 3 handed games with a stranger. I won 4.

Wednesday 14. Bright sunrise. Dull but dry. After dinner drove over Cricket Hill down the hill by Minley Manor. Home by Cove and Hawley. A very pleasant afternoon. Had out another brood of chickens - 5. Took them to see Mr Gomm's carving.

Thursday 15. Very bright sunrise. High cold wind. After dinner drove to York Town abt watch &c. Then through Staff College grounds and to the R.M.A. to try to see Edward, but could not do so, so left a note. Home by Sandhurst. Very cold. M. and I to Church. Mr Sumners father preached a very good sermon. A very large congregation.

Friday 16. Mary has decided to leave tomorrow. They are going to Clapham and want to have a Sunday there so as to see more of William. As Mr B's watch had not been sent home we had to go into York Town about it. Mary and Mr B. went with me. M. went to see Mrs Thrift. We returned by the lanes, and overtook Maggie and soon after Edward.

Saturday 17. Fine for the most part all day. At noon Mary and Mr B. to the station. We drove down to say goodbye, and then on to York Town Got some meal, and some wire netting to put round the chickens. Church at 4.

Sunday 18. M. being anxious to go to H.C. at Sandhurst we got up early and started. When we got nearly to the bridge not hearing any bell, I referred to a note I had made 5 months ago in my prayer book and found that the Celebration would be at midday. So we turned back, I got my Sunday School books, and we were in ample time for Service at our own Church. I breakfasted at the Vicarage and went to School. M. came to Church. Edward and a young Cottrell from Harrow (and Hadley) came to dinner, and I took a good long walk with them after. Just at Churchtime in the evening it began to rain, so M. stayed at home. I went alone.

Monday 19. At breakfast this morning we found that Tim was very sick, and he continued to get worse all day. I took him for a walk as far as Mr Cobbetts in the middle of the day, but had to carry him part of the way. We went to Church at 4. At night Tim was so bad, that we thought it very doubtful whether we should find him alive in the morning.

Tuesday 20. Tim much better. Very cold with high wind. After breakfast decided to take Tim to Mr Claypole. When the carriage came to the door, he was so lively that we had to let him run, and he ran all the way to York Town, and most of the way back. M. has found a good market for her butter. Old Mrs Newman in York Town, will take as much as she likes, at present giving 1/8. After dinner M. drove Mr Mason and me to Firgrove and we had some Billiards.

Wednesday 21. Tim very much better. We went to Litany at 10.30, and after dinner drove to Farnboro station and the sweetie shop. Tim ran almost all the way. Had tea at Mrs Bechers.

Thursday 22. At 12.36 we drove to the station and went by train to Guildford to look about a carriage. First went to the principal builders, May and Jacobs. Saw only one thing at all fit, a [Linmise] Phaeton, but did not like it. Then to Paynes, and saw a very pretty Vis a Vis, new, but the construction is objectionable, in case of wanting to carry a servnt. Looked also at Goslings but saw nothing there. Called at [Pinson's], the house agent to whom Mr Simpson recommended me to go, and also to a saddlers. There is to be a sale of carriages and harness at the White Hart Hotel, on Tuesday next. We went to see whether the things were on view, but they were not. We were much pleased with the town. The High Street is very picturesque, winding up the side of a steep hill. We got home by 5 and in evening went to Service and heard an excellent sermon from Mrs Sumners brother, Mr Utterton, the vicar of Leatherhead.

Friday 23. Thick white frost yesterday and today. The glass is falling this morning and the wind has backed to SW. I went alone to Litany. Borrowed a chain harrow from Mr Stilwell and harrowed all the four lower fields and part of the park with the little mare. She works as steadily as an old plough horse. After dinner we walked to the Hall. Called on the Corrys. Found Mrs and Miss at home. Then to Mrs Rush and had a chat with her. On our return found Edward here. We had asked him to come to tea but he could not get leave. Mrs Becher and Mr Daw came to tea. Mrs D. was so unwell that Miss B. remained with her.

Saturday 24. Glass falling. Heavy rain all night, but fine morning for the boat race. We went by the 12.2 to Reading. Got seed potatoes, 2 milk tins, crewel. Looked over Browns carriage factory, full of the most seedy old ghosts. Saw two carriages at Flemings but neither would suit. But next door to him, there was a whole turn out to be sold, of which the carriage and harness would have suited us capitally. Got home by 4 p.m. My cold very bad. A dead heat for the Oxf'd and Cambridge race.

Sunday 25. Cold so bad that I did not venture to early Celebration, nor did M, but I went to School, and M. met me at Church. Edward came to dinner and we took a short walk. M and I went to evening Service, but I had so lost my voice, that I could not read the lessons.

Monday 26. A dull but otherwise fine day. Service at 10.30, and after a Vestry meeting for electing Way wardens, Overseers and Guardians. After dinner we drove into York Town. M. took 4 lbs of butter and 1 1/2 dozen eggs to Mrs Newman. The cows are now doing capitally. In the evening at 7. to Church. Mr Sumner is to preach each evening this week on the events of the day.

Tuesday 27. A beautiful morning. After breakfast to the station and I went to Guildford by the 10.36 train. Went to the White Hart, and looked at the carriages and harness for sale, but there was nothing at all of any use. Went to Paynes and had a talk with him about the Parisian Vis a Vis we saw on Thursday. Filled up the time till 1.5, and then home. Walked from the station. When I got to Darby Green it began to rain, and it continued to do so heavily till 6 p.m., when it cleared up and we were able to go to Church. Wrote to Mr Payne making him an offer for the Parisian. Heard from St Leonards that Harry Johnstone has won the 1st Keble Scholarship, also that Charlie is seedy and they want to send him to us for change of air. We have asked Fanny to come to us, with him. She and the Professor returned from Cannes a fortnight ago.

Wednesday 28. A beautiful day. One slight shower. To Church at 10.30. At 3 drove to Hartley Row and beyond it to Phoenix Green to Mr Wetherall the House Agent, and told him of our requirements. Home by five, when Mrs Becher and Mr and Mrs Daw came to tea. Church at 7.

Thursday 29. About 10 last night a thick mist came on followed by heavy rain all night which lasted till 10 a.m. After fine. Heard very sad news this morning. Yesterday our man James' brother (14 years old), who works for Miss Randall at Hawley, went with her coachman to get some gravel and the pit fell in on them and they were both killed. They were not got out till 3 a.m. The coachman leaves a widow and large family. Heard from Payne the coachbuilder at Guildford that he accepted my offer for the little carriage. To Church at 10.30. After dinner to York Town, and then to Minley where we got a hamper of most beautiful moss for church decoration, and took it to the Vicarage. In the evening to Church. A lovely day.

Friday 30, Good Friday. Another fine spring day. Sunshine and shade but no rain. At 10.30 to morning Service at our own Church. There was not any sermon. Then we walked across the fields to Sandhurst, and attended the 3 hours Service from 12 to 3. It was conducted by Mr Lenny from Crowthorne. It was the first time I had been

at this Service, and I liked it much. M. went to it last year at Beckenham. When we came out we found that several other people from Yateley were there. Mrs Noad and her daughters, Mr and Mrs Sumner and 3 Miss Masons, our maid White and her sister. At 7. to evening Service at our own Church where there was a very large congregation. Mr Stilwell very unwell, but better in the afternoon.

Saturday 31. To Church at 10.30 and soon after returning we drove into York Town to take some butter to Mrs Newmans. At 2 I took M. in the carriage to the church, w{h}ere she went to help to assist in decorating for tomorrow. On my return I packed 6 dozen eggs to send to Euston Square, and did other work about the yard &c. M. came home at 5, and we took a short walk.

April 1877

Yateley

Easter Day 1. To early Celebration. There were 46 communicants. The Church looked really beautiful. The Miss Masons had worked new hangings for the Pulpit, Reading Desk and Lectern, and Mrs and Miss Corry a new Altar Cloth - all exquisitely done - and the floral decorations were lovely. There was a very good congregation at 11, and 55 communicants, making in all 101. The largest number ever known here. In the evening the Church was crowded. It was seated to hold 295, and there were 333. I read the lessons and from the lectern it was quite a sight.

Monday 2. To Church at 10.30. At 2.45 we drove to Sandhurst and took Miss Rymill and Miss Woods for a drive, through the village under Ambarrow by the station to Crowthorne then to Broadmoor and by Edgebarrow to their home. We were to have stayed to tea, but I could not have James to take home the carriage as his brothers funeral was to take place at 5. So we drove home and I put up the horse myself. Walked up by Cobbetts.

Tuesday 3. To Church, and after drove to York Town, to Mrs Newmans and the station. Then I stopped at Davis the shoeing smiths and had Nancy shod, while M walked home. After noon it rained so hard that we could not go out any more.

Wednesday 4. After breakfast I took the carriage to Davis and got a new perch pin fitted to try and put a stop to the unpleasant rocking of the fore part. After noon we walked to the village to pay our bills and to Mr Sumner. He has asked me to read tomorrow at a Penny Reading.

Thursday 5. Regular April weather - sunshine - showers - heavy rain in the night. Yesterday there was a little thunder (a very heavy storm in London and in other parts of the country). General Elwyn (who is staying [in] the H[all]) came in about noon, for a few minutes. We have at last got rid of the old sow Sally. Mr Cobbett has taken her. We have lost two hens this week, and on examining I have found large ulcerated [increscences within] or pressing on the egg passage, and preventing the eggs escaping. In the afternoon we walked as far as Baileys poultry farm and then down a lane from Darby Green which led to a footbridge over the river. We had not time to cross and go home through Sandhurst. At 7 we went to the Schools and I read part of the first chapter of The Water Babies, which was a great success. Afterwards we supped with the Sumners, where we met Mrs and Miss Gibson and Mr and Mrs Gillett.

Friday 6. Last night after my reading I announced an exhibition of the magic lantern for next Thursday. At 10.30 to Service. Mr Sumner has begun to have 2 weekday Services - Tuesday and Friday. After dinner we drove over to Wokingham to look for harness. Saw a set of new, which we told the saddler he might bring over and try on. Just as we got into the town it began to rain and continued to do so heavily all the way home. Wokingham is a poor little town. Not equal I should think to Bromley.

Saturday 7. A pretty fine day. At 11 we drove to Yorktown and did some business, then to the station where we met young Charlie Johnstone who has come to stay with us for his health. In the afternoon we walked into the village.

Sunday 8. M and I went to early Celebration at Sandhurst. There was Celebration at our own Church but M was anxious to go to S. I drove back home to breakfast and then went to School. M and Charlie to Church. In the evg it rained a little. M and Charlie stayed at home. I went to Church - read the lesson. Mr Kitson of the Additional Curate Society preached. Yesterday being Mary Petrie's birthday, as we had nothing else to send we sent her a box of produce - butter, Eggs, Seakale, Primroses and Daffodils.

Monday 9. Mrs Becher's grandson, Arthur Pennington came after breakfast to play in our field with Charlie. Then M took them both into the village. General Elwyn came and stayed for [two] hours. At 4.30 we went and had a walk with the Bechers and brought them all back to tea so we had quite a large party.

Tuesday 10. Rained very heavily in the night. At 10 to Church. Then Arthur came to play with C. M. sketched. Heard from the coachmaker at Guildford that the carriage is ready. After dinner to Yorktown, then to Sandhurst and M. went in to see Miss Rymill. Found the water out a good deal in the lane, and Tim had a good swim. On getting home found the saddler from Wokingham, and on trying the harness, we liked it well enough to buy it, so there being still a little to do to it, he took it away and is to bring it back on Friday morning. After dinner drove to Blackwater then through the College grounds to Sandhurst and called on Miss Rymill, who was quite alone, so M. asked her to spend the day with us tomorrow.

Wednesday 11. Heavy rain till past 11. Got a telegram from the coachbuilder at Guildford to say that he should be at Blackwater with the carriage at 3 p.m. At 11.30 went to Sandhurst and brought Miss Rymill back. She is very unwell and has to rest as much as possible. At 3. it was again raining, but taking James to lead the mare, I walked to Blackwater and found Mr Payne and the carriage there. It had got rather wet, but not to hurt it at all. Brought it home and M. was very much pleased with it. The back seat is really an improvement to the look of it. Rain again so heavy that we persuaded Miss Rymill to stay the night, and sent James across to get what she wanted. We had during the day thunder and some heavy hail.

Thursday 12. Fine day. At 11 we drove Miss Rymill home. Then on to York Town and home, stopping at the Barley Mow at Blackwater to look at a litter of pigs. At 4 Charlie and I took the Magic Lantern to the School and got all ready. Mr [Barkshire] was there helping. At 7 walked to School, and at 8 began. Had a very good room full. Mr [P.....] with 18 or 20 children sang songs at intervals. It went off very well. Took £1.10.6. Got home at 9.50 very tired.

Friday 13. At 10 to Service. Then brought the things back from the school. M went down Sandhurst Lane sketching, as she had done yesterday. At 11.30 the saddler from Wokingham brought the new harness and we tried it on, putting Nancy into the new carriage. (I had previously sent the general's carriage to Parker to be done up. At 3 M. drove Mr Mason and me to Firgrove and we had some Billiards with Mr Tyndall. We walked home in the wet.

Saturday 14. Dull cold weather. Easterly wind. Edward came in in afternoon. A hen that has been sitting by the hotbed brought out 11 from 12 eggs - 4 little Houdans. Took a short drive with Edward and Charlie.

Sunday 15. Early Celebration, and School. After morning Service to the Masons for a short time. Edward came, but too late for dinner having been detained for a scolding from the General. Had a walk. M. C. and I to Church.

Monday 16. Blowing a gale from the S. We are anxious to hear of John and Emmie, who are expected at Liverpool this evening. After dinner Miss Woods called to say goodbye as she and Miss Rymill are leaving on Wednesday.

Tuesday 17. Still blowing very hard and cold. Charlie and I went to Church. We were to have taken Miss Rymill for a drive, but it was much too rough to go for her. Heard from Mary P. [that] John's steamer was signalled from Cork at 9 p.m. yesterday. Charlie in the evening at Mrs Bechers.

Wednesday 18. Weather more moderate but still Easterly. After dinner drove over and saw Miss Rymill and Miss Woods, who were in all the bustle of moving. Then we drove on to York Town. Heard of John and Emmies safe arrival.

Thursday 19. Having heard from Mary P. that they would be glad of moss primroses &c for their party tomorrow we went directly after dinner M and I drove to Minley and got a hamper of moss, and on our return went into our fields and picked primroses, daffodils and wood anemones. Got them all packed at 7 took them to the station sent them up by the 7.6 train up train. Met Harry Johnstone by the 7.2 down and brought him home. C. spent the afternoon and evening at the Stilwells.

Friday 20. A beautiful day. Charlie and I to our Church Harry and M. to Sandhurst (where they found no Service). After dinner we drove to Wokingham. Just as we turned out of our gates poor Tim got his toe pinched under the wheel, but ran on all the way. Nothing would induce him to stay in the carriage. We went to look at some harness - old - but it was no good.

Saturday 21. Wet till 2p.m. At 4 Edward came in, and we took a walk up Cricket Hill. Met the Bechers.

Sunday 22. M. Harry and I to early Celebration at Sandhurst, there not being any at our own Church. I came back to breakfast and then to School. The rest came to Church. Edward came as usual to dinner, and after he and the boys and I walked down by Mr Kelseys farm at Darby Green, crossed the river by the footbridge and so home through Sandhurst - a very pleasant walk. All to Church. I read the lessons.

Monday 23. A beautiful morning and lasted so till 2 p.m., when there was a heavy shower of rain and hail with thunder. This was rather provoking as Miss Mason had a garden party at 3. We went however and had a pleasant afternoon, though marred by another storm. M and I played Badminton for the first time.

Tuesday 24. Fine with rather cold E. wind After [dinner] we drove to Eversley Chh. and then through Bramshill park and home by Finchampstead Ridges. View not very clear. Rain threatening but did not come.

Wednesday 25. Fine and cold. At 10 a.m. to Church. Just after dinner Edward came in, just in time to say goodbye to Harry. At 4.20 I took E. H. and Charlie to the Station. After seeing H. off, drove on to York Town, then brought E. back to tea.

Thursday 26. Sent off General Elwyn's carriage to Birmingham at 12.36. Sent off Charlie at 7.30. To dinner at Mrs Gibsons. Had a very pleasant evening. The Wyatts, Miss Le Coultier (Mr Sumners aunt) &c. altogether 16. We like the Gibsons better, the more we see of them. It was a very cold night.

Friday 27. Very cold. A gale blowing from the East. On Wednesday the news came that Russia had declared war, and crossed the Pruth. Today, trying to pull out a small wooden peg with my teeth I nearly knocked out one of my front teeth. Loosened so as to be very painful and prevent my eating. At 3. to the Masons, to play Tennis and Badminton. Besides ourselves there were the Sumners and all the young Tyndalls and Stilwells. I played L. Tennis for the first time and of course did not make much of a hand at it. I do not think that I should like it as well as Croquet.

Saturday 28. The high wind ceased in the night and fine rain fell. Glass rising a little, but still raw and cold. This day last week we heard from Mrs Brett that Mrs Leith had been and still was very poorly with bronchitis. After dinner M went to a working party at the Vicarage. I took Edward who had come in to lunch) for a drive by Minley and Cove to Farnborough Station and home by Hawley. He stayed to tea and went back to College at 6.15. We dined at the Stilwells to meet his sister Mrs Willis, wife of Captn Willis who was brother to the Captn Horace Willis, who married Emily McKay. She is a charming person. There was no one else but ourselves.

Sunday 29. Early Celebration and else as usual Edward to dinner, and after he and I walked down by Yateley Mill across the river, round Coll. Jones' house and as far as the end of the Wellingtonia Avenue. Then home by Sandhurst. To Service in the evening. I read the lessons, and we walked back with Mrs Willis.

Monday 30. Directly after breakfast I took the carriage to North Camp Station, G.W.R. where I met Mr Payne and handed it over to him, to take back to Guildford for some little alterations. I took James with me and he brought Nancy back. I walked across to the other line (Aldershot Station) and came home at once, walking from Blackwater. In afternoon, M. and I went up to Mr Cobbetts and then M. went on into the village.

May 1877

Yateley

Tuesday 1. At 11 a.m. across to Stilwells to witness some deeds and was delayed by Mr Sumner not coming. This was troublesome as we were packing to start for London. Just as we had everything ready and the luggage on the cab, Tim could not be found. After a very long hunt, he came back from the Stilwells. This delayed us so long that we had very little time to spare to get to the station. Reached Euston Square at 3.40.

Euston Square

Wednesday 2. Directly after breakfast I went to Guthries to order some clothes, the first I have had from him for nearly 2 years. Home to lunch and after M, Mary and I went by tram to Baker Street, to Mrs Knights where M. nearly decided upon a black silk dress. We then went to Lottes and had a cup of tea. Then to Carters, for boots for both. Then along Oxford Street as far as Bittles, then cabbied home.

Thursday 3. At 12, M and I went by underground to Clapham, lunched and after Lucy walked with us as far as the Common. Then M. and I walked as far as Broxash. Mrs [Coleman] and Miss Cooke were out, but while M. was writing a note, they came in, and we had a very pleasant chat, and cup of tea. Then back to 327, where we dined, and home by rail.

Friday 4. Soon after breakfast M, Bessie and I by bus to Trafalgar Square - to the Water Colour Society. Stayed till 1. Some nice things but on the whole, not more than a low average [Std]. After lunch M. and I walked to Robersons in Long Acre, then through the Seven Dials (looking at the bookshops) to Oxford Street - to Winsor Newton, for paper. Got one sheet but the shopman would take no trouble to find more like it, so we got no more. Walked home. John and Emmie at dinner.

Saturday 5. Directly after breakfast I went by bus to the Cooperative and ordered a morning suit Then by rail to the City - to Bank. Had my hair cut, and did some other business. Home to lunch and then at 2.10 to Euston Station. By train to Harrow. Met William at Willesden. First saw Kitty, then walked across the fields to Cricket ground and so to the Briars. After greetings returned to the Cricket ground and strolled round by Roxeth. Dined. Met Polly, and returned to station by bus. William came in with me as far as Euston Square and then cabbied to Ludgate. I was at home by 9 p.m.

Sunday 6. Directly after breakfast M and I went by bus to Victoria and to Church at St Johns, Wilton Road, just opposite L.C.&D. station. I expected to find it a very high service, but it was not at all so. A very nice one with beautiful music, a capital sermon and a crowded congregation. All seats free, the centre aisle for mixed sexes, the N for men, S for women. Got out just in time for a train at 1.5 to Clapham. Dined with William and Lucy and after had a walk. At 6, by train to Victoria then by underground to Charing Cross Station, whence 3 minutes walk though one of the Gardens of the Embankment brought us to the Savoy Chapel, where we heard a most beautiful sermon from Walsham How from the texts "Touch me not." "Someone has

touched me". The Chapel was very crowded. We walked home by a very direct route, getting there at 9, having had a very delightful Sunday.

Monday 7. I went out about 11 to Guthries to try on. M. went to Mrs Knights for a similar purpose. I was unable to do what I wanted as my clothes were not ready. We met at Lottes where we lunched. After that we walked into Oxford Street and bussed to Lancaster Gate, called on Mrs Seton Kerr, but she was out. Then back to Oxford Street. M. left her umbrella at Cookes to be covered, and we did a little shopping. Home by bus. Mr Birch dined and brought a lot of pictures to show - a great deal of chaff with a few grains of wheat.

Tuesday 8. I went out after breakfast by myself, took M's new boots to a man in High Street Marylebone, and ordered a pair of trees for her. Then to Oxford Street and at Fells in Rathbone Place, I got for her a very nice easel. Kate came to lunch and after she and Mary, M and I sallied forth and walked to Oxford Street, and after examining several bonnet shops, finished up at Madame Louises, where both K and M got bonnets to please them. Then home by bus, just in time to get a cup of tea and I walked across with K. to the station, where Charlie met her and they returned to Harrow.

Wednesday 9. Breakfasted early. Mary, M. Graham and I went to the Royal Academy. Got there by 9.20, and stayed till 1 p.m. Nothing very striking. The picture we most liked was one called "Harmony" by F. Dicksee. After lunch M and I went out again, and did a lot of small shopping in Oxford Street, and in evening Elizabeth, Bessie, Douglas M. and I went to Clapham and dined with W & L. The only other person there was Mrs Scott.

Thursday 10, Ascension Day. M and I went to early Celebration in Woburn Square. After breakfast I went into the City to Johns office &c. returning via Oxford St to get some preserved fruits. After lunch M and I, by bus to Cooperative and did a lot of business. Bought bats for Lawn Tennis &c. Then I put M. onto the train at St James Park Station to go to Baker Street, and I walked across the park to Guthries then on to High Street Marylebone to enquire about the boot trees, and by underground from Baker Street to Gower Street. When I got out there, overtook M, who had arrived by the preceding train. We had a very quiet evening, Elizabeth, M and I, all the young people being out at a party.

Friday 11. A wet morning. Directly after breakfast I went to the Coop, to try on my suit. Had my journey for nothing. When I came back it was raining in torrents but only had to walk from Tottenham Ct. Road, so did not get wet. At 12.45, man came with my things from Coop, and tried them on. At 1.45 Mary, M. and I started, calling at a shop in Gudge Street for some crewels. At Charing Cross Burrell met us with a basket of plants and deck chair. Reached Blackwater in good time and found James there with carriage. M and all the luggage came up in a fly, and Mary with me in carriage. Found all well, but the place not looking as well as it ought. James has been spending most of his time taking daisies out of the lawn and has made it look very bad.

Yateley

Saturday 12. {Two and a half lines deleted} Drizzly did not go out at all.

Sunday 13. Rainy at intervals. Being within the octave of Ascension Day Mr Sumner had early Celebration. (He had two on Thursday). I went M. did not, and at time for coming to Church it was so wet that neither she nor Mary came. Edward came to dinner, and he and I took a walk after. M and I to Church, Mary not, in afternoon. Maggie went across and had a chat with Mrs Willis.

Monday 14. A cold dull day with wind in the East again. After dinner to York Town, through the grounds of both colleges. Home by Vigo Lane.

Tuesday 15. A lovely day, warm and bright. Mary and I to Church. Walked home with Mrs Willis and Miss Stilwell. After dinner to Blackwater. M. called at the Gibsons. Then to York Town. Home through Sandhurst and round over Village Green. At 5, Mrs and Miss Becher came, and we played Badminton and after that Bezique. I walked home with them. It was a lovely night and the nightingales were singing in the Stilwells grounds.

Wednesday 16. Wet morning, and continued showery till 5 or 6 p.m. Mary not very well. M. had to go to a working party at the Vicarage at 2.30 so I drove her there. Took James with me. Called for Mr Mason and drove to Firgrove (raining all the time). We played 7 games of which I won 4.

Thursday 17. Heavy rain in the night, which continued till 3 p.m. Then we drove to York Town to do some shopping.

Friday 18. Fine and bright all day. Fresh breeze. I went to Service at 11. At 3, we drove in the direction of Wokingham and went to look at a house called The Poplars at Gardners Green and saw all over it. Not a bad house, but most untidily kept. Saw the owner, Mr Hudson, a very rough looking fellow who had been, I fancy, a Ceylon Coffee Planter. There are about 17 acres of land with the house, and it seems good land.

Saturday 19. Wet again. At 10.15 Mary left in a fly for the station to go to Guildford en route for Bentley. We had intended to go with her but the weather was too threatening for our purpose. However as it seemed inclined to hold up a little we went down at 12.36 and just caught the train. Went to Merstham. When we got there it was raining very hard. After about 1/2 an hour it stopped and we started for Chaldon, a village two miles off over a very high hill. Had to stop twice on the road on account of rain, and so when we arrived we had only about 1/4 of an hour to look over the house. Found it rather a pretty little place with about 5 acres of ground. A lovely view of the Church &c. from the front, but the house had the great drawback that the kitchen was so very small, that servants would be most uncomfortable. The country was pretty - very high - 540ft above the sea. We had to hurry as fast as possible to catch our train, and then found that it was nearly 40 minutes late, being both Saturday and Whitsun Eve. We had to go to Redhill and there wait for the Reading train. This was 35 minutes late and very crowded. We kept losing time and reached Blackwater at 8 instead of 7.6 p.m. Just as we got there it began to rain heavily, and we drove home in drenching rain, thoroughly tired with a very hard days work.

Sunday 20, Whit. We were both so tired that we did not go to early Celebration. I went to School and we stayed to 2nd H.C. Edward came to dinner bringing with him a young Fisher from Harrow - rather a nice lad. We went for a walk to Minley Church and saw all about it. It is a beautiful little building. Being too small to have the organ in it, the pipes and bellows are in the vestry. The keyboard, in a case like an harmonium is in the church, and the two are connected by galvanism. M and I went to Church in the evening. I read the lessons. The accounts of Mr Stilwell are not good. Mrs Willis who was to have come down on Saturday to stay all the week, has been kept in town by her nephew Holt, having mumps.

Monday 21. A fine day, cloudy and windy. I went to Service at 10 and after employed myself marking out a Badminton court with white wash, in the outer lawn. In afternoon M and I. had a lot of practice at Tennis, and she made much improvement. Mrs and Miss Mason called.

Tuesday 22. Showery and cold in the morning. After dinner drove to York Town. As we came back picked up Mrs and Miss Becher and they came and had a little practice at Lawn Tennis in the Badminton court. M and I went to Service at 10 a.m.

Wednesday 23. Fine all day but cold and cloudy At 3 to the Masons. I played several games at Lawn Tennis and got on much better than last time.

Thursday 24. Fine and dull. Rather warmer. After dinner to York Town, and then met Eliza at the Station by the 4.41 and brought her home.

Friday 25. A lovely day. The first really of the summer. I went to morning Service. At 2.30 took Eliza for a drive to Minley. Then along the flats to the cross roads and home by Firgrove, stopping at the church, for Eliza to select a place for her chair. At 4.30 Mrs Wills and Miss Stilwell, Mrs and Miss Becher came and we had great games at Lawn Tennis till 8.30. Eliza able to sit out all the time.

Saturday 26. Another fine warm day. Eliza out all day - did not drive. Edward came about 11.30. We played a great deal at L Tennis.

Trinity Sunday 27. Fine all day. High wind. Took Eliza to early Celebration. I remained at the Summers for School. Eliza did not come to 11 Service. Edward to dinner - did not walk, being very tired. Eliza went to evening Service.

Monday 28. Rain in night. Windy and showery during day, but we managed to get a drive in afternoon. Through Sandhurst and grounds of both colleges to York Town. Got a sharp shower. Cleared up at 4. Mrs Willis and Miss Stilwell and Bechers came to tennis and tea and Mrs W. gave us some music.

Tuesday 29. Fine with one or two light showers. At 1.30 to Station to meet Anna Maria Tierney. At 4 we all went to Hilfield. Had tea on the lawn and after music.

Wednesday 30. Generally fine. At 10 to Church by myself. At 2.30 left M. at the Vicarage for working party. Took Eliza and A.M. to Eversley Church and Star Hill. Home by Vigo Lane. Called for M. at 5. Had quite a large party, that had grown up

by degrees. Mrs Willis and her sister, Miss Becher, Beatrice Mason, Mr and Mrs and Charles Sumner and Edward, who came in by chance. Had a lot of capital games at Tennis till nearly 8, when we went to Mrs Bechers Met Mrs Willis and Miss Stilwell there and finished the evening very pleasantly. A long and fatiguing day.

Thursday 31. Very showery till 2.30. M and I went out and made some calls which were very urgent. Corrys (out) Tyndals at home, and Mrs Rush. After we had our first game at Croquet on the lawn, and then some practice at Tennis.

June 1877

Yateley

Friday 1. Very wet all day. Eliza did not get out at all till after tea. During the night there was heavy rain, gale of wind and some thunder and lightning. I had a written to a gentleman about a cottage at Ewhurst near Guildford which seemed very promising. Heard from him today that it was about to be taken. Yesterday and today got out geraniums in the two front borders. Had a game of Croquet after tea.

Saturday 2. Wet all the morning. Anna Maria left by the 1.37 having a cab to the station. Mr Deacon came to lunch and at 4 we went for a drive taking him as far as Wellington Station. Then we went up the Wellingtonia Avenue and home by Eversley Blackwater. When we got home, M. and I were having a game in the small court, when Mrs and Miss Becher came in, bringing with them Sr Arthur and Lady Becher and their son from the college. They stayed with us for a couple of hours and we had 3 or 4 games at Lawn Tennis. Young Becher plays capitally - better I think than either Mr Sumner or his brother.

Sunday 3. A perfect day. Bright sun with fresh but warm wind all day. To School at 10. and after M and I. to Service and Holy Communion. Edward did not come to dinner - or at all. Eliza to Church in the evening and after Mrs Willis came in and supped with us. When we came back from morning Service we found that some dog had worried and bitten one of our Houdans so severely that it died in about 2 hours. This is a great loss.

Monday 4. Another lovely day. Very warm. Spent all the morning in the garden and did not drive till after tea, when we went through Minley to Fleet and about a mile beyond the station, to look at a property for sale there. I had no idea that the country about there was so pretty. We then drove home by Cove and Hawley making a good long round. 13= miles.

Tuesday 5. Cloudy at first but after fine and bright. Yesterday and today have had Nancy out in the meadow. At 2.30 Mary P. returned from Bentley, bringing with her the two Miss Eggars and 3 boys and we had Lawn Tennis and Croquet and tea on the lawn, making quite a picnic to celebrate our wedding day. The Eggars left about 7 p.m.

Wednesday 6. A dull threatening morning, making us fear that the Sidebothams, who had promised to come over today, would not venture. But they did come about 12.30. M Mary and I had been to Church at 10. We were able to sit out until dinner time, when it began to rain and continued to do so all the evening till 9. The S. left about 8 after having given us a most delightful visit. We had only seen Mrs S. for a very short time at Hadley since our return from India. She is so very much better now - able to walk about quite well, except up steep hills.

Thursday 7. Very fine all day, so that we {were} able to be out on the lawn constantly. We did not drive till after tea, when we took Elizabeth's box to the station. Then drove along the flats and home Vigo Lane and the Village. Yesterday M. went

in for a few minutes and called on old Mrs Stilwell who came down Tuesday. Today the Stilwells themselves returned.

Friday 8. Another lovely day. After dinner M. remained at home drawing. I took Eliza and Mary through Eversley and Bramshill, which latter was looking most beautiful. Home via Firgrove. Mrs and Miss Becher and Miss Hutchison came in and played Lawn Tennis.

Saturday 9. Weather unchanged. In morning I made a finish to M's easel - viz a stand on which she can put her paintbox and water. Edward came in the afternoon and we had a good deal of Tennis in the small court. Did not drive at all. Croquet in evening.

Sunday 10. M, Eliza and I to early Celebration at Sandhurst. I to School and Mary and M. to 11 Service. We had a quiet Sunday, as Edward did not come. Drove to evening Church. Eliza went. Mr Sumner was away. His father's curate, Mr Jackson, brother to the curate at Finchampstead did all the duty. Very warm.

Monday 11. Very warm. Eliza very tired with all her exertions yesterday. I went to Service, it being St Barnabas day. [Harry] and M.A's wedding day. In the evening Mrs Becher, Aimie and Miss Hutchinson came in and played Lawn Tennis. Today's the Corrys left the Hall, having let it for a year to the people of the name of Holder who came in during the afternoon.

Tuesday 12. The same fine hot weather continues. A good deal of haze and blight. Did not go out at all today, but Mary went out at 5 to the Bechers to spend the evening. We are now putting the couch from the dining room out on the lawn for Eliza, as it is clear that her own reclining chair does not give her rest enough.

Wednesday 13. After breakfast Mary and I walked to Mrs Bechers and arranged for them to come tomorrow instead of this evening. Then called at the Noads to tell them. On across the fields to the Village and then to the Masons where M. had a beautiful basket of flowers given her. After tea we all drove into York Town and home by Cricket Hill and the Hall.

Thursday 14. Dull and foggy with cool breeze. Edward came in afternoon, and at 6 Bechers and Noads and we had a lot of Lawn Tennis. Eliza very tired and weak. She is not sleeping well and has not been down all day.

Friday 15. We are turning the pony out into the field now, but she is so very knowing that it gives a good deal of trouble to catch her. After tea drove to York Town. I called at Mr Baileys and asked him whether he was inclined to sell Holly Hill, but he declined. Then took Mary to the Bechers to say goodbye to Miss Hutchison.

Saturday 16. The great heat continues. Eliza still not well enough to come down. Got back my silver watch from Coventry, after having almost given it up. About 4 the Stilwells came and called and I walked with Mr S. to James Ellis and then on to look at a farm E. wants to sell. Then back across the fields to Hilfield. Edward came in and had tennis with Mary. After tea we took him as far as Blackwater, where he had a cricket dinner at the White Hart, and we went on to York Town and through the college grounds, and home by Sandhurst.

Sunday 17. M and I, to early Celebration. I breakfasted with the Masons. M. and Mary to 11 Service. Edward did not come. Mrs Becher came to tea and brought her grandson Arthur for me to have a look at then walked to Church with Mary and me. Eliza came down in the afternoon and M. stayed with her.

Monday 18. Again extremely hot. At 5 M and I went to a Garden party at the Wyatts. There were a great many people there, very few of whom we knew. Neither of us played. Saw the Church, which is very beautiful, but I do not like it as well as Sandhurst. It wants repose. Left at 6.45 and drove to York Town to get some medicine.

Tuesday 19. At 3.15 M and I drove to Shinfield to see a house at Hyde End Green. Found a rather mean looking house outside, but beautifully fitted and furnished, with 6 acres of ground. The size of the bedrooms determined us at once against it. It was a drive of about 9= miles there. Nancy took us there and back capitally, though rather feeling the intense heat. Got home by 7.40.

Wednesday 20. None of us out all day. In the evening looking rather like a change. Clouds gathering and glass falling slowly. Rain is very much wanted.

Thursday 21. Severe thunderstorm and rain at 2 p.m. and again at 6. Sufficient rain fell to do a great deal of good to the farmers. We did not go out at all. The storm cooled the air very pleasantly.

Friday 22. Looking showery. At 10.36 to the station, Mary and M. going with me and then on to York Town. I went by train to Aldershot and walked across to North Camp Station SW. Had to wait a long time for the train, it being the day of Hampton Races. Went on to Farnham. Mr Sidebotham met me at the station and drove me to Sandrock Cottage, but it would never do for us. Then we to Farnham. Got a whip. I had not been in the town of Farnham since 1832 or 1833, when I used to go down to Titchfield. We then went back to the station and waited for a friend of Mr S. from Aldershot - viz Dr Carter of Barnet, who is there with the 2 Middlesex Militia of which he is M.O. Then to the Bourne Vicarage. Found Mr S's house in a beautiful situation, among wild hills. He has a very nice place. After dinner we went and looked at the Church, and at Mr Wilbraham Taylors cottage, of which we heard a good deal this time last year. It is a wretched little place and the land consists almost entirely of a steep hill side planted with firs. Not a bit of meadow, but there is a summerhouse from which there is one of the finest views I ever saw, embracing all the highest of the Surrey hills, Ewhurst Mill, [Leith] Hill, Hindhead &c. We returned to the station at 4 and Mr Carter and I traveled together back to North Camp and walked across to the other station, where we parted and I returned to Blackwater by 4.41, where M and Mary met me. And so home having had a very pleasant day.

Saturday 23. Mary left us at 12.36. We had hoped to have Elizabeth down for a few days, but Elizas continued illness has prevented it. After seeing M. off we went on into York Town. Edward came in the afternoon and we had some Lawn Tennis in both courts, having got up the new net.

Sunday 24. M and I, to early Celebration. I breakfasted with the Sumners, then to School. All our teachers back. M. came to Service at 11. It was cool and pleasant today. Edward did not come till after dinner. We had a walk together. I went to evening Service alone. [I read] the lessons both morning and evening.

Monday 25. Wrote to the General today asking him whether he still wishes to part with his lease, as we think that if we could get this place on fairly reasonable terms we might make it suit us. Did not go out at all.

Tuesday 26. M. went with me to the station at 8.39, and I went to Reading, en route to Thatcham. Found there was not a train till 11.20, so I went into the town. Paid a bill for seeds and then went to Service at St Lawrence and back to station, where I still had a long time to wait. Got to Thatcham at 12.30. Called at the Vicarage - saw only Mrs Martin. Went on to the Village. Got hold of the Parish Clerk, who showed me all over the house I had come to see. It is called the "Priory" and is close to the Church. Rather a nice place but very much shut in, very much out of repair, too close to the Church yard and also to some schools and cottages. Saw the Church, which I did not admire very much, and got back to the station at 2 p.m. and was home at Blackwater at 3.45, where M. met me. Saw Mr Deacon on the platform at Wellington College and asked him to come and see Eliza when he could.

Wednesday 27. Got the Sketching Portfolio today. M's Early Spring was 3rd, ought to have been 1st, and her Rainy Day, 6, should have been 2d. After dinner called on the newcomers at the Hall. They were out. Then at the Masons, had a chat there, then at the Wyatts (out) and on to York Town to get some medicine for Eliza.

Thursday 28. Busy in the morning altering the Tennis Court in the field, so as to avoid the sun, which, in the old court, shines right in the face of one player. After dinner M and I drove by Minley and Cove to Farnboro' and home by Hawley

Friday 29. Up early. Got the box for Euston Square packed, and at 8.20 went to the station and to Redhill. Waited there an hour and then on to Grange Road on the East Grinstead branch of the Brighton Line. Thence walked nearly 2 miles, to look at house, at Copthorne for sale. Rather a nice place, with 8 acres of ground. But the house has one unpardonable fault and that is that there is only one staircase and the servants rooms mixed up with the others. It is on high ground and fine views on 3 sides. I then walked back to 3 Bridges Station. 3 miles - very hot - but by so doing I saved myself from waiting about nearly 3 hours and got back to Blackwater by 4.41 instead of 7.8 as I had expected. This involved walking home from the station. Had a letter from Gnl Elwyn, who is not prepared to let the house ([i.e.] give up the lease) now on account of the difficulty of arranging for the plants in the conservatory.

Saturday 30. Another very hot day. Did not go out at all. Wrote to the General offering him £200 instead of £300 and to take charge of the conservatory for another winter. In afternoon Edward came over and we had several games at Tennis. Found the new court a great improvement in every way on the old. Had a great picking of strawberries. In the evening very cloudy and glass falling. I am freed from anxiety about my hay as during the week I sold the grass as it stood to Mr Cobbett for £14.10.

July 1877

Yateley

Sunday 1. It began raining at 6.30 and continued to do so steadily till 2 p.m. I went to School. It was so wet that M. did not come to Church at 11. I stayed to Celebration. Too wet for Edward to come to dinner. It cleared up at 2 p.m. I went to Church in the evening and read the prayers. M. stayed with Eliza.

Monday 2. A beautiful day after the rain. Mr Cobbett began cutting our grass. It turns out I think very well. The crop seems to me to be heavier than that in Capt'n Percy Smiths field, which looked so very fine. At 4 M and I drove to York Town and after to the station where we met Mrs Tierney and brought her home with us.

Tuesday 3. A lovely morning. Occasional clouds. A Westerly wind. I went to Church at 10. Eliza not quite so well - excited by Mrs Tierneys coming. The least thing upsets her. Took a short drive in the afternoon, at the back of the Hall, on to the Flats, home by Cricket Hill. Called at Mrs Bechers. She had gone to our house and we missed her.

Wednesday 4. Mrs Becher came in the morning to see Mrs T. At 3 we drove to Mrs Bechers, then at the back of the Hall and by Firgrove to Eversley Church, through Bramshill and home by the Ridges. Mrs T. was delighted with her drive.

Thursday 5. Took Mrs T. to the 1.37 train. It has been a very pleasant little visit, which she seems to have enjoyed. Wet in afternoon.

Friday 6. In the evening took Eliza for a very short drive. I made up a bed in the carriage and went up Cricket Hill to a little beyond Mrs Bechers, when she had had quite enough. This is the first time she has driven since the 13 June.

Saturday 7. Showery in the morning. At 4 Ed: came over and went with me to a Garden party at the Masons. There were a lot of people there. They had 3 courts set out, so everyone could play. I had six games and won them all, and Edward had as many. It was a very pleasant afternoon.

Sunday 8. To School, and M. to Church. This morning I got a letter from Lumley (which I ought to have got yesterday) asking me to go and see the Garlands. After Church went on to ask old Mrs White about Ewhurst. Her daughter is married to the gardener at Garlands, and she has often been there. While at their cottage it came on to rain sharply so that Edward could not come to dinner. He came in about 3. This is his last time as their exams are on all this week and vacation begins next Saturday. I went to Church in the evening. M. did not.

Monday 9. Up at 6 and down to the 7.50 train. Got to Cranleigh at 8.50 and to the Garlands at 9.20. Mr Gibson was not at home, but he had left orders for us to be shown over the place. This is a curious, rambling old place, full of passages, corners and cupboards, with one most beautiful room called a "Saloon". But all in sad condition and requiring much money and more taste to make it endurable. Good

gardens &c, but very little meadow land belonging to the house. Only one small field. The place had the most depressing effect upon Maggie, who was in low spirits all the day after. We could not help thinking that the household could not be very reputable. We got back to Blackwater at 12.15 and walked home. This was Yateley Club day. At 6 we took Eliza for a short drive on Darby Green.

Tuesday 10. At 3 M. and I drove by Fleet to Crookham. Looked into the church, which is very nice and the place itself looks very pleasant. Country round beautiful. Then back to Fleet and looked all over the Views. The place, which was put up to auction some time ago, and is now for sale by private contract. The grounds and outbuildings are capital, but the house is a wretchedly mean little place and would require to be rebuilt to make it fit for a gentlemans residence, and then would be so close to the road as to be objectionable. There are altogether 10 acres, of which 6= are in hops, 2 in pasture and the rest gardens, house, outbuildings &c, a capital cottage and farm house, oasthouse, large farmyard &c, and the views from it are such as quite to justify the name. We got home by 6.35.

Wednesday 11. Did not go out at all. Picked strawberries and made jam 12lb. Mrs and Miss Becher came in after tea.

Thursday 12. After dinner drove into York Town. On our return found Edward here, so he and I had 3 games at Lawn Tennis. After breakfast I went into the Village and to Vicarage to see Mrs Sumners baby. Had a letter this morning from Mrs Wickham (Mary Ann's friend Emily Gordon that was), offering her house near Winchester, and asking us to go to afternoon tea at the Crookham parsonage, where she lives with her son, who is the Vicar, for tomorrow.

Friday 13. Heard from Lucy that she would come to us on Tuesday for a few days. We wanted William to come to us tomorrow, but as usual he cannot. M and I to Church and then I went to the Vicarage to see the baby. At 3.40 M and I drove to Crookham and took 5 oclock tea with the Wickhams. Found her and her sons very pleasant. They want us to go next Thursday to Garden party, with the curious adjunct of a Shakespear reading. Home by 6.40, soon after which it began to rain.

Saturday 14. Rain almost all day, at times very heavy. Bad for the 2nd day of the Harrow and Eton Cricket match. Heard from the General that he is still willing to part with this place, if he got the £300 premium he asked. In the afternoon M. and I walked up to Mrs Bechers and had a talk. On Thursday afternoon Edward came over unexpectedly. We had driven into York Town and found him on our return. He and I had three good games at Lawn Tennis. Yesterday his long vacation began.

Sunday 15, St Swithins. M. not feeling well enough to go to early Service, so I went alone, to the Sumners and School. M. came to 11 Service and I went alone in the evening. Mr and Mrs Sumner came in and supped with us, he having been sent for to see old Mr Davidson, who is very sick. Heavy showers at intervals during the day.

Monday 16. Heavy rain set in again at 6.30 a.m. and lasted almost all day. We were to have had a Lawn party at the Stilwells but it was too wet. I went over at 4.30 but no one came but Mrs and Miss Becher, so we had a few cups of tea and talk but no more.

Tuesday 17. I went to Church. [At] 12.30 M and I drove to York Town, and then returned to the station by 1.37 and met Lucy, who had come from London.

Wednesday 18. After dinner Lucy, M. and I drove to York Town, then to Frimley and up the Bagshot Road to look for Mrs Keatings house, of which, after some trouble, we got the keys, and looked all over it. I dare say it has been a pretty place, but is now in the most dreadfully neglected condition. We drove back through Frimley and home by Hawley.

Thursday 19. In the forenoon L. and I looked over Mr Kelseys house. We met Mr K. at the door and I asked him what rent he wanted. He said £150 for the house alone, £200 with 15 acres more land. Afternoon drizzly, so much so that L. and I hesitated whether to go to Crookham. However at 3 we started and drove first to the Vicarage to see the baby, then over Cricket Hill, through Minley to Crookham, where we found a Shakespeare reading going on in the Schools. Some gentleman was bold enough to read Hamlet to a large party. We stayed till 6.30. Got home by 7.30.

Friday 20. Rather rainy looking in the morning. I went to Church and after to the Vicarage. After dinner M. took Eliza for a drive, and Lucy and I went onto the common, and to that swampy part opposite Mrs Bechers, where we had quite a feast of botanising. We found *Drosera Rotundifolia* and *Longifolia*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Hypericum Elodes*, *Narthecium Ossifragium*, Cotton Grass. We brought home a great lot of specimens and Lucy made up a beautiful saucer full to take home with her.

Saturday 21. Beautiful weather. After dinner I took Lucy by the Flats to Hartley Row and home by Firgrove. Then I went back to the Masons and had some Lawn Tennis. This morning I received the lease of this house from William. General Elwyn had sent it to him to look over and see whether there was anything unusual in it. I then wrote to the General to say I would take Holly Hill from him. In evening I heard that General and Mrs E. are coming here on Monday to Bunchs lodgings. On Tuesday afternoon Mrs Stilwell, her brother in law Mr Wapshaw and a Miss Noad came and played Lawn Tennis, but such a set of duffers, I never saw. Yesterday morning I went across and marked out a court for them.

Sunday 22. I went to School, but gave over my class to Mr Padrick and went across to the Vicarage to see both Mrs Sumner and the baby. M brought Lucy to Church in the carriage. M and I went to Church in the evening. The glass falling and looking like rain.

Monday 23. Wet morning and continued so almost all day, but left off from 3 to 4 sufficiently to allow me to take Eliza to the station in the carriage, which jolted her so much less than the cab would have done. M and Lucy went in cab and L. and E. went together as far as Redhill. E. was so fortunate as to get a carriage that would take her to Tonbridge without changing. We have greatly enjoyed dear Lucy's short visit and so I think has she. Elizas long visit has been a disappointment in her being so poorly. I got a letter from the General this morning, telling of his coming here. He and Mrs E. are driving from Meopham in their open carriage. They arrived about 1.30 in a torrent of rain.

Tuesday 24. A beautiful day. Busy in the forenoon picking currants and raspberries. After dinner, we called on the Elwyns and all seems amicably settled between. Then M. walked on to the Masons, and I took Genrl E. home, and when M. got back we drove to Hawley. Left M. to call on Mrs Denny, while I took the Genrl to Mrs Connops Lodge. Then back for M. over the Flats and Cricket Hill, calling at the Bechers - but they were out.

Wednesday 25. Being a Sts day (S. James), had Service today instead of yesterday. Mr Craig, a military Chaplain, who is taking Mr Sumner's duty for 4 Sundays, officiated. Genrl Elwyn came to lunch. Mrs E. was to have done so, but is too unwell having caught a bad cold on Monday. After dinner we drove into York Town.

Thursday 26. Rained hard last night, till 8 this morning. After fine. Heard from Eliza. After all the arrangements for her journey, and getting the advantage of a through carriage to Tonbridge, Fanny, who took charge of her from Lucy at Redhill, managed to spoil all. By some inconceivable stupidity she got out at Edenbridge instead of Tonbridge, and had to wait there for an hour. Then, it seems that instead of going on at once from Tonbridge as she might have done, she waited till 7.27 and so reached St Leonards nearly one hour later than need have been. At 5 the Stilwells, Wapshaws, Mrs and Miss Becher and Mr Mason came up and we had some good games at Tennis. Genrl E also came in.

Friday 27. A lovely day. Both of us to Church at 10. In the afternoon called on the Craigs and Mrs Rush. The former out but we met them in Sandhurst Lane. Then we called on Mrs Turner (in Miss Rymills cottage). Out. Then on to York Town or rather by the road under the College grounds that comes out at the end of the Terrace.

Saturday 28. A showery day. Engaged to go to the Masons to Lawn Tennis. Just as we were starting Mr and Mrs Craig called. When we got to the Masons it was still wet, but we had a good game, except that the heat was intense. I was never so hot in India. Had to change everything, when I got home. On our way sat some time with the Elwyns.

Sunday 29. Fine but extremely hot. M and I to early Celebration. Then I breakfasted with the Craigs who had kindly invited me to do so. Then to School. M. to Church, and both of us in evening.

Monday 30. Heat continues very great. Did not go out at all. Heard from Mrs Lester proposing to come for a couple of days.

Tuesday 31. The same great heat. In the afternoon into York Town and saw Mr Bailey. Asked him whether if I build addition to house, he will give me extension of lease. This he declined, but said he would not mind building himself if I would pay interest on outlay. But as he talked of 8 or 10 per cent, we can as yet come to no agreement.

August 1877

Yateley

Wednesday 1. My birthday. Got letters from Elizabeth and Mary P. and from William. Much cooler today. In afternoon we went to the bog behind Mrs Bechers to get a collection of Droseras &c. Then home by Cobbetts.

Thursday 2. Sent off parcels of plants to Elizabeth and Mrs Hassard. In afternoon to York Town and back to station at 4.41. Met Mrs Lester and took her home. After tea had a walk on the common.

Friday 3. I went to Church. After dinner we drove first to Eversley Church, then through Bramshill and crossed the river at Eversley Blackwater. Then went to look at an old house called the Banisters 200 yards above the bridge. A quaint old place that might be made rather nice. Home by the Ridges and Sandhurst. Mrs Lester was charmed with the drive. After tea we initiated her in Lawn Tennis.

Saturday 4. We hope that Mrs Lester would have been able to stay till Monday, but she could not. Old Mr Davidson was buried today. Took Mrs L. to see Kelsey's house, and at 4.41 took her to station to go to London via Reading. Train was nearly an hour late. After tea walked round by Cricket Hill. Sat with Mrs Noad for some time.

Sunday 5. I to School at 10. M. met me at Church. After Holy Communion. 56 persons stayed. I have hardly ever seen the Church so full in the morning. A large family has come to Yateley Lodge. Sr J. McGregor, army Agent. Looked in at the Elwyns on our way home. After evening Church heard that Mrs Becher was not well, so we walked up with Aimee and saw her. Not much the matter.

Monday 6. Received yesterday from Mr Bailey's lawyer rough draft of assignment of lease. Did not look at it till today. We breakfasted early and directly after Genrl Elwyn came in. Showed him the document and sent it off by morning post. At 10.15 went with him to station and met Mr Watts. Decided to go over the inventory at once, and consequently had a very hard days work. Stuck at it till 4.20, when we had just finished as Genrl E. called to take Mr W. back to the station. Found very little damage done. After tea we walked as far as Mr Cobbetts and got caught in a sharp shower of rain. We were to have the Noads and their boys and Mr Craigs 2 boys to play, but were obliged to put them off on account of the sudden taking of the inventory. The Generals furniture is to be removed on Thursday, and on Saturday we hope to have Mr Green down to do the valuation, and if we can get the lease signed this week all will be done and we shall be able to go to London to get our furniture next week.

Tuesday 7. Some rain in night. At 10 M and I to Church after which rain began again. Genrl and Mrs Elwyn came up to do sundry little jobs. Yesterday after all our work, I bottled off a 3 dozen jar of [Carbartz] I had got from Max Gregor as an experiment. Mrs E and General stayed to lunch and left in the afternoon in soaking rain.

Wednesday 8. A packer came from Watts and put up a lot of china &c. and after dinner some of the Generals. In evening we went and said goodbye to Mrs E. as she is to leave tomorrow.

Thursday 9. A day of disturbance. All the Generals things removed, but he had so much down at Bunchs, besides what he had to take from the house, than a large furniture van was not sufficient to hold all, besides which it was very badly packed. In the middle heavy rain came on, and a lot of things were most carelessly exposed to the wet, especially the Buhl table which was much injured, and I shall be surprised if the piano and several other things are not damaged. The General never came near, either yesterday or today, to overlook, and of course I had no authority. All was done by 4 p.m., and then the two horses of the van could not stir it from the spot it stood on. Luckily a team of Cobbetts came by and they got a 3rd horse, at 4.45. I went with the Stilwells to a Garden party at the Gibsons, pleasant enough. M. did not feel up to going.

Friday 10. At 9.25 met the General at the station and took him on to Mr Baileys, where we signed the transfer of the lease, and I paid him £300. Took him back to the station and he went by the 10.36 train, booking his horse and carriage (packed with plants) as far as Croydon, whence he intended to drive to Meopham. After dinner M. and I drove to Kits Croft and returned a call of the Murrays. It is such a pretty place, the best kept up of any that I have seen about here. On returning drove to Mrs Bechers to call on some friends staying with her. We took Edward in the carriage instead of James.

Saturday 11. At 8.30 to the station, where I met Mr Green, and Mr Watts also arrived by the up train, so I brought them home and directly after breakfast commenced the work of valuation which they completed in time for me to take them back for the 3.41 train. They did not give me any exact statement, but Mr Green told me that it would amount to about £248. This is more than I expected, but I suppose one always undervalues what one is going to purchase. At 5 we went across to the Stilwells, where I played Lawn Tennis and made myself very hot.

Sunday 12. At 10 I to School, and M. came to Church, and we both went to Church in evng, when Mr Stilwells brother in law, Mr Coxhead preached.

Clapham

Monday 13. By getting up early and making a severe push for it, we got away by the 8.45 train. Last evening I took out a loose front tooth of M. that had been long troubling her, and today on our way to Clapham we stopped at the Dentists (Newington Crescent) and M. had a caste taken of her mouth for a new one. Then on to Lucy, reaching there before 12. As we have no time to lose, so directly after lunch we went by tram to Newington Causeway and selected a lot of plated articles, then on to Breillats (by old Trinity Street) and got some glass and crockery articles, then back by tram. Found both Lucy and William pretty well.

Tuesday 14. As Lucy wanted to go to Maples with us we only did some small matters before lunch, which we had at 12. By rail and bus to Maples, where we began

business by choosing a carpet for the drawing room, so long a job that by the time we had got it and a rug, and chintz for curtains, we had to give up for the day. Then took a cab to Mappin and Webbs. Eliza had got Lucy to buy a present for us, and she had got a very expensive plated biscuit box which we did not care for, so we exchanged it for two glass boxes and some spoons. We then cabbed to Victoria and got home back tired.

Wednesday 15. Immediately after breakfast went by train to Victoria, then to the Cooperative and did a lot of business. Cabbed to Mrs Knight, and then went to Maples. Ordered some more things. Could not find either mirrors or sideboard to suit us, so we cabbed to Bally [and] Forman in Oxford Street - with no success. Then walked as far as Nosottes, where we ordered mirrors and an easy chair. Then by bus to Victoria and so home. In the evening I was quite seedy, feeling sick and out of sorts.

Thursday 16. Still very seedy, but by taking medicine, managed to go out, first with M. to the dentists to get her tooth fitted in, and she had one stopped. Then we went to [Toms] to look for a sideboard, but could not see one. Things there much dearer than at Maples. Then to Waring where we ordered an easy chair for me, and then home. After lunch out again, first to Atkinsons on Westminster Bridge Road, where we got a very nice sideboard and a chair like that which Mr Key gave to Kate years ago, and which we find is called an Aston Key Chair. Then we walked across the bridge and by bus to Oxford St, first to Nosottes, where we finished our work, then to Maples. Settled all there, and back by bus to Victoria and so home, very late and tired.

Friday 17. As M. wanted to have her tooth looked at again, we went together as far as Waring where we did a little more business. Then she went to the dentists and I went into the City, 1st to Max Gregors, then to Billiter Square to look for Barnard and Bishops agent. Found they had moved to Queen Victoria Street. Then to Broad St and saw Douglas Petrie. Thence to Barnards and got some rings (tyres) for mowing machine then to Townend and got a round hat. Then to Lynch in Aldergate Street. After had some lunch, and then on to a shop in Southampton Row, Archdeacons, to which Hassard had recommended me for carpenters tool. I selected a lot, as I hope to do a good deal of work during the winter. Then got home by bus to Victoria and train.

Yateley

Saturday 18. After breakfast packed all our glass and plated things in two little hampers. Had a man from Cross's who packed our two teak wood tables. M. went out as far as the Elephant to look for books. At 1.45, taking all our goods with us (including two large pictures) cabbed to London Bridge and took all our luggage without payment. Got to Blackwater at 5.15, put all our things into a cab with James, and drove home in our own carriage. Found all well. The sideboard and chair from Atkinsons already arrived. Got these and everything else except the tables unpacked, and so did a good days work. My tools arrived at night about 9. Mr and Mrs Stilwell arrived to warn us that there was an insane man about who might bother us, as he claimed to be the owner of Holly Hill. We found that he had been at our house two or three times in the day. However we saw no more of him.

Sunday 19. Wet in the morning but it did not continue. Very close and sultry. M and I to early Celebration. I breakfasted with the Craigs then to School and Church. M was so tired that she did not come at 11. We both went to evening Service.

Monday 20. Woke at 4 and could not get to sleep again, so got up early and walked before breakfast, and we both had a lot to do all day. Put in a great lot of cuttings straight from Clapham. Put on new India Rubber tyres to the mowing machine, a most difficult job. After tea M and I drove into York Town and home by the Flats and Cricket Hill.

Tuesday 21. Had a good deal of tooth ache on Sunday and yesterday and was awoke by it at 4 a.m. so determined to go up to London and have it out. Went by the 8.45 train to L. Bridge, walked to Newington Crescent where Mr West took out the offending member, and at once gave me relief. Then I went on to Clapham and lunched with Lucy and back to L. Bridge by 2.26, reaching Blackwater at 5, where M. met me. My easy chair from Waring arrived, but the careless people had omitted to put by Blackwater as ordered to do, so of course it came by Farnboro'.

Wednesday 22. Fearing lest Nosotte and Maples might make the same mistake as Waring had done, I wrote to them both about sending to Blackwater Station. I was fortunate in my day for town, as it rained heavily almost all day today.

Thursday 23. No furniture has arrived. Fine day. In afternoon drove into York Town. Heard at the station that our carpets had arrived, and in the evening Bunch brought them up.

Friday 24. On opening the carpets, found that they had not shaped that for the drawing room. Sent for Charles Bunch but he could not come, so Maggie, Mrs Rackley and I set to work and laid down the felt. We made a fair job of it, but were long about it. At 4.30 we went to a Garden party at the Hall, a very swell affair. Glee singers from London - very good. No end of friends of the Holders, whom none of us knew. Mrs and Miss Becher walked home with us and had a cup of tea, and we saw them home. Yesterday there was an eclipse of the moon, total, which we saw beautifully. Just as we were starting for the Hall a large case arrived from Nosotte.

Saturday 25. I had asked William to come today and we got a letter to say he was coming, but from the delay in sending the furniture we were in such terrible confusion, and it was raining so heavily that I telegraphed to stop him. Bunch came after breakfast and we worked hard. Got down drawing {room} carpet before dinner. Moved everything out of the dining room, got down both felt and carpet there and moved everything back. Unpacked Nosottes case, which contained chairs and table. At 3 his other case with looking glasses arrived. Got them out and put up and all by 5 oclock. It rained all day, with much thunder and lightning.

Sunday 26. M and I to early Celebration. I breakfasted with Mr Sumner, who was alone. Then to School. M. too tired to come to Church, but we both went in the evening.

Monday 27. Showery all day. Nothing from Maples, to whom I have had to write again. They sent the curtains last week but not the poles.

Tuesday 28. Blowing and raining hard all night but cleared up before 10. I went to Church. After dinner the rest of Maples things arrived and we got them unpacked. Then drove into York Town, and as M. heard from Mrs Bessell that there was a cook to be heard of at Rackstraws, we drove home by the Flats and called there. She turned out to be quite a girl - too young for us.

Wednesday 29. At work putting up the curtain poles. Got everything done and the furniture all arranged in the drawing room, which looks very nice indeed. At 4.30 went to the Masons and played Lawn Tennis. Had six hard games. Mrs and Miss Becher came home and tead with us and we saw them home.

Thursday 30. At 10 M. and I to Church. Then in to the Masons. When we got home, took down one of the sets of bookshelves in the dining room, and I set to work to reduce it to set of low shelves for the recess. Got a letter from William telling me of a first rate turn out, carriage, pair of horses and harness that cost £270 not long ago, to be sold for £80. Very tempting, but we have been at much expense lately and it seems more provident to be content with our own little carriage and pony. At 4.30 drove into York Town. There was heavy rain from 12 to 2. Yesterday had Bunch putting to rights the skylight over the W.C. which [for some] time has leaked much.

Friday 31. Going on with my bookshelves. Went to Church. In the afternoon we went into York Town and got some material for colouring my shelves, which I tried in the evening.

September 1877

Yateley

Saturday 1. Found my mahogany stain quite a success. After dinner went to York Town and got varnish. Gave a coat to my bookcase before going to bed.

Sunday 2. No Sunday School as repairs were going on. To Church at 11 and Holy Communion. Just as we sat down to dinner Edward came, having only returned to College yesterday. We took a walk, but it rained so cut it short. M and I, to Church in the evening. Mr Stilwell being away I read both times.

Monday 3. This morning got a letter from General Elwyn asking me to take him in this afternoon as he is coming to pick up his plants. Very wet during the whole day. Got 2d coat of varnish onto my bookcase. At 4 drove to the station to meet young Fan and Ethel. General Elwyn came by the same train but went on to Camberley to see Craig the nurseryman. He came to us in time for tea.

Tuesday 4. The General at work all day with Craig and James, tying up the plants ready for tomorrow. At 4 we went, i.e. M, Fan, Ethel and I to a flower show held in the grounds of Hawley House. It was far better than that at Bramshill, but there were so many flowers that the tent was much too small to show them well, and most of the vegetables had to be put on the ground. Mrs Connop is very liberal. She provides tea in a tent for all the non gentry and for all the gentry in her own house.

Wednesday 5. The Generals work was all finished at 2 p.m. and the plants sent off. He brought with him the valuation and I paid him £248.17.6, so that is all settled. At 3 I drove him down to the station, Ethel going with us. Met Edward, and when we overtook him again took him up. At 4.30 to the Sumners to Lawn Tennis, and had a very pleasant afternoon. Had some capital games. This morning I got the bookcase into its place and it looks very nice.

Thursday 6. James and I very busy all the morning cleaning the porch. I think we must have taken nearly ten cart loads of earth out. Then we had it all coated with lime wash to kill insects and fungus. At 3, M and I drove to Hawley Hill House to call on Capt and Mrs Hill, who called on us 10 days ago. We found Mrs H at home, a very pleasant German lady, and then we went on to Birkinshaw, a very pretty house near to Sir Charles Pressleys, where Mr and Mrs Don Marshall live. Found them at home, very sociable people of our own stamp. Had long chats at both places. Then home. Edward there, and Mrs Becher, Aimie and niece came. We had some Lawn Tennis and the Bechers stayed to tea and supper and I walked home with them.

Friday 7. Having sold the grass in the park to Mr Cobbett, he cut it yesterday and Wednesday and has been making it today. Fan and I went to Church. Had a {t}errible job in the porch. When we came to wash of the lime, found it most difficult to get it off. Mr Ilsey, James and I were at it a great part of the day. I hope that at all events we have thoroughly killed all blight and fungus. At 3.15 we all drove into York Town and home through Sandhurst. Heard from Harry this morning offering to come tomorrow. Our pig Judy had 7 young ones.

Saturday 8. Got a note from Harry saying that Priscie was unwell. She had ague so could not come. This will I fear put him off for a long time. Edward came over early. Had a walk with Fanny and Ethel. Aimie Becher came to Tennis and brought her cousin Andie with her and there were some capital games. Mrs Becher took the two young men as far as the station, leaving Aimie and niece here till she returned.

Sunday 9. At 8 F and I to early Celebration at Sandhurst. Home to breakfast. School and Service as usual. Edward to dinner. Fan and he walked in the afternoon.

Monday 10. Heard from Alfred this morning that he had been and still was very poorly, so I wrote off at once asking him to come to us, but have not much hope of his doing so. In the afternoon we drove by the Don Marshalls to Cove, to the pottery and ordered some pots. Back by Minley, stopping to show Fan the view from the Church. There we met Mr and Mrs Sumner, and they walked with us as far as Mrs Bechers. Then we drove on to the Masons to ask them to a garden party on Wednesday. Met Aimie Becher there and asked her

Tuesday 11. Had Searle to work. Set him and James to clean the conservatory, very hard work, particularly getting the lime off the glass. Fan and I went to Church. At 11 it began to rain and continued to do so till 4.

Wednesday 12. Wet all the morning. Not at all promising for the afternoon, however we made all preparations. I got a capital court marked out on the lawn and moved both it and the one in the field. Before 4 it had cleared up and continued fine. We had Mrs and 2 Misses Mason, Mrs Sumner, (Mr S. was in town), Mrs and Miss Becher, Mrs and 2 Misses Noad, Mrs Stilwell and 3 children, Edward, Mr Mason. I had expected Charlie Sumner and Andie Becher but both were prevented coming. It went off capitally. Everyone had plenty of playing.

Thursday 13. Again wet till 4. After fairly fine. In forenoon M. drove F to Eversley Church to see Kingsley's grave &c, but it was too wet to go on through Bramshill. At 4.30 to a Tennis party at the Masons.

Friday 14. Again wet morning. At 10, to Litany. At 2, I went to Church, where there was Service for all the School children. Mr S. had a very nice Service, then marched them all to the Vicarage where the prizes were given away and then there was tea and games on the lawn. The mothers of Sunday School children had tea. The weather held up and it was a great success.

Saturday 15. After 5 days hard work got the conservatory finished. M. drove Fan and E. through Sandhurst, up the Wellingtonia Avenue, by Finchampstead Ridges and Eversley Blackwater. Edward came to dinner. M and F. went to a garden party at the Gibsons. E and I. played Tennis at home. At 6.15 I drove Edward nearly to the station [intending] to pick up M and F, but we went by the back lanes and so missed them. They walked half way home and then the Stilwells sent back their carriage for them.

Sunday 16. M, F and I to early Celebration. I to Sumners and School. All at 11 Service. Edward came to dinner and he and Fanny and Ethel walked to Minley to see

the Church. F M and I, to evening Church and then we went in and supped with the Stilwells.

Monday 17. H Bunch came up and we decided on a site for my workshop. Cut away a great part of the laurel edge on right of lawn. At 12.15 took F and E. to station, and sent them off home. Then we drove on and saw Craig's Gardens at Camberley and thence to the saw mills to order some wood. Here Nancy got so frightened at the noise of the engine, that while I was out of the carriage looking at some wood, she turned short round up a bank, nearly upset the carriage, and bent a shaft and wrenched one of the splash boards out of its place. Fortunately did no further harm. On our way home interviewed a cook in the Frimley Road. Had a game or two at Tennis on the lawn.

Tuesday 18. Cleared the ground for my shop and replanted laurels &c, that were taken up to make room. M and I to Church. At 4 we went to a garden party at Mrs Wyatts. Had two games, the youngest Miss Gibson and self against Beatrice Mason and Capt'n Galton. We won both easily.

Wednesday 19. A dull hazy morning. Just before 9, we started to drive to the Sidebothams. Went by Farnboro Station, Aldershot and Farnham. Reached their house in exactly two hours and spent a very pleasant day with them, and left again at 4.35. Reached home in exactly 1hr 40 minutes. Distance each way nearly 13 miles. Nancy came home quite freely without a touch of the whip.

Thursday 20. Wet. Continued to rain at intervals till 4 p.m., but in spite of that M and I did a great deal of gardening. At 4.30 as it had cleared somewhat we walked to the Sunners and I had 6 games at Lawn Tennis. Little Miss Tringham was my partner in all of them. The two first, against Miss Flora Shute and Mr Sumner, of course we lost. The two next, against Miss Shute and Mr Mason, we won 4 and 3 to game, and the two last, against Miss Shute and Miss Beatrice Mason, we won 0 and 1 to game.

Friday 21. A fine day. M and I to Church at 10. Then M. stayed to help at the decorations for the Harvest Festival on Sunday. I went home and with Edward began picking the filberts, which we finished after dinner with the help of M. and Searle.

Saturday 22. After breakfast both of us to the Church, where we worked till past 1. Edward came to lunch and at 4, we went to a Garden party at the Stilwells. Rather dull. At 7.30, M and I to dinner at the Murrays at Kits Croft. Met the Bents from Hawley and the Cowley Powles. Had a fairly pleasant evening. Home soon after 11.

Sunday 23. There being Midday as well as early Communion we went to the latter. I went to School first. The Church was very full and looked beautiful. The music excellent, a first rate organist came from Basingstoke on purpose. Edward came as usual to dinner and we took a short walk. In the evening the Church was crowded beyond all precedent. Hilton counted out 500 and then gave in. There must have been fully 100 standing. There were 91 communicants during the day and the offertories amounted to £17.1.4=.

Monday 24. I went to the Vicarage at noon to call on Mr Sumners father, but he and Miss S had left early.

Tuesday 25. White left today. At 3.40, M. drove to the station and met the new servant Emma Dodwell, whom Jeannie Woodcock sent to us from Kenilworth. A pleasant looking girl.

Wednesday 26. Rackley came and we began painting the conservatory. Outside work much interfered with by the very heavy dews, but as R. cannot come till 9 o'clock this is not of as much consequence as it would otherwise be. At 4 to the Masons to a garden party.

Thursday 27. Bunch began putting up my new storeroom and workshop, which I am building in the shrubbery opposite the end of the stable. Continuing painting. After dinner called on the Dorns, who have been living for the last 5 weeks in a farm house at Eversley. Very nice people. Also called on Mrs Rush. Mrs and the Miss Noads came in and we had some Tennis.

Friday 28. Work going on as yesterday. Church in the morning. At 3.30 Mr and Mrs Dawn and their children came to tea and Tennis. Mr Sumner and Charlie also came and we had some capital games.

Saturday 29. St Michael and A.A. M. and I to Church. After we drove to York Town, then to Hartford Bridge in search of a servant, and found a girl, who is to come on trial tomorrow. (This was yesterday). Girl came today - Harriet Heather. After dinner I went to Sumners to play Tennis. The same party as yesterday. M. went out and while we were out the Shutes called.

Sunday 30. M. and I to early Celebration. To School as usual. E. to dinner and we took a short walk. M. went in the evening with Mrs and Miss Noads to Sandhurst Church, where they had there Harvest Festival. When I came out I walked nearly to the bridge and met them.

October 1877

Yateley

Monday 1. Had Rackley and finished on the greenhouse for the present. After lunch M and I called on the MacGregors, expecting to find that the elder girls had come home, but only found the youngest, a bright little creature who reminds me of Mary Petrie. Asked her to come to us on Wednesday. Then we called at the Hall (out) and at the Shutes, where we saw the eldest and youngest and a mad old maid, Miss Waugh a most ardent antivivisectionist. We walked. At a little past 5 William and Lucy arrived, having come to Farnboro Station.

Tuesday 2. Bunch finished the workshop all but tarring the roof. I went to Church and on my return took William for a drive as far as Star Hill. Home by Firgrove - a lovely day. After lunch, M. took W. and Lucy to York Town, while I worked at setting out courts and making things ready for tomorrow. Edward came in soon after they started.

Wednesday 3. Before dinner (early) William took Lucy for a drive. At 3 or soon after our friends arrived for Tennis. We had quite a large party, Mrs and Miss Gibson, Mrs and 2 Miss Wyatts, all the Masons and Mr and Mrs Sumner and Charlie, Mr and Mrs Dorn and their little girls, Miss MacGregor, 2 Miss Shutes and Miss St Aubyn, Edward and young Grosvenor. Mrs Stilwell could not come, and we did not like to ask the Noads as it was not Miss F's holiday. We kept the games going rapidly, had some croquet on the outer lawn, and it was really a great success.

Thursday 4. William having got his gun sent down from Clapham, we tried some experiments on pattern and penetration - not with much success. Maggie drove L and W. to Fleet Pond and the Views. Edward came over and had some Tennis.

Friday 5. We all went to Reading by the 12.36 train, leaving the carriage at Gomm's. We took a cab to the Cemetery, where Lucy was anxious to see to the condition of the Aunts grave. Then we lunched and strolled about till the 3.15 train, by which we returned home.

Saturday 6. William and I gunning after breakfast. At 1 we all drove to the Military College. Having found Edward I took the carriage back to Alcocks and got back just in time for lunch, which was given in the gymnasium. After, we all adjourned to the Grand Stand and saw all that went on capitally. The two events that [interested] me most were the polejumping (in which the winner cleared 9ft 6ins, and the Tug of War, which I had never seen before. While I got the carriage, the rest went in and saw the prizes delivered.

Sunday 7. Being the first of the month there was no early Service. I went to School. Maggie brought L and W. to Church in the carriage. Edward to dinner as usual. W,[.] and I took a short walk. Lucy and M. at home in the evening. W. and I to Church.

Monday 8. Shooting in the morning. After lunch, William drove Lucy by Minley and home through Cove and Hawley. I at work in my shop and M. out getting blackberrying.

Tuesday 9. At 1.37 took William to Station. He went to Town (via Reading and Gr. Western) having to attend a meeting of Directors tomorrow at 9.30. I had been to Church at 10. Began putting up shelves for apples in my new house.

Wednesday 10. Working at the shelves. At 3 I walked to the Masons and soon after Lucy and M. came in carriage. Had some good games against Cptn Halkett, who plays well. William returned from Town as he went yesterday.

Thursday 11. Soon after breakfast I took William for a drive. Went by Vigo Lane to Hartley Row. At the end of the village turned to the right by a road I had never explored. It took us on to Hazeley Heath, a beautiful part of the country, with exquisite views, looking onto Bramshill House. We came out by its lower gate and home through Eversley, having had a delightful drive.

Friday 12. I to Church at 10, after being busy all day on my shelves. After lunch, M. took L. and W. to call on Sumners and Masons and then into York Town.

Saturday 13. Got my shelves finished before lunch and had time to call on the MacGregors and ask the youngest Miss M. to come to Tennis - the other two do not care for it. Edward came to lunch. At 3.15 the two Miss Noads and Miss MacG. and her young brother came and we had some capital games at Tennis.

Sunday 14. Just as last Sunday, except that we did not walk after dinner. A lovely day, balmy like summer. In the evening glass falling and wind getting up.

Monday 15. It was blowing hard when we went to bed, and increased to a gale in the night - from SSE to SSW. This morning fine with fresh breeze from WSW. At 10.25 Lucy and William left for Southampton. We have greatly enjoyed their visit, and should have done so still more had Williams health been better, but he has not been at all well. I hope the change will do him good, when he returns home. After dinner M and I drove into York Town, a very cold wind blowing.

Tuesday 16. The gale on Sunday night seems to have been quite a hurricane in many places, blowing all over the South and West of England. Bright morning. At 11.40, M and I went to pick blackberries but it came on to rain and continued to do so till 4 p.m.

Wednesday 17. In consequence of Mr Sumner's being obliged to go to London yesterday, the Service was put off till today. M and I went to Church. Heard that Mr Barkshire died this morning early. After dinner M. and I drove to nearly to Kits Croft to call on the Murrays, but just beyond the Tyndalls met her driving. The called at the Ts found them at home. A sharp white frost this morning, followed by a beautiful day.

Thursday 18. Another dense white frost with fog till 9 a.m. After very fine. M and I to Church, it being St Luke's Day. Just after dinner Harry Johnstone came in. He had

walked to Guildford and thence by train. He could only stay about 3/4 of an hour. I drove him to the 3.37 train. On the way met Edward. When I got back had some tennis. Beatrice Mason and Evie Tringham came and we saw the Bechers passing and called them in. After we walked home with the B's. Yesterday we called there but Mrs B. had gone to the station to meet Aimie.

Friday 19. White frost, but after weather got warmer. M and I to Church (as Wednesday morning Mr Barkshire died). Busy in my workshop. At 3.45 just as we were going out Dr and Mrs Haynes from Eversley called. Then we went to the station. I left M. there and drove on to York Town, back to station and met Maria McLean, who came by the 4.41 train.

Saturday 20. A lovely day - warm and balmy. M. took M.M. for a drive. After dinner for a short walk. Edward came over, and at 3.20 he and Maggie took M.M. to the station. They had hardly got outside the gate when Wilfred Wickham arrived with his sister and a friend, Miss Wright. They remained till M. returned from the station and had tea. When they were gone, M, E. and I had some Lawn Tennis.

Sunday 21. A dull day. Rain threatening. One or two light showers. M and I, to early Celebration. Mr Sumners father, the Bishop of Guildford officiated. I breakfasted as usual at the Sumners. At Sunday School only Miss and Miss Beatrice Mason and myself. At morning Service, there was a confirmation - 22 candidates, 11 of each sex - one of the Miss Holdens and a Miss Travers, a friend of Mrs Tyndalls. I have never seen the rite administered more impressively. The Bishop's addresses both before and after the imposition of hands were excellent. He sat in a chair in the opening of the Screen, and each candidate knelt before him in turn. In the evening he preached a very good sermon for the Indian Famine Fund, and the collection was over £17. Edward to dinner as usual, and we all had a walk through Sandhurst and home by the wood and Darby Green.

Monday 22. At 8.30 sent off Nancy to be clipped, and she was back by one p.m. Put the finishing touches to my shelves in store room. On Saturday, just as M. was starting to take M.M. to the station, through some misunderstanding between Edward the nephew and Edward the boy, the wing of the carriage caught in the rustic gate and was nearly torn off. About 4, M and I walked in the rain to the Sumners to call on the Uttertons and when we returned it rained in torrents, and was blowing very hard indeed. I am afraid that if Miss Florie Noad's vessel sails today she will have a rough time in the channel.

Tuesday 23. Dull morning. M and I started for Church, but when half way it rained so much that M, having no waterproof, was afraid to go on. I went to Church, on my return busy repairing the damage done to the carriage on Saturday. Made a pretty good job of it. Mr Mason came in and had a cup of tea. Fine night.

Wednesday 24. A beautiful day. At 11, to Vestry meeting. Mr Stilwell offered on the part of his wife £100 for efficient heating apparatus for the Church. In the afternoon I wrote to Mr Sumner offering from Maggie and self a new oak altar, the present one being quite unseemly. At 3.30 Miss [Lippner] called. When she was gone M and I drove into York Town. Nancy looks quite smart, now that she is clipped. Mr Sumner and Mr Stilwell came in to thank us for our offer.

Thursday 25. Wet all day. Rain very heavy a.m. After fine. We bottled off the octave of Carbartz I had from Max Gregor. Got 7 dozen and 3 quite fine - about 3 thick. I have commenced making flower stands for the porch. Mrs [and] Miss Becher were to have come to tea, but it was too damp.

Friday 26. A lovely day. We both went to Church. After I worked at the flower stands, and M. potting fuschias. After dinner we drove to Eversley to call on the Haines. Heard from Elizabeth this morning. We have agreed to go to stay a few days with her on Monday.

Saturday 27. Wet almost all day. Last night our second sow, Sally, littered 5 pigs. Working at my flower stand which I finished and painted. Edward came in, but too wet for Tennis. Aimie Becher came in about 5, and we walked home with her and sat some little time with them. M. during the day packed two baskets of fruit to take with us on Monday and sent away a lot of pears to different people.

Sunday 28. Another fine day. M and I to early Celebration. Then I went to the Summers and after to School. Edward to dinner and having stayed talking at tea till too late for him to get home to mess, he came to Church with us. A very dark night. Took the lantern for the first time. Escorted the 3 Miss MacGregors home.

Euston Square

Monday 29. Wet again, so had to send for a cab and got away by the 12.37 train. Rained incessantly all day. Despatched a basket of fruit to Lucy from Charing Cross and got to Euston Square about 4. Found all well except Mary who is a good deal out of sorts. Soon after we arrived I got a card from the Lesters saying they were to be in town today and asking us to come over and see them tomorrow evening between 7 and 8, but unfortunately not mentioning what hotel they were to stay at. The expression "come over" seeming to imply something near at hand, I went to the "Clerical Hotel" and Euston and Victoria, all in the Square, but without success. Staying with Elizabeth we found a cousin of hers and Maggies, Mrs Murphy a daughter of Mr Montgomery, who was at Surat, widow of a young civilian, and who has lost also both her children.

Tuesday 30. Weather improved, glass rising. Directly after breakfast M and I went out first to Carters in Oxford Street, then to Charing Cross and enquired at the hotel there for the Lesters, but no news of them. I then saw M. onto a yellow bus to go home and I walked to Pall Mall and asked at King and Co, thinking they were Lesters agent - in which I was mistaken. I then went to Mr Forsters office 39 Gt Marlborough St to meet Mr Sumner and see design for Altar Table, which we approved of. I then walked back to Euston Square and lunched. After, M. with Mrs Murphy, Bessie and Mary went shopping to Oxford Street and I went to Victoria Sat with William for an hour, then walked across the park to Pall Mall. Enquired at Richardsons. Lester had been there about an hour before, but had not mentioned his address. I had also called at the Grosvenor. Home by bus. There was a little rain.

Wednesday 31. A very fine day. After breakfast M. and I went out shopping. Got a jacket and dress at Gant & Jacks. When we got back to lunch to our great surprise

found the Lesters there. About 3, M and Bessie went to Chelsea to call on Mrs Thomson, and I went with Lesters to the Midland Hotel where they were staying. It is a magnificent building, almost entirely the work of Sr Gilbert Scott - even to the furniture. To my mind it far surpasses any of the continental hotels I have seen, where magnificence depends upon paint and gilding. Thence I went on into the City, to Imperial Bank and Barnard and Bishops. M. and Bessie got home very late. Elizabeth, Mrs Murphy, M and I, dined at Johns. Mary and Douglas came after dinner. The Tom Eggars were there. I had not seen either of them since Johns wedding.

November 1877

Euston Square

Thursday 1. Directly after breakfast Elizabeth, M. and I went to Broadwoods in Grt Pulteney St to look for a piano. We saw one that pleased M. very much and I thought its tones very beautiful. An oblique grand - price 85 guineas. Then we went on to Collards in Cheapside to look at an instrument that Douglas liked very much. It was a Pianino - very nice tone and a most beautiful piece of furniture - price £73.10. We also saw two very fine full cottage pianos - one 77 guineas, the other 88, in walnut. Leaving the matter for further discussion we returned home, and after lunch, I went to Harrow. Went first to Kates and she walked with me to the foot of the hill. I walked through the churchyard and looked into the church. Then to the Briars, where I stayed till 5.20. Polly came in and had some tea so I saw all the folk there. Got home by 6.45. M. had not been out at all, having stayed in to see Mrs Palmer (whom we knew in Bombay) and Mrs Thomson also called.

Friday 2. Directly after breakfast M and I to the Cooperative where we spent a long time, and then walked across to Atkinsons in Westminster Road. Did not get home till 2 p.m. After went out again to Oxford Street and Holborn and got several things we wanted.

Saturday 3. M and I out as usual. We went to my tool shop and ordered a lot of things, among them a capital brace and bits. After lunch Elizabeth, Mary, Nelly, M and self went by bus to Regent St and to German [Rush] entertainment where we were much amused. The first piece, "A Happy Bungalow" was very fair, though hardly equal to hearing the [intimacies] of old Indians. Corney [Greens] musical description of the Robinson Smiths at the seaside, was first rate. We all walked home. Douglas had joined us at the theatre and Graham met us at the door. John and Emmie dined with us.

Sunday 4. Directly after breakfast M and I went by bus to Victoria and to Service at St John's Wilton Road. Heard an excellent sermon. They had Gregorian music which we did not like as much as what we heard the last time. After Church to Vict. Station, where to our great surprise we met Fanny Johnstone (mother) and Ethel, like ourselves bound for Clapham, whither we went by train. Found Mary looking very well and Mr Bromfield better than when with us in the spring. William also much better than he has lately been. After dinner William, M, Ethel and I walked to Broxash and had a pleasant chat with the Colemans and Cookes. William went in and made their acquaintance. Mary and Mr B. leave for S Remo on Wednesday. After tea said goodbye. Fanny and E. left at 6, we at 6.30 and went again to St Johns. Got home a little after 9.

Monday 5. After breakfast I went into the City and M. with Bessie. Each did a lot of business. Rose Jenkins came to lunch and also Alice to spend the evening. After lunch M and I went out for a short time and finished off what we had to do, and before dinner got a lot of packing done.

Yateley

Tuesday 6. A change in the weather. We have been very fortunate while in town, having had it very fine until today. Now raining hard. Got all our packing done. After lunch said goodbye and to Charing Cross in time for the 2.15 train. Got home by 5.15 and found all going on well. Bessie and Mrs Murphy are to come to us on Friday.

Wednesday 7. Rain in the night and till noon. Mr Mason came in and borrowed my terra cotta stove for the church. Let my 4 lower fields for one night for £1, as we want to get it fed down. At 3 Mrs and Miss Mason called. Then we drove into York Town.

Thursday 8. At 11.30 M and I walked to Blackwater to see the Fair. It seemed to me that there were not nearly as many beasts as last year, but more horses though not of so good a quality. We walked through the pleasure fair as far as the station, then home. A lovely day. After dinner we let the maids go. Mrs Becher came in and spent the afternoon with M. At 5 Aimie B, who had been with the Masons to the fair came in for her mother. Mr and Mrs Sumner also called and sat for some time.

Friday 9. Very wet again and blowing hard. I went to Church. Did a lot of carpentering. Bunch came and put up bracket and slab in hall. A great improvement. At 4 p.m. I was going to start for the station to meet Bessie and Mrs Murphy when we got a telegram to say they had missed the train in consequence of the block caused by the Lord Mayors Show.

Saturday 10. Rain during the night and at intervals all day. At 11, as it seemed a little clearer, M and I drove into York Town. Got caught in very heavy rain. Twice took shelter under the arch by Ellis's. Then M. left me at the station and drove home in a torrent of rain. At 12.10 Bessie and Mrs Murphy arrived. After dinner it was not quite so wet. The three ladies went for a walk and Edward, who came in while we were at dinner, and I had a game at Tennis. The wind rather too high.

Sunday 11. Rain again harder than ever. M. did not go to early Celebration. I did, and to School and Church. Too wet for any of the ladies to come, and so it continued all day. I went alone to Church in the evening. It was blowing almost a hurricane.

Monday 12. Alternate rain and shine. In the afternoon hail and thunder. Could not get out for a drive.

Tuesday 13. Very foggy till 11. Then fine. Bessie and I went to Church. After dinner M. took Mrs Murphy and B. for a drive. Went to the further end of Hartley Row. I at work at home. Heard this morning from Collard that the piano had not been sent off yet, but would be tomorrow. This is very provoking, as we shall not have it before Bessie leaves.

Wednesday 14. A white frost, followed by a lovely day. The ladies tried to walk to Sandhurst, but could not get across the foot bridge. Yesterday we moved all the evergreens in the border on south side of lawn. After dinner I drove Mrs M and B. to Eversley Church and then on through Bramshill park. Could not return by the ridges on account of the water.

Thursday 15. A drizzly morning, but it held up enough to enable M. to take our visitors to the station at 10.36. We are sorry to lose them. James and I busy turfing round the south border and altering the sweep in front of the house. At 3 the piano arrived. We got it in through the conservatory and sent back the case immediately. Up to this time it had rained more or less, but now ceased at 5.30. Mrs Becher came to tea and tried the piano, with which she was very much pleased. It is a very sweet instrument and a most beautiful piece of furniture. Hens began laying - 2 eggs.

Friday 16. A perfect day. Like spring. M and I, to Church. Set James to work to put a coat of black varnish on roof of outhouses. 2.30 we went out to make calls. First on Mrs Dumbleton, mother of our friend Col. D. who is living in Captn Comptons house at Sandhurst. She seems a very nice old lady. Has one daughter living with her of middle age. Seems lively. Then we went to Mrs Turners (Miss Rymills cottage). Found her at home and met for the first time. Liked her look and manners much. Asked her and her sister to come over and lunch next Tuesday. Then by Sandhurst College grounds to Blackwater. Called at Miss Toppings but she was out. Home by the lanes.

Saturday 17. White frost, followed by a beautiful day. Mr Mason sent me in a load of fine gravel, and we put some in the porch and the rest where we have been picking up in making alterations. Planted the hyacinths I got from Holland. We were busy all day and did not go out at all.

Sunday 18. By the new arrangement there is now midday Celebration on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, early on all others, so we did not go out early today. M. went with me to school and took a class, and I have got Miss Gardner to take one permanently. We cannot depend on the Miss Shutes on account of Mrs S's fancies. Had our stove, which I have lent to the Church, lighted today and it is placed in front of the Bunchs seat and very decidedly warmed our corner. Edward came to dinner and we had a short walk. M and I to Church at 6 p.m., which is now the time. At 10 p.m. so cold that I had the greenhouse fire lighted as I also had last night.

Monday 19. Frost past off before morning and rain set in, which continued more or less all day. Working in my shop at various things. Too wet for the garden.

Tuesday 20. M and I to Church. Cold and feeling like snow. At 12 I went to Kelseys house to meet the Dumbletons and Coll. D. also came to look at the house. I am afraid it is too small for him. At 1 Mrs Turner and her sister Miss Tolmin and Mrs Noad came to lunch and after we walked back with them as far as the Schools. Then M. went to Mrs Rackley and Mrs Thrift and I went to meet her.

Wednesday 21. Up early and to the 8.45 train. At Charing Cross Elizabeth and Mary met us and we went to 77 Grosvenor Street and took Mary to see Dr Wilks. We were kept a long time and then went to Euston Square where we got a rapid lunch and then by bus to the Aquarium. We had no time to see anything but the play, which was our principal object, the "School for Scandal. Phelps as Sr Peter Teazle, W. Farren as Charles Surface. Mrs Stirling was to have played Mrs Candour but did not. The acting was capital. We got back to Charing Cross Station in time for the 6.8. train and got home by 9 p.m.

Thursday 22. Busy getting the ground ready for our peach trees, which we saw at the station last night, and which Bull brought in the afternoon too late to plant. A very rough day, constant squalls of rain and wind. Planted a lot of bulbs in pots. At 3.15 Maggie drove into York Town, taking Emma with her. They got into very heavy rain.

Friday 23. A bright day with frost. Westerly wind. M and I to Church. Then planted 3 peach trees against the stable, and a cherry on the wall by the dining room. Harriet the cook very poorly in the afternoon with constipation and vomiting and she got so much worse that I sent {her} to bed and got Mrs Rackley to come for the night. At 9 p.m. I drove down to Dr Denny to consult with him, but he was away from home. However I got some medicine. We did not get to bed till past 12.

Saturday 24. Harriet rather better but continued very sick till 10 or 11 a.m., when she began to mend and by evening was able to come down stairs though very weak. Hard rain and wind all day, from SE to E and NE. It having been settled that Burrell should come down today, I sent James down to the station to meet him and brought him up in a cab. A bad day for him to see our place. He brought me a beautiful basket of Echeverias and spring bedding plants from Miss Duke. We had asked John Petrie to come down this week but fortunately he could not. What with a sick cook and such weather it would have been a bad time.

Sunday 25. A beautiful day M and I to early Celebration. Edward did not make his appearance. After dinner I took Burrell for a good long walk with which he was much pleased. Church in the evening. Harriet much better.

Monday 26. A little white frost. Fine forenoon. Burrell volunteered to do some pruning and got through a lot of work. Remodelled the vine and large pear tree on the kitchen wall and pruned several of the pyramid trees. He cuts away most freely. Just before dinner two young Wickhams came in, having ridden over. They lunched with us. At 3.25 we took Burrell to the station, and went on into York Town. Had some rain.

Tuesday 27. A fair but not bright morning. M and I to Church. After very busy carpentering and gardening. At 3.20 M drove to the station to meet Lotte. It began raining heavily just as she started and continued to do so till 8 p.m.

Wednesday 28. A lovely day. Employed chiefly in the garden all day planting roots, also the new gooseberries we got from Smith. After dinner M and Lotte drove to York Town, the Jolly Farmer and Frimley. Before they went out Mrs Rush called.

Thursday 29. Gardening all day. Weather threatening. Heavy rain at night. Lotte and M. walked.

Friday 30. We all went to Church. Took Lotte to the 12.37 train and then on to York Town and did some shopping. Fine all day. In evening Miss Noad went with us to Penny Reading. I read, the Fire at Quebec from Hochelaga and Mr Gadd read a short piece. All the rest was singing, and very good. Both Mr Sumner and Charlie S. sang solos. After we supped at the Masons.

December 1877

Yateley

Saturday 1. Finished planting Miss Dukes spring plants and put in a lot of chrysanthemum cuttings that Burrell sent me. Edward came over, and I had a capital game at Tennis with him. M. very busy pruning the currant bushes.

Sunday 2. Advent. A fine day. M. went with me to Sunday School. Edward came to dinner, bringing with him a young Lester who is at the college. Son of W.L. We had a walk after dinner. M. and I to Church as usual.

Monday 3. M and I drove to York Town before dinner. After in spite of rain got a great job done - grubbing up and putting back the evergreens on left side of lawn, so as to get 6 or 7 feet of flower border and letting in a view of Sandhurst Church and Ambarrow Hill. On Saturday we removed the yew tree by the dining room window, letting a great deal of light in. At 4 I went to Church and at 6.30 we dined at the Stilwells. Only Sumners and Noads there. Very wet all day.

Tuesday 4. A dull day with occasional drizzle. I went to Church at 10. Then James and I reconstructed the bed on the left front of lawn, doubling its width. A capital job. Yesterday I planted crocuses on the right side. Mrs Becher came home yesterday and Aimie B. today. Mrs B came in about 12. Nancy clipped.

Wednesday 5. M and I to Church at 10. After M. painting and I working in the garden.

Thursday 6. Gardening and carpentering. M. drawing. At 6.30 to evening Service. Revd Mr Gordon preached - a good sermon, but not very striking. Only middling congregation.

Friday 7. M and I to Church at 10. At 2.30 M. drove into York Town, taking Emma with her to put her money into the Savings Bank, and I walked with Mr Mason to Mr Tindals and had some billiards. A little rain.

Saturday 8. Working at 2nd set of shelves for the dining room. Got them finished and first coat of staining on. M. painting. Edward came in about 1.30. At 4 we were just about to go to the station to meet Lester when he arrived from Farnborough S.W. He at once asked for Lawn Tennis, so we began a game but it was too dark to go on. In the evening played Bezique.

Sunday 9. M and I to early Celebration and I to the Sumners and School. M. and Lester to Church at 11. Edward and young Lester came to dinner and we all (5) had a walk after. M, L and I to Church in the evening.

Monday 10. Directly after breakfast Lester and I looked over Kelsey's house. Then Aimie Becher and B. Mason came up and we played Lawn Tennis till 1 p.m. Aimie stayed to early dinner, after which we took her home and then went on to Minley and called at Mr Atkinsons to see his horse and two cows that are advertised to be sold at

Wokingham tomorrow. Drove home by Vigo Lane, getting to the church just as the congregation were coming out. Bezique in the evening.

Tuesday 11. I went to Church. M and Lester drawing. The portfolio came most opportunely. Lester made a drawing from the same subject as Ms picture for this month, giving her a most useful lesson. At 1.20 M. took us to the station and we went to W and W's monthly sale at Wokingham. We found that Mr Atkinsons horse had been withdrawn, but bought a beautiful little Alderney heifer due to calve on 2nd February to a pure Alderney bull of Raikes Currie's. William Searle was on the ground, and I arranged with him to take my purchase home. We left by train at 3.25. Found M. at the station. Drove into York Town, through the Staff College grounds, called at the R. Military College and picked up young Lester. Brought him home to dinner. At 5.30 Searle arrived with the cow. Lester left at 9 and we played Bezique. A ball at the Stilwells. We were invited but declined. Edward is going to it. Gave £15 for the heifer.

Wednesday 12. I went to Church, leaving M. and Lester drawing. At 12.15 took Lester to the station and went on into York Town. After dinner carpentering and pruning fruit trees. Our little heifer becoming quickly used to her new quarters Fine all day.

Thursday 13. A beautiful day. At work on flower stands for porch. Walked up to Cobbetts to order carts for tomorrow. M. drawing &c. After dinner carpentering and pruning. At 6.30 to Church. Mr Bateman, whose sermon last Advent we liked so much, preached. His sermon was a very good one, but not equal to the former one. A large congregation, several from Sandhurst, among them Mr Deacon.

Friday 14. A sharp frost. Very white. Had two carts from Mr Cobbett and got out all the manure from the yard and 3 cart loads of road scrapings. I went to Church at 10 a.m.

Saturday 15. M. drawing, I carpentering. Frost harder than yesterday. but not lasting. At 12.30 a tuner came from Collard and Collard. He was sent without any charge. Edward came in about 2.30, just as we were going out. We drove to Eversley to speak to Mr Marshall about artificial manure, for some of which he is an agent. As we returned left M. to go to Church. No sign of frost.

Sunday 16. To School at 10. Church and Holy Communion as usual. Edward to dinner for the last time, as this is his last Sunday at the College. Tomorrow the examinations begin and on Thursday evening they break up. After dinner he and I went to the Stilwells, Masons and Sumners. M and I to evening Service. Church very full.

Monday 17. Very mild. Cloudy but no rain. M. finishing her two drawings for the portfolio. I finished one set of flower stands for the porch. So busy in the afternoon that we forgot Church till too late.

Tuesday 18. Slight white frost. After a lovely day. I went to Church at 10. After carpentering. After dinner we drove into York Town.

Wednesday 19. A thick fog lasting all day. Church at 10. M and I went into Bunchs to see the Altar, with which they are making great progress. Carpentering and pruning trees.

Thursday 20. Still thick fog. Busy with James in the garden, pruning. In afternoon Mr Mason called, and then Miss Noads. We walked home with the latter. Then brought her and Mrs N. back to tea with us, and we went together to Church. Found the Altar completed and put into the Church ready to be put in its place tomorrow. Mr Deacon did the whole Service and preached. Mr Sumner was away at Alton.

Friday 21. Thick fog continues. M. and I to Church at 10. Mr Edgeworth the curate from Eversley read. After we superintended placing the Altar. It is a most creditable piece of work. After dinner into York Town. This morning heard that Nellie Petrie has scarlatina. This will be a great trouble with Mary so poorly.

Saturday 22. No fog, but dull and very warm. Yesterday one of our little pigs died. Busy pruning. At 4 to Church. Mr Deacon called about the Magic Lantern.

Sunday 23. M. and I to early Celebration. Then we breakfasted at the Sumners and went to School, M. taking Aimie Becher's class. Before going out got a card from Bessie to say that Nellie was going on very well and hoped to be up on Christmas Day. Church at 11 and 6 as usual.

Clapham

Monday 24. A dull morning, threatening rain, but we managed to drive to the station without rain and reached Clapham at 3.30, and as soon as we could, after seeing Lucy, went to Edwards and got a lot of things for our Xmas tree. Lucy better than she has been, though still not very strong, and William in very fair condition.

Tuesday 25. Christmas Day. A fine day. Slight frost in night. We went with L and W. to St Johns. Not at all a nice Service. Church 3 parts empty, and very few staying to H.C. After lunch W, M. and I had a walk on Clapham Common, and then M and I, went to the Greens. At dinner only our 4 selves. Fred White had been asked but did not come.

Wednesday 26. Found the ground white with snow when we got up, but had a fine day. At 10 M and I to Victoria. Met W. there and we all went from the Brighton Station to Harrow. Missed the train we went for and had to wait 3/4 hour at Willesden. First to Kittys for 1/2 hour, then to the Briars where we found V. and Quinton. Saw Polly but not Edward. Had met Charles and Willie near their own home. Left at 4. Met Kitty and Captn William. Home by 6 after a very pleasant day. Freezing sharp.

Thursday 27. After breakfast M and I to the Coopve, then to National Society. Then by Yellow bus to Oxford Street. Thence by bus to Cornhill and lunched at Birches. Then to Gilbert and Fields in Moorgate Street, and got books for Sunday School prizes. Back to Storeys and Greenes in King William Street to look at dessert sets. Along Cannon street to St Pauls Church Yard. Got a dress for Cora. Looked in at Pearces, then to Ludgate Hill Station and home.

Friday 28. At 10 by tram to Westminster. Thence to Water Colours where I left M. and went to Euston Square. Got the Magic Lanterns and left them at the cloakroom {at} Charing Cross. Found M. at the exhibition - not a very good one. Thence by bus to Oxford Street and to Lottes, where we lunched and after went with her to Maples, Shoolbreds, Nosottes &c looking for brackets, which she wants to give us. Did not find the right thing. Had a cup of coffee at Grants in Oxford Street. Said goodbye. By bus to tram at Westminster Bridge. Had a tremendous rush to get in but succeeded. By this time it was snowing somewhat severely. Yesterday met Mr Willis at Coop.

Yateley

Saturday 29. Heard from Emma last night that Beauty calved yesterday morning. A bull calf, going on all right. Directly after breakfast I went to the dentists at Newington Crescent. Found Mr West disengaged and got two teeth stopped. Then back and got our packing done. Left at 1/4 to 1. Got to Charing X in good time and went into Strand. Met William. Bought a pair of pruning shears. Left at 2.15. Train very slow. Reached Blackwater about 5 and home at 5.30. Found all well except that another little pig had died. Among a lot of other letters one from Mrs Leith explaining her long silence. She had first been ill with cold, then with her eyes, and on the 15 of the month badly dislocated her shoulder, from which she is still suffering. We wish that she would have someone to have with her, for she ought not to be alone so much.

Sunday 30. Dull, drizzly day. M and I did not go to early Celebration as we purposed going on Tuesday, being New Years Day. I went to School and M. met me at Church, after which went into the Masons for a few minutes and walked home with the Stilwells. Church in evening. When coming home it rained hard. The Church looked very nice, with its Christmas decorations and festal hangings.

Monday 31. After last nights rain a lovely day. Mr Stilwell having given us a lot of turf, we today put down a grass edging instead of box from the front border to the gate. Box will not grow under the shrubs. After dinner we drove to York Town. Just as we were starting Mrs Noad came in, so we took her with us and then took her back to her own house. Sharp and feeling so cold that we lighted fire in the conservatory.

January 1878

Yateley

Tuesday 1. New Years Day. A white frost. M and I to early Celebration. There were 25 present, a good number as there was to be a 2nd Celebration. We could not go to the morning Service, as it was at 10, and we did not get home from the first till past 9.30. Yesterday, I walked across to Sandhurst before dinner, and examined the schoolroom, as to its fitness for the Magic Lantern. Met Mr Deacon there and brought him home to lunch. Today, dull, but no rain. Carpentering and gardening. Beauty coming on well.

Wednesday 2. At 11. to the Vicarage, to a meeting of the Sunday School teachers to settle about the tree, and prizes. They were much pleased with the books I brought. After dinner, carpentering as long as I could see, and then walked to Darby Green, to meet M, who had gone to see a poor woman, but I missed her she having gone on to Mrs Rackley. After tea yesterday and today getting ready the Magic Lantern for tomorrow. M. now goes into the kitchen every evening to teach Harriet reading.

Thursday 3. Busy gardening all day, planting out purple primroses, and after dinner pruning. This morning at breakfast time, got a note from Mr Deacon to put off the Magic Lantern in consequence of the death of the Rector, which occurred last night. Mrs Noad, 2 daughters and a son came to tea, and I showed them the Magic Lantern, to their great delight. At 10 when they went home raining heavily.

Friday 4. Rained all night and continued to do so all day. Busy papering the W.C. and after set the kitchen clock going. Both M and I suffering from toothache mine is from the wisdom teeth, not decayed but being absorbed.

Saturday 5. Though the glass rose a good deal yesterday, it did not bring fine weather. Dull, foggy, drizzly all day. My cold rather bad. Sent away Beauty's calf, having sold it to Cable for 10/. After dinner we drove into York Town, chiefly to give Nancy some exercise, she not having been out since Monday. Potted my two peaches and fig in the conservatory.

Sunday 6. Sore throat and cold bad. Did not go out all day. M went to both 11 and evening Service. At 2.30 Mr Sumner came in to see me. A good deal better in the evening. M. suffering a good deal from faceache and apparently gumboil.

Monday 7. A good deal better, but by no means well. Went out very little. M. suffering very much from a gumboil. Miss Mason, Mrs Stilwell, and Mr Sumner all called to enquire after me.

Tuesday 8. Still better, but there was such a strong N.E. wind all day, that I did not go out at all. M. went after dinner to Village and the Masons. Mrs Stilwell called and Mrs Noad sent her son, to ask how I am getting on.

Wednesday 9. Very little snow in the night. N.E. wind continuing, but not so severe as yesterday. Fine all day. At 2.30 M and I went to the Vicarage and stayed there till dusk. At work on the Christmas Tree for the Sunday School children tomorrow.

Thursday 10. Very slight frost, generally fine. About during the day and at 5.30, we went to the Vicarage. The tree was a great success. When it was stripped we all went across to the School, where there was a tea. Then the prizes were given away, and the children had games. We were to have gone with a lot more to sup at the Vicarage, but not liking to stay out so late, we got home by nine o'clock. It looked so like rain that I had no idea there would be frost.

Friday 11. Found a dense white frost and the therm. in the porch went down to 32, in the conservy 35 and outside to 23, but no harm was done. A lovely bright day. Young Noad came to work in my shop. After dinner M and I drove into York Town taking Harriet with us to open an account at the Post Office Saving Banks. On our return went to Mrs Bechers. A lovely afternoon. It froze all day in the shade. Had curtains put up round the porch. Lamp lighted and fire in the conservatory.

Saturday 12. Sharp frost, but did not set the minimum thermometer properly, so cannot tell how many degrees, but the sponge in my dressing room was frozen. Did a good deal of carpentering, for myself and also for young Noad. A dull mild day. No sun.

Sunday 13. Weather much milder, but as it was hardly prudent for me to go out before breakfast, we did not go to early Celebration. I went to School as usual. M. came to Church. Mrs Becher came after dinner we went to the Children's Service at Sandhurst. I had not been before. Mrs Becher came to tea and went with us to Church. A stranger, Mr Crucifix, preached and gave us a most unsuitable sermon. It was an essay on the past history and present state of the Church. He used very strong language about the Liberation Society and the Church Association not mentioning the latter by name but speaking of the former as "that accursed society".

Monday 14. Very mild indeed. Last week I made an agreement with a man for sodding the bank from the lower gate to the end of kitchen garden. He cut turfs on Friday and Saturday, and today began laying them and Cobbett's cart drew them in. At 10.30, went to Vicarage and had a long talk with Mr Sumner arranging a plan for the Sunday School. Called at the Masons on my way home to see their cook. Mr Tindal had asked me to go to his house for Billiards this afternoon, but did not do so, it being dull and damp.

Tuesday 15. A beautiful day. M and I to Church. After I to Vicarage, to meeting of Sunday School teachers. After dinner M and I drove into York Town.

Wednesday 16. Carpentering in the morning. Mr Deacon came to lunch. After M. drove him to Blackwater Station and on her return took me to the Masons to see their cook. Then on to Vicarage, where I was invited to the Choir Supper but so late, that I could not manage it.

Thursday 17. At 12.15, I started to walk to Bunchs and Masons. Just beyond Royal Oak, heard that Col. Holder's horse had galloped by riderless. Saw Miss Holder (no

2) who said her father had gone out, but did not know whither. So I went back home, intending to go down the road and see whether I could find him. Just at our gate met him walking. He had been thrown at Starveacre, but was not hurt. After dinner walked to the Masons, then home and had two Miss Noads and their brother to Lawn Tennis. At 4.30 we went to their house to tea. Met their sister Sister Helen a very pleasing person, and the nicest looking Sister I have ever seen. At 7, M and I drove to the station and met Captn William who had come via Reading, from St Erth.

Friday 18. To Church. A dull gloomy day, and so much fog, that the ground was too slippery for Tennis after dinner. M, William and I walked to Sandhurst. Looked at some nice Houdans at the New Inn. Then home by Darby Green.

Saturday 19. Made up a target and Captn W. tried his gun as William did last Oct. After dinner, we drove to Fleet and returned the call of Major and Mrs Baston, who had called when we were in London - not at home. We hear they are very nice people. During the week have got on capitally with the bank and have improved the drainage of the fields at the corner by the pond. In evening M. received a parcel containing a large knitted scarlet petticoat. It was marked as having come from Glasgow, but she has no idea as to who can have sent it.

Sunday 20. I went to School as usual. M and W. to Church. A dull gloomy day with a little drizzle. We all went to evening Service. Mr S. preached a very good sermon on Churches and Services from the text, Ex. "What mean ye by this service. M. and I stayed to midday Celebration.

Monday 21 Carpentering. Too much wind for W. to go on with his target practice. After lunch he and I walked to Mr Tindals and had some good games at Billiards.

Tuesday 22. An extraordinarily warm night. Therm 52 out of doors. Completed the banking today. Now have to fence the part below the farmyard. After dinner we drove to York Town and through the grounds of the two colleges.

Wednesday 23. Working in shop and garden. William at his shooting. Weather colder.

Thursday 24. Busy all the morning, getting my Magic Lanterns ready. After dinner waited till nearly 4, hoping that Mr Deacon would send for the lanterns, but as he did not, M and I took them over in the carriage. By 5.30, I was quite ready but Mr D. was very dilatory and we did not begin till 6.10. All went off capitally. The lamps never went better. M. and I got home by about 8.20. William was away the greater part of the day, having gone to Alton to see his friends the Pechells.

Friday 25. I have had an inflamed eye for the last 3 days. Very painful, but this morning it was well enough for me to go to Church. Saw B. Mason and arranged for Lawn Tennis, then went up to Mrs Bechers. At 2.30, the young ladies came, and in spite of high wind and sharp frost had a capital game. Mrs B and her niece Miss Forster came in for 5. tea, and then M and W walked home with them and I with B. Mason. About 6 p.m. Mr and Mrs Stilwell came in in the middle of a snow storm (which only lasted a few minutes).

Saturday 26. Working all the morning and afternoon. William doing a lot of gunnery. At 7, I drove to the station and met Alfred who came to us from Clapham.

Sunday 27. M, Alfred and I to early Celebration. Then I to breakfast at the Masons and after to School. (Did not go as usual to the Vicarage, because Mrs Sumner has got the Mumps). We put in another teacher, Miss Margaret Mason, who has joined now permanently, so I put her and Beatrice into my room, and took the little room myself. W. came to our church. M and Alfred went to Sandhurst. In the evening we all went to Church and Alfred preached, a very nice sermon "Casting all your care on Him". Mr Deacon came to supper bringing with him a young man staying with him.

Monday 28. Weather very wet, continued so till 2 p.m. After dinner, Alfred, William and I drove to Eversley Church and then on through Bramshill. A. much pleased with the drive. After tea had a rubber at Whist.

Tuesday 29. A and I to Church. After I went to a meeting of Sunday School teachers held at the Masons. Then to Mrs Noads. Alfred went over to Sandhurst and brought Mr Deacon back to lunch. At 2.30, M and B. Mason Fanny Noad young Noad, [Amy] Becher came to Lawn Tennis. Mrs Becher and Miss Forster and Mrs Noad also came and just as they had all arrived Mrs Turner and Mrs Tolmin with a friend called so we had a large party. All but the last 3 stayed to afternoon tea, as also Mr Deacons young man, Mr Henry. We had some capital games. M and I walked home with Beatrice Mason. A rubber in evening.

Wednesday 30. At 10.15 I drove William to the station, en route for S. Leonards. Then I went on into York Town. At 6.30 Mrs and Miss Mason and Mr Sumner dined with us. Had a pleasant evening. A. does some good card tricks.

Thursday 31. As for last two mornings, sharp frost, lasting all day in the shade. At 11 A and I drove over to Crookham and lunched with the Wickhams. Gordon W. is very unwell, so much so that he is going away for 3 months. Got home by 4. Today ordered a cart to be built by the man at Eversley.

February 1878

Yateley

Friday 1. Sharp frost again. A. and I to Church and after called at the Masons. M. at a meeting to organise District Visitors. At 1.37, took Alfred to the station, en route to Bath. We have enjoyed his visit much, and I think he did so. The place seemed to agree with him. After dinner Mrs Noad and Maggie went out to visit their district. I caught a bad cold in Crookham Church yesterday.

Saturday 2. Sharp frost in early part of night but gave in morning. M and I to Church at 10. Drizzling rain several times in the day. Gave Blossom a drench in preparation for her confinement which according to Mr Atkinson, is due today.

Sunday 3. At 10, to School. Mr Sumner did not come there, as Dr Denny says that his little girl Mary, has got Scarlatina. Service and Holy Communion. At 3, I went to Church to the Litany, the first time since we have been here. Then I went to see one of my boys, Leonard Hill, who is ill. M. met me. At 6, to evening Service. A dull day. Warmer than it has been lately, although wind fr North.

Monday 4. Another dull day, mild, though wind N.E. Commenced sowing seeds. 2 kinds of peas, broad beans, spinach. On Saturday I sowed some cyclamen seed. Today got 13 pots of strawberries into the house. Have begun watering the geraniums so as to let them grow. Doing some work in the back yard, repaving sink drain. M. went out in her district with Mrs Noad. I carpentered and overlooked work.

Tuesday 5. To Church and after Mr Sumner and I met in the vestry to talk over the Parish Magazine. After dinner M and Mrs Noad at their district. At 6, we went to tea at Mrs Bechers.

Wednesday 6. After dinner drove to York {Town} and then brought home Kitty, who came to us from Clifton, by the 3.15 train from Reading.

Thursday 7. Dull weather till p.m., when fine. I busy finishing flower stands for porch. After dinner M. took Kitty for a drive, by Sandhurst to Finchampstead ridges and Eversley. Mrs Becher and Amy came to tea with us.

Friday 8. I to Church, then to Mrs Bechers to do a bit of bell hanging for her. After dinner M and K. drove to York Town through the grounds of the Colleges and home by Sandhurst. I with Mr Mason to Firgrove and played Billiards. The Queens hounds passed through the village. Thick fog in evening.

Saturday 9. Yesterday and today have had a man cleaning away wood from the ground below the stable, and trenching it deeply as we want to try to get something to grow on it. On Thursday duck began laying, the first since we have been here. M and K. walked in the afternoon. The Holders little boy very ill. Is hardly expected to live.

Sunday 10. A dull drizzly day. M and I to early Communion. I breakfasted at the Masons. Then to School. M and K. came to Church, and in the evening we all went. The Holder's little boy prayed for in Church.

Monday 11. Dull but no rain. At 12.36 took K to the station, and then went on into York Town. Got a letter from Trevor, saying that he and Mrs T. would be in London tomorrow evening, as he leaves for India, via Southampton, on Thursday. So we wrote to say that we would go up to town on Wednesday, hoping to bring back Mrs T. with us.

Tuesday 12. M. went to Church, but I did not, as I had to go to a School Committee to audit the years accounts at 12. Did not get home till 1.30, calling to see Miss Mason, who was unwell. Busy putting up means for protecting our peach trees.

Wednesday 13. Up to town by the 8.45 train. Cabbed to St Marys Vicarage, Crown Str, Soho, a most unsavoury locality. Had to wait about 1/2 an hour, when the Trevors came in, with their host, Mr Gwynne the Vicar of St Mary's. After some little time M and I went to Horners about the dessert service, concerning which I had written ten days ago. We then went by bus to Euston Square, where we saw Elizabeth, Bessie and Mary. The last decidedly better had had no return of pain for 3 weeks. We could only stay a few minutes. Then walked to Pearce's in New Oxford Street and bought a garden syringe and then to the Criterion, where the Trevors met us, and we lunched together. After strolled about up Regent Street. T.T. and his brother Fred went back to Crown Street for the luggage and we walked to Charing Cross in time for the 5.13 train. Met T.T. there. We brought Mrs T. home with us, reaching Holly Hill at about 7.40 after a successful day.

Thursday 14. Heavy rain till noon.

Friday 15. Fine until noon. After drizzling. I went to Church at 10. Just before the Plough, Dr Denny past me, and asked me to look in at Bunchs as I past. I did so, and found that Henry B. had nearly cut off two toes with an axe. Bone of the little toe cut clean through, the next nearly so, but the cut so clean, that it may probably heal by the first intention. After Church I went to see Mrs Collier about her children not coming to Sunday School. Then called at the Hall to ask for little Holder. Then to Masons and Bunchs and home. After dinner M and Mrs T. tried to get a walk but it was too wet. Yesterday about 4, we drove into York Town.

Saturday 16. Bright morning. After dinner M and Mrs T. drove as far as Eversley Church and home by the Flats. It was rather damp and drizzly. Weather very warm. I was busy carpentering.

Sunday 17. A lovely day. I to School as usual at 10. M and Mrs T. to Church at 11, and we all stayed to H.C. and to Church again in the evening. Like a summers day.

Monday 18. Another lovely day. I was busy carpentering. After dinner Mrs T and M. drove to Eversley through Bramshill and home by the ridges.

Tuesday 19. Thick fog till noon. After fine. I to Church. Called at the Masons and Bunch. Before breakfast I put new stands into the porch. At 12.15, we took Mrs

Trevor to the station. We hope that we may see her again before very long, as she hopes to come to London for Dora to study at the Academy of Music. We went on into York Town. Worked in the garden till late. I had bad toothache in evng.

Wednesday 20. Tooth so bad all night that directly after breakfast M. drove me to Dr Dennys, who took out the offender. Very stiff and hard after it. A dull day, with little rain. In the afternoon our little heifer Blossom seemed so fidgetty that I had her brought in, and got Winter, the Stilwell's cow man to come and see her. He said there was no chance of her calving tonight, but he had hardly gone half an hour before her calf was born. Before we went to bed she was all right.

Thursday 21. A lovely day, warm and bright, like summer. Blossom going on all right. At 1 Mr Cable's sale, where I bought a pump for manure, a waterbarrow, and a pair of hand lights. Our fowls at last seem to be doing a little better. We got five eggs today and the ducks are laying. Sold a sow and 2 young pigs to Potter (of the Holly Bush) and bought from him a set of cart harness. If this weather lasts I am afraid it will be a bad look out for the fruit. The gooseberries are bursting into leaf, and I have one pear tree almost in bloom.

Friday 22. A dull drizzling day. Blossom going on well. Maggie and I to Church, then a meeting at the Masons about the Parish Magazine. Then I went with Mr Sumner to the Shutes to see his little boy. Looked in at the School to see the new sliding doors between the rooms, a great improvement. Did not get home till 1 p.m. Maggie did a deal of potting in the conservatory. I carpentering. Political news more peaceful.

Saturday 23. Busy in shop and garden before dinner. After into York Town. (Before we started Col and Miss Holder called). Then to station and met Mary Coulcher and brought her home with us. Today I planted a great lot of Forgetme not that Mr Sumner gave me.

Sunday 24. M, Mary C and I, to early Celebration. Then I to Masons and School. We all went to 11 and 6 Service. Mr Sumner was away, having been invited to preach in Winchester Cathedral so at early Celebration Mr Edgeworth officiated at 11 Mr Gillett from Hawley and at 6 Mr Jackson from Finchampstead.

Monday 25. I was busy all day making some wire hurdles to enclose the little chicken. M. and Mary went for a drive before dinner going to Hartford Bridge to see Mrs Heather as Harriet was ill yesterday, and all night and today, as she was once before. Mrs Tindal called and asked me to go over and play Billiards but I was too busy.

Tuesday 26. All of us to Church at 10. Then I finished the chicken walk. After dinner we drove to Sandhurst and called on Mrs Turner and Mrs Dumbleton. Intended going on to York Town, but rain came on. Mrs and Fanny Noad with us in the evening.

Wednesday 27. Gardening all the morning. Set ashleaved potatoes. Sowed radishes. After dinner M and Mary drove into York Town and got a ducking. Raining heavily all the evening.

Thursday 28. Dull drizzly day. Before lunch I walked to the Village. In evening had a little dinner party the Stilwells and Mr Sumner.

March 1878

Yateley

Friday 1. Wet all day. M and Mary C. managed to go to Sandhurst at 10.30 and brought back Mr Deacon to lunch. Before dinner James was busy putting superphosphate of lime and ashes on that part of the park, which had not had manure on it.

Saturday 2. Rain and wind at night, but a fine day. After breakfast to the Village and Mrs Bechers. The latter not at home, but she and Aimie called about noon. Spread superphosphate over the 3 cornere[d] field. Today discharged James, and took on Over in his place.

Sunday 3. Mary C. went with me to Sunday Scl. and we took Miss Mason's class. M. had a bad cold and sore throat and did not come to Church. Mary and I stayed to Holy Communion. After dinner we all took a little walk, but M was soon tired. Mary and I to Church in the evening. Mr Sumner had a bad cold.

Monday 4. Went after breakfast to Mrs Noads, Sumners, Masons &c. M. cold better. She took Mary for a little drive after dinner. At 7. Mary and I to the Vicarage, for a rehearsal of the glees for tomorrow night, Mary having most kindly undertaken to play the accompaniments. Charlie Sumner has come from his home to help, as Mr Sumner is too unwell.

Tuesday 5. Our new Parish Magazine has come out this month. After breakfast, there being no morning Service, M and Mary took out all for her district, which is now confined to Darby Green and the two cottages by Kelseys. After dinner they drove out and called on the Dumbletons, Halliwells, Mrs Noads. Did not get home till 6, and at 6.40, we went to Penny Reading, I first going to the Vicarage. Mr Sumner too unwell to come, so Mr Mason presided. Hardly any gentry there, through sickness and a Ball at the Staff College. Mr Fitzroy read 2 things, Mr Gadd one and I gave Indian Jugglers. Two Misses Biddle played 2 duets, Mary Coulcher played a solo and all accompaniments. Charlie Sumner sang three songs and there were 3 or 4 glees. On the whole it went off very well.

Wednesday 6, Ash. No Service at all in our church. We all went to both morning and evng Service at Sandhurst. We went to 5 o'clock tea to Mrs Noads and then with her to Church. It is now finally settled that Rev. Leslie Randall, late of Newbury, is to come to Sandhurst but not for 3 or 4 months.

Thursday 7. We all went to Church at 10, when Mr Edgeworth performed the Service. Then I went to Vicarage (we having first looked in at Rogers to see the Crystal Cup belonging to the Church, that is kept there. It is very curious, but seems very doubtful whether it was ever intended for Sacramental use. At 12.15, took Mary Coulcher to the station. We have greatly enjoyed her visit and are very sorry to lose her. Then we went on to York Town and did some business. After dinner very busy in the garden.

Friday 8. M's cough troublesome but rather better. We both went to Service at 10, and after I went to Mrs Shutes, the Vicarage and Leonard Hilton. In afternoon we walked to Mr Cobbetts and Mrs Noads.

Saturday 9. A good deal colder, wind going round to regular March quarter. Ms cough and throat still troublesome, but she felt equal to going to Service at 4. Then I went on to the Sumners for a short time. Mr Deacon read the Service, Mr S. quite unfit for work. He has a clergyman coming from London for tomorrow.

Sunday 10. Raining rather hard in the morning. M did not venture to early Celebration. I went and after to breakfast at the Vicarage and then to School. Mr Pyne the gentleman who is taking the duty has been a good deal at Harrow officiating at Greenhill Church and knows Kitty and Charlie. He went home with us and dined. We found him very pleasant. He also knows Mr French who is married to one of the Greens. M and I to Church in the evening. During the afternoon we went to see Fanny Noad who is very unwell.

Monday 11. A dull but dry day. Busy in the garden. At 3.30, to the Noads, and then on to Church, where Mr Sumner officiated, though by no means fit to do so. I read lessons.

Tuesday 12. A little rain in the morning, but after a lovely day. At 10.30 to Church. Last week I persuaded Mr Sumner to change the time for the week day Services from 10 to 10.30. Today the work has been begun at the church, by pulling down the old vestry. At 4 M and I went to see Miss Noad. Then we went to Darby Green to see a poor woman, who had broken a needle into her arm. When we got there we found she had a large abscess quite fit to be opened. So I left M. with her and went home and got a lancet, then returned and opened it for her.

Wednesday 13. To Church at 10.30. Then we went to the Noads, and after speaking to the Stilwells we asked Miss Noad to come and stay with us for a time for change of air, as their cottage is so close and damp. I also went to Mrs Bechers. On getting home we found Mrs Turner who had come to ask me to join in a Shakespear reading next Saturday week. I then went to Darby Green to see Mrs Chandler, the poor woman we went to yesterday. After dinner had Nancy chain harrowing the park for 1 1/2 hours and then M went and brought Miss Noad home. This morning Mr Cobbett sent me a load of litter, and Over at once made up a hot bed. I was busy potting geraniums. Dr and Mrs Haynes called.

Thursday 14. Finished harrowing the park. Bunch sent home the new lights. Miss Noad already better for the change. Got a setting of Dark Brahma eggs through Exchange and Mart, which I set. Service at 7 p.m., at which Mr Middleton from York Town preached.

Friday 15. On Wednesday night and yesterday morning there was a very hard frost, glass outside conservatory down to 25. This morning much less 30. We have now seasonable March weather which will I hope keep back the fruit blossoms. I have put up curtains over all the peaches in the kitchen garden. At 10.30, to Church with M. and after I to Sunday School teachers meeting at the Vicarage. Then Mr Sumner and I arranged for the next magazine and after, I walked with him to the Stilwells and he

came and looked over the garden. At 4.15 we drove to York Town. Took a box of butter and eggs to the station For Elizabeth and got a box of Spanish eggs sent by Lucy from Mrs Green. Home by the lanes, calling at Parkers and Chandlers.

Saturday 16. Busy all day on fencing below the farmyard. Had Parker to give me an estimate for staging in the conservatory. To Church at 4 p.m. When I paid Over he gave notice to leave at the end of the week. He does not like the place. This is a nuisance.

Sunday 17. Last night was the coldest but one during the whole winter. Minm Ther. 24 thick white frost. I to School. M to Church and Holy Communion at 11. After dinner M and Mrs Noad went to Sandhurst and I went and saw the Stilwells. Mrs Noad dined and tead with us and to evg. Church. Mr Sumner preached 1st time for 3. Sys, and one of the best sermons I have ever heard from him. Mr Deacon and Mr Henry came to supper.

Monday 18. Quite a change in the weather min. 42. Directly after breakfast we took Miss Noad home. Then drove out to York Town and to Craigs and several other places, to let it be known that we want a gardner. At 4 to Church. I read the lesson daily for Mr Sumner. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea and we read Twelfth Night. On Saturday began the fence at the lower part of the farmyard and got in the posts. Today got all the rails on. Over is very good at this work.

Tuesday 19. Weather very mild. Up early writing my contribution for next months Parish Magazine. At 10.30. M and I to Church. After I went to Leonard Hilton, paid bills &c. Going on with fencing and doing some other carpentering. Maggie and B. Mason called.

Wednesday 20. M and I to Service at 10.30. Had over Parker to give me an estimate of cost of two stands for greenhouse. Busy in garden and shop. Over going on with bits of fencing.

Thursday 21. Yesterday Blossom had shown uneasiness and as she continued today, I had Rackley for the day, and he took her to Lord Calthorpes Alderney bull at Elvetham. When he came back I set him to work grubbing up the holly hedge by the old hot beds. In the evening at 7.30, M and I to Church. Revd Mr Keate from Hartley Westall preached.

Friday 22. The last two or 3 days have been mild, but today getting colder. After dinner we drove over to Sandhurst and saw Mrs Turner about the Reading tomorrow. Went to Church in the morning.

Saturday 23. White frost. Glass down to 24. Did not go to Church. Mr Sumner had Service at 9.30, instead of 4 as he had to go to a Confirmation at Busbridge near Guildford. Over left today. It seems that he took offence at having to ring the bell in the morning and some of his companions chaffed him about it, and so he gave notice. I think he would have liked to have recalled it, but was too proud. At 5.30, we drove to Mrs Dumbletons, sent the carriage home, and then had tea, after which we all went to Mrs Turners were we read Twelfth Night. Mrs Turner, Olivia{;} Miss Dumbleton, Viola; Maggie, Maria; Mr Deacon, Sir Toby Belch; Mr Evans, Sir A. Aguecheek;

myself Malvolio; Mrs Tolmin, utility. I arranged it all for them. We walked home. A bright starlight night with frost.

Sunday 24. Therm. 28. White frost, which soon past off. M and I to early Celebration, then I to breakfast at Vicarage and to S. School. Just as we were sitting down to dinner Cecil Lester came in, and after we had done young Graham, son of Dr Graham the assaymaster, a pleasant young fellow. About 3, there was dense cloud to the N.W., a terrific squall of wind and then snow for about an hour. The lads left at 5, and we went to Mrs Noads and had a cup of tea. Then to Church.

Monday 25. Mr Sumner went to Folkstone for a little change, so had Service at 9.30, too early for us. Had Rackley at work, who went on grubbing the hedge. Had an answer to an advertisement I put into the Reading Mercury on Saturday. Liked the mans letter, so wrote to him as to pay &c. His name is William Herbert. In the paper today, we see that in the squall of yesterday afternoon HMS. Eurydice, a training ship returning from W. Indies was capsized and all but 2 men lost - about 300 lives. It occurred off Ventnor, about a mile from the shore. She was under full sail when the squall struck her, and it came so suddenly off the land, that there was no time to shorten sail. At 5.30, M. and I to Service at Sandhurst.

Tuesday 26. No Service. Very cold again 24. Dense white frost. After dinner we drove into York Town. Rackley here.

Wednesday 27. Heard from Herbert that he would not come for less than £1. Soon after breakfast, Dr Denny called to tell me that James Gardner, Mr Sumner's gardener, was suffering from Hydrophobia. He was bitten by a dog belonging to Mr Utterton 2 months ago. At 11.30 I drove to the station and left the pony and carriage at Gomms. Went to Reading, to Suttons Gardens in the London Road. Saw Herbert. Then called at Suttons foreman Mr Martin, who spoke very highly of him. Saw his character from his last employer at Suttons seed shop. Home by the 3.15, and on consulting with M, decided to write at once and offer him the place. Mrs and Miss Becher and Mrs and Miss Noad came to tea and we read the trial scene in the Merchant of Venice and the chief part of the Taming the Shrew.

Thursday 28. No white frost this morning, though Ther. was down to 30 in the night. Much excitement in the Village about poor Gardner. P M, rain, which afterwards turned to snow and sleet. I went alone to Church at 7.30. A small congregation the weather was so very bad. Saw Mr Sumner, who said that Gardner seemed a little better - had been able to drink a cup of tea and some brandy and water.

Friday 29. Blew a hard gale from N.E. with snow all night. Snow continued till about 11 a.m. then glass rose a little, but wind continued. Very severe weather indeed. March is certainly not going out like a lamb. Carpentering all day. Had the kerosene stove into my shop, which was very comfortable. Mr Sumner called. He is very much cut up about James Gardner, who died this morning. At night blowing harder than ever.

Saturday 30. Blowing hard all night. Not cold as it has been, but though fine all continued cold. Had Rackley at work. To Church at 4 p.m.

Sunday 31. Cold again. Sharp white frost. M and I to early Celebration. Then to breakfast at the Vicarage where I met Mr Hardy Little (brother of the celebrated preacher Mr Knox Little). He is here to preach and lecture for the Additional Curates or Home Missions Society. To School and Church as usual. In the evening Mr Little preached a beautiful sermon.

April 1878

Yateley

Monday 1. Sharp frost at night and some snow. During the day, fine but cold. Had a very busy day. After breakfast went to the Vicarage and with Mr S. and Mr Little to the Schools, to settle how he should put up the screen for his Magic Lantern. He decided to have my sheet and use it as I do. At 4. to Service, then to School to fix sheet. Then to poor Gardner's funeral, at which a great many people were present. There was a very nice Service, with hymns, first in Church and then at the grave, where it was very cold. At 7. I went to the Vicarage and thence with Mr Little to the School to help him. At 7.30, his lecture began. It was on Mission work in London and was very interesting and illustrated by capital photographic slides. His lantern is one of Hughes's cylindrical ones, very small and portable. Home by 10 p.m., very tired.

Tuesday 2. Light white frost. At 10.30, to Church. At 11.30. the new gardener, William Herbert came. M. was quite startled at his appearance as he looked quite a swell and she thought he must be the piano tuner, whom we were expecting some day, and who oddly enough turned up soon after. At 1, Mr Little came and dined with us, and stayed till 4, when Mr Sumner called for him to go to Farnboro, he having to lecture at Woking. He is a particularly pleasant person and took great interest in our garden, farmery &c. and said he should like to come and see us again in summer and have some Lawn Tennis, which we hope he will do. He knows the Sidebothams and Wildes. At 4, we drove to York Town and at 4.41 to the station and met Lester. Brought him home, and also brought Herberts box. Left it at Mrs Rackleys where he is lodging. After tea had two games at Chess with L. Won one each.

Wednesday 3. Rain all day. A bad day for Herbert to begin his work, but he employed himself in the potting shed and got through a lot of work. Too wet to go to Church or go out at all, so M and Lester painted and I carpentered. Chess again in evening - Lester 2, I, 1. After Bezique.

Thursday 4. A beautiful day Herbert made a new hotbed and went to work in a way to show that he knows what he is about. He works hard and well. At 12.36, took Lester to the station. His visit has been very short but pleasant. Went on into York Town and did a lot of business. At 7.30 to Church Mr Gillett read the Service and preached. Mr Sumner was at Hawley.

Friday 5. White frost, followed by April weather sun and rain. M and I to morning Service. In the afternoon Parker brought and fitted two stands in the conservatory. Yesterday and today Rackley and I have put up a 2 foot wire netting, on the top of the palings from the top to bottom of the yard. Today Herbert has groomed Nancy and made a great improvement in her.

Saturday 6. A beautiful day. We fitted the tiffany shade to top of conservatory. During the week we have had a lot of chickens out. A brood of 10 from our own eggs, 6 from dark Brahmas got through Exchange and Mart, 8 from Mrs Greens Spanish, besides 2 ducks. At Church at 4, and after to look at Mrs Davidsons

furniture which is to be sold on Tuesday next. We hope that Herbert may be satisfied with his place and go on with us, as he seems a capital fellow. Got all the plants onto their stands in the greenhouse.

Sunday 7. School as usual. Holy Communion after 11 a.m. Service. Church as usual in evening. A very cold day.

Monday 8. Continues very cold. Strong easterly wind. Carpentering. Rackley painting and tarring. Church 10.30 instead of 4.

Tuesday 9. Service at 10.30. M. did not go. Finished all work in hencoops. Wanting to cut the grass on lawn, but so dry that it cannot be done.

Wednesday 10. M and I to Church at 10.30. A dull gloomy day. At 3, we started to drive to Village and Darby Green, and we had only just got outside the gate, when it began to rain, and continued more or less through the evening, but we had our drive, for the sake of giving Nancy some exercise. Yesterday afternoon M. went with the Bechers to Star Hill, to see Mrs Williams' stove. Rained very heavily in evening.

Thursday 11. Wet all night and till noon, but Herbert mowed the lawn and did a lot of trimming up. At 4.41, to station and met Henry, who has at last actually found his way down to us. M. to Church. I did not go.

Friday 12. A lovely day, warm and balmy. We all went to Church at 10.30. At 3.30, Aimie Becher came and we had some good games at Lawn Tennis.

Saturday 13. Dull till 12 then rain, heavy at times, till 5, after which Henry and I walked to the Bechers and round by the common home. A Lawn Tennis club is being got up at between Yateley and Eversley. The Tindals were the chief movers in it.

Sunday 14. Another warm summerlike day. Everything growing fast. M and I to early Celebration. I to School as usual, where we were very short of teachers. Aimie has the fashionable rash, Beatrice Mason not yet back at School, Miss Gardner and Miss Biddell away, the former with the rash which Dr Denny declares to be Scarlatina. M. and Henry to Church. After dinner we took a short walk on the common, calling at the Bechers' to ask after Aimie. All to evening Service. Our cook has a rash out.

Monday 15. Cloudy, very mild. H and I to Church at 10.30. It turned out a lovely day and after dinner I took H. for a drive, to Eversley, Bramshill and Finchampstead Ridges, with which he was very much pleased. We all went to Church at 7.30. Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon, the first of a series on our Lords words on the Cross.

Tuesday 16. Light rain at intervals till 3 p.m. We all went to Church at 10.30, and at 4 we drove to the station and York Town. M and I to Church at 7.30.

Wednesday 17. There have been several cases of a rash like French measles; the two younger Shutes, Aimie Becher, B. Mason, our cook. Of no consequence. Mrs Sumner also had it. Miss Gardner has also had a rash, but she called in Dr Denny

who at once pronounced it Scarlet fever. H and I to Church at 10.30. At 12.15 we took H. to the station. We have very much enjoyed his visit and so I think he has. He was much pleased with our house and grounds. We had rain as we went to station. In afternoon the Don Marshalls called and stayed a long time. In evening it rained so that we could not go to church.

Thursday 18. A perfect spring day. Last night Herbert gave notice to leave at the end of a week. This we are very sorry for, as we like him much. As we feared, the place is not sufficiently important for him and he finds it very dull. At 10.30, M and I to Church. At 3 we went out and returned Mrs Blakeley's call - and could hardly get away. Her house is very curious and the funny thing is, that she dresses to match her house. The views from it are beautiful. Then we called on Mrs Turner and had a pleasant chat. Then to the station. M. called on Miss Tippings - out, and so home. At 6 p.m. Cowslip calved - a bull. On Tuesday evening, the sow Judy had 10 little pigs. At 7.30 to Church.

Friday 19, Good. Rain in early morning until 9 a.m. I went to Sunday School at 10, then to Church at 11. M. did not come, but went to the 3 hour Service at Sandhurst. I came home and had some dinner, then to a Service at our church at 2.30, the Litany. Then the hymn "O come and mourn with me" then from St Luke, the account of the crucifixion then a short meditation on it embracing 4 points, the hatred of Man to God, the love of God to Man, how near a soul may be to perdition and yet be saved, how near to salvation and yet be lost. Then silent prayer for a few minutes and then 3 short prayers, the whole lasting 40 minutes. After this I went to see Mrs Becher, who is by no means well. At 7.30, M and I to Church. There was a very large congregation, and Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon, the last of his Passion Week course, in which he has treated the Seven words of our Lord upon the Cross especially as applied to our own death beds.

Saturday 20. Very wet until past noon. We found the dairy and beer cellar getting flooded, so after digging out at the foot of the water pipe by the dining room window without any effect, I found that the mischief arose from the water flowing back up the sink in the dairy. Herbert and I got this up and with some trouble set it to rights. M. went to the church at 4, but soon returned having found all the work done. In the evening Miss Randalls gardener, who applied for our situation a month ago, came up, as I sent for him, and I showed him all the place, and he is going to give me an answer on Monday.

Sunday 21, Easter. M and I to early Celebration. Then to breakfast and School as usual. M. to Church - it was very nicely decorated - beautiful flowers. Church in the evening as usual, a very full congregation. Rain in the morning, after fine.

Monday 22. Fine all day but misty. To Church at 10.30. Gardening and carpentering during day.

Tuesday 23. Church at 10.30. After dinner we drove to Blackwater. Went to Miss Randall's that I might look at her gardener's work. Did not think it sufficiently tidy to make one wish to employ him. Drove home by the Flats and called at Mrs Bechers to try and persuade her to come and stay with us for a few days, as she is very unwell. She almost promised.

Wednesday 24. After breakfast got a note from Mrs Becher, saying that her cough is so bad, that she can not come. A wet morning At 11, I went to Vestry meeting to elect Churchwardens. Of course Mr Mason and Mr Stilwell were elected without opposition. Then I went to Mrs Bechers and persuaded her to come to us. Aimie had gone to Reading about her Tennis Club dress. On her return, they both came to us.

Thursday 25. Mrs Becher very poorly. Violent cough and at times great difficulty of breathing. Church at 10.30. St Marks day. At 4.30, to the Masons. A large garden party, the great attraction being 3 young Chinese who have been over here some time studying for the Navy. Intelligent young men, all speaking and writing English fairly. Aimie and I stayed to supper at the Masons.

Friday 26. Fine all day. Church at 10.30. Heard from Suttons foreman Mr Martin that there were two men wanting situations. M and Aimie took a little drive.

Saturday 27. At 4 to the Tindals to the first meeting of the new Tennis Club. It promises pretty well I think, though it was hardly needed. M. stayed about an hour, and at 6.30 returned and met Aimie and me. The next meeting is at the Masons.

Sunday 28. I to early Celebration. M. did not go having the Bechers here. I to Vicarage and School. Aimie and M. to Church. Mrs B. not well enough to come. I was very tired all day. We three went to Church in evening.

Monday 29. Warm weather like summer. Swallows about, oaks coming out fast. Since we have got rid of Cowslips calf, we have so much milk that we are obliged to churn 3 times a week. So today, had to send butter to Elizabeth. Aimie and I went to Reading by the 12.2 train. It was so late that we did not arrive at R. till nearly 1. Did some shopping and I went to Suttons nursery by 2 p.m. Saw a man, who might have done, but wanted £1 and cottage, which I will not give to any untried man. We returned by the 3.15 train. Mrs Bechers cough much better, but she suffers from attacks of spasmodic difficulty of breathing that distresses and frightens her. Played Bezique in the evening.

Tuesday 30. Another warm almost sultry day. Busy before dinner putting up a shelf in the dairy to accommodate all our increased quantity of milk. After dinner, M went to see Mrs Noad, who had written to ask to see her. Then I took Mrs B and Aimie in the carriage and picked up M. Dropped her and A. at the Masons to call on Mrs Alcock, and took Mrs B. a little way along the Reading road, then picked up M and home. While at cards in evening Mrs B. very poorly. Yesterday a case of Small pox was announced in the Village. A man named Justice of very drunken habits, living on the common near the Shutes.

May 1878

Yateley

Wednesday 1. Warm and sultry. Thunder about, a few very light showers. The Bechers left us this morning. M and I went to Sandhurst, but found no Service. On returning, M. went to Mrs Noads, I across the fields to Yateley. Paid bills, looked at church hearing of another case of Small pox. I called at Mr Masons but he was out. Then I went on to the Noads, where they are all in great distress, the Stilwells having given Miss Noad notice to leave them on August 1. Their reasons seem most unreasonable. M. went after dinner to Mrs Bechers and then into her district for a short time.

Thursday 2. The Noads in great trouble. The Stilwells have given Fanny N. notice to leave at the end of the quarter, Aug. 1. and have as a principal reason made their behaviour to Mr Sumner, a most palpable injustice and excuse using Mr S. as a cats paw in the matter. M. went for a short time into her district in the evening. Today we put Nancy into the cart and brought in a lot of earth from the road at the end of the Park.

Friday 3. Herbert away for the day, having gone to Bournemouth to look after a place. Rackley finished all the painting &c. After dinner M and I drove to the Hall (out) then over the Flats to Hawley. Called at the Wyatts, Mrs W. not well enough to see visitors, then at the Gibsons, found them at home and had a pleasant chat. Left M. at Darby Green to do some visiting. In the morning, M and I to Sandhurst, and when we returned Mrs Becher and Aimie and a friend, Miss Gallindo, came in and I vaccinated them all. At 7. we went to tea at the Bechers.

Saturday 4. Herbert did not get back until noon. I had a letter by the morning post from the lady he had been to see, making enquiries about him. At 4 to the Tennis Club at the Masons. Had a long talk with Mr Sumner about the Noads, who went off at once to see Mrs N. We had a pleasant afternoon, and Mrs Becher and Aimie and their friend came home and spent the evening with us.

Sunday 5. A lovely day, but the glass falling and wind backed to E.S.E. not promising very well for our visit to London tomorrow. School and Church as usual. The Noads to tea with us. Mr Sumners interview with Mrs N. had pacified her very much and early this morning she wrote me a very nice note on the subject. Yesterday Coll. Holder was operated on for cancer and is going on very well.

Euston Square

Monday 6. Busy packing and arranging. To London by the 12.36 train. At Cannon Street left M. to go on to Charing Cross. I went into the City, got my hair cut went to Johns office. Only saw Douglas, who told me that Emmie had got a little boy that morning. Then by underground to Russell Square, where I found all well.

Tuesday 7. Got letters this morning from Fanny Johnstone with a startling revelation, tho perhaps we ought not to be surprised at it. She also returned the £150, I sent her a

year and a half ago. Directly after breakfast we went to the Cooperative - did a lot of work there. Then to Clapham where we found the Bromfields, and Polly. Mary looking very well indeed and Mr B. better than a year ago. Lucy not very flourishing. Left at 4, and went to Victoria. Thence by underground to Baker Street, and to Mrs Knight, to order a dress Raining very hard so we cabbed home.

Wednesday 8. To the Water Colour Society. Only a medium exhibition. Two wonderful pictures of Carl Haags, a British Chieftain and a Druidess. I should have liked to have bought a picture, if I could have seen one that we liked within our means. Walked up the Haymarket and by bus from Piccadilly Circus. After lunch M. and Mary to Mrs Knights. I went to Bayswater to see Arthur and his. He was out, but I saw Bessie and Marian and Charlotte, who is living with them.

Thursday 9. After breakfast to the Cooperative. Arthur and Bessie came to lunch, and when they were gone, M and I went to Oxford and Regent Sts to Louise for a bonnet &c.

Friday 10. Directly after breakfast to Coopve then cabbed to the Grosvenor Gallery, New Bond St. The place of honour is held by a picture taken from Mr Deacons garden, and called The Minister's Garden, by Cecil Lawson. Mr Deacon was in raptures with it, but we did not care so much for it. From this we went to Carters, thence to Lotte's where we lunched, and after M and L. went to Mrs Knight, and I went into Regent St. Returned at 4, and had a cup of tea. Then we did a little more shopping and cabbed home by bus, calling at Maples. Miss Smith dined here, and John came in the evening.

Saturday 11. Directly after breakfast M and I took a cab and drove to the Dentists in Newington Crescent. Found that nothing required to be done to M's teeth, then walked down the Borough, to Spiller's and Brookes. Then by bus to the Bank. Walked to Ludgate Circus, and looked at stoves at Wellstead and Smiths. Then cabbed back to Euston Square. After lunch M and Mary went out, but I did not go out at all. Did some packing and took a rest.

Sunday 12. By bus to Victoria, being in very good time. M. being anxious to hear Mr Williamson we went to St Peters, but could only get seats in a part of the church, which was so close and hot that we felt we could not remain, so we hurried back to St John's, Wilton Road and were only able to get seats with much difficulty. After Service we went to Clapham, dined there. After dinner William, Florence Holroyd and I took a walk on the common. We left by the 6.35 from Clapham. Went again to Church at S. Johns and home by bus.

Yateley

Monday 13. Soon after breakfast Kate and Polly called. Then M and I went out to Maples and Shoolbreds and at the former I met Harry. M. went with Mary and the children to see Emmie. I went to Queen Square to enquire about the Epileptic Hospital for Mrs Noad. Then to Ludgate Hill. I lunched at Spiers and Ponds. Then by underground to the Cooperative and tried on clothes. Back by bus, packed everything and got away by 4.40. Elizabeth with us, she and M. in one cab, I in a hansom. Had a pleasant run down. The train only stopped at Redhill, Reigate

Betchworth, Boxhill, Dorking Guildford, Aldershot. At the last there was a great crowd, people who had been to see the troops reviewed by the Queen. Got home at 7.45. All well. Found everything wonderfully grown.

Tuesday 14. Weather like April, showers and sunshine. In afternoon we drove into York Town and home by the Flats. Gorse most beautiful. Had no rain. Aimie Becher called in the morning. Unpacked all our purchases and put up lace curtains in drawing room.

Wednesday 15. Blowing a gale in night and during the day. Arranged with Herbert to stay on till the beginning of September. Fine after 3 p.m. M. and Elizabeth got a short drive.

Thursday 16. Again rain and gale of wind in night. By day, shine and shower like April. M and E drove in afternoon. E. was to have left today but determined to stay till tomorrow.

Friday 17. Weather as yesterday. Cleared up so as to enable us to take Elizabeth to the station at 3.43. It has been a very pleasant little visit, and seems to have done her good.

Saturday 18. A good deal of thunder and lightning in the night, but fine all day. Tennis Club at Mr Sumners. He had 3 good courts. I wore a suit of blue flannel I had made at the Army and Navy and found it very comfortable.

Sunday 19. Rain in night, and a shower at 6 p.m., but otherwise fine. Holy Communion after morning Service. Mrs Noad dined with us.

Monday 20. Rain at intervals all day. The church closed this week, to enable them to take down the monuments in the chancel, which are to be moved to the west end of the south aisle.

Tuesday 21. Colder today. Glass in the night within 6 of freezing. Hope there may not be any frost.

Wednesday 22. No rain for a wonder, cold and cloudy. After dinner to York Town [and] station to meet Harriette Tierney. Train was in before we got there, but we were in time to prevent her taking a cab.

Thursday 23. Warmer again. Showery a.m. after fine. M. took H. for a drive. Went to Hartley Row and Eversley Church. Bezique in the evening.

Friday 24. Fine until noon. After very heavy rain with thunder and lightning till 7 p.m. Unable to go out at all.

Saturday 25. Wetter than ever. This begins to be serious. So much rain and no sunshine. It rained almost constantly until 4 p.m. M and H. gave up all idea of the Club, which was again at Mr Sumners. I went, with but little hope of having any play, but found plenty of people there and had the best games I have yet had.

Sunday 26. We all went to early Celebration. Then I to Vicarage and School as usual. M and H. came to 11 a.m. Service. In evening Mrs Noad came to tea. I went to Church. M and H. did not.

Monday 27. Commenced bedding out. Finished the two long borders on front of lawn, but had to work till 8.30 p.m. to do it. A few showers a.m. but generally fine. On Friday morning we all went to Church at Sandhurst, and after I took Edward to the P.O. and opened a Saving Bank account for him, with 17/, his beer money at 6 a week, that I promised him. Harriet and M. drove in afternoon.

Tuesday 28. To Church all of us at 10.30. After dinner just as M and H were going out, there arrived a table for the drawing room, a present from Lotte. Also a beautiful photograph of Mullers Holy Family and a jug of Doulton ware, which I got unpacked by the time they returned. Soon after they came in, very heavy rain.

Wednesday 29. Doing a lot of work on the machine making a cover for the drawing room couch. Lottes table is a great addition to the room. M and Harriette had a short drive. Mrs Becher and her sister Mrs James B. tead with us. I called on Mr Prior and got him to let me have some manure that Herbert thought would be good for tomatoes &c.

Thursday 30, Ascension Day. M and I to early Celebration. At 11, Harriette and I to Church. After breakfast Herbert drew in a load of manure with Nancy and our cart. Had the little pigs cut, and in the afternoon made a capital trough for them. After dinner we started for a drive, but found Nancy so lame that we had to turn back. We none of us went to Church in the evening Service being at 8 p.m., to suit those who had been unable to go during the day.

Friday 31. Fine all day. As Nancy was still lame, at 1.20, M. went with Harriette to the station in a cab and walked home. We have enjoyed H's visit. She is very nice. At 6, I walked to the station, and met dear little Mary P. and brought her home in a fly.

June 1878

Yateley

Saturday 1. Received today a new lawn mower, Greens, with which Herbert immediately set to work and cut the lawns beautifully. Also received from the Coop, Bessies picture which we left to be framed. Sent Nancy to have her shoes moved. Found her [front] foot had bad thrush. As we could not use her, the ladies could not attempt to go to the Club which was at the Tindalls. So we walked together as far as the church and there Mrs Gibson overtook us and gave me a lift. I had some very good games all against Mr Sumner. Got a lift home with the Miss Wyatts. Bezique in the evening.

Sunday 2. School as usual. All at Church. M and I stayed to H.C. Mary walked home with Emma. M and I again in evening. Mary had got a cold.

Monday 3. Weather much warmer, wind in West. Mary not at all well, in bed all day. M. went round her district with Mrs Noad. We went into York Town after dinner and on our way home I stayed at Parkers to see his daughter, but did not examine her then but arranged to go after breakfast on Wednesday. Fine all day.

Tuesday 4. Very heavy rain in the night, showers at times all day. M and I to Church. Mr Sumner away, Mr Tringham read.

Wednesday 5. Our wedding day, 23rd anniversary. After breakfast I went to Parkers as promised. After dinner M and I had the carriage and went into the lane by Darby Green and after onto the common, collecting ferns and grey moss to send to Kitty for decorating the church she goes to. Mary better, came down in the evening.

Thursday 6. Very fine all day. After dinner M, Mary and I drove out. First M. called on the Shaws. Then we drove by Longdown to Crowthorne, through the grounds of Wellington College, stopping to look at the boys at cricket, and home by Sandhurst Church &c. Mary very tired.

Friday 7. Mary very much out of sorts. Was in great pain last night. M and I to Church. As we were returning met Potter, who told us that Captain Hill died suddenly while dressing this morning. He is said to have burst a blood vessel. He and Mrs H. were calling on us about a week or 10 days ago. Poor thing, it seems all the more sad for her, being a foreigner. At 6, M and I drove into York Town and then met Graham by the 7.8 train and brought him home.

Saturday 8. Busy hunting for the well. I got old Jennings in, as he should have known where it is. Found it out in the roadway, instead of inside the laurel hedge, as was supposed. Mr Sumner came in to see me. One of our little pigs very ill. Wet from 3 to 5. After Graham and I walked to the Village. Mary a good deal better in the evening. Heard from Fanny this morning, asking us to take Harry in for a few days, as he has been rather seedy. Mrs Noad and Arthur called. He has 10 days holiday. He seems very pleased with his position. Mr Keatley is already giving him some pay, which was quite unexpected.

Sunday 9, Whit. M and I to early Celebration. I to Vicarage and School as usual. Graham with M. to Church, and at 3 p.m. they went to Sandhurst. I went alone to Church in the evening.

Monday 10. I went to Church in at 10 a.m. it being Whit Monday. Weather fine till p.m. then showery. At 3.20 M and I drove to the station. On the way I went in and enquired for Mrs Hill. Met Harry Johnstone and brought him home. He has been out of sorts for some little time. Afte early tea, M. took Graham for a drive, to Minley. Mrs and Aimie Becher came in for a short time.

Tuesday 11. Blowing hard with much rain from SE. Graham left at 8.20, having a fly from station. In the evening Harry and I got a short walk.

Wednesday 12. Bright morning, but rain set in again at 9, and continued showery till 4. Before dinner Harry and I got a walk round by Cobbetts and the common, and found the Droseras &c. in great abundance. At 4 M and I to the School, where there was a small bazaar for the Zenana Missions. There I left M and went on with Mr Mason to the Tindalls where he and I had 4 games at Billiards, of which I won 3. Home by 7.30. Club today in the Village. In evening glass rising.

Thursday 13. Weather rather more promising. After dinner M, Mary and Harry went for a drive and I went to a small garden party at the Masons. Rain at 8 p.m.

Friday 14. The first day without any rain for a long time. Sold nine of our pigs for £4.10. Kept the little one that was so sick, but is now quite recovered. We (all but Mary) went to Church at 10.30. After Harry and I marked out a little court on the outer lawn and there was a lot of play during the afternoon. Aimie Becher came in about 5, and stayed. At 6.30 Emily and Arthur Noad came to tea and supper.

Saturday 15. Another fine morning. A setting of Dark Brahmas that we got through the Exchange and Mart came out this morning. Twelve chicks, without any help. One egg had been broken by the hen 10 days ago, see Monday.

Sunday 16, Trinity. We were to have gone to early Celebration, but it was raining so heavily at the time, that there being 2nd Celebration today, we decided to go then. I to School as usual, M and Harry to 11 Service. M and I stayed to H C. Mary not able to go at all. H and I in evening M and H. went to Sandhurst.

Monday 17. The Tennis Club was held at the Holders on Saturday and Harry went there with me. It went off very pleasantly. They had 3 capital courts. On coming home I walked up to Cobbetts to see whether he could cut our hay on Monday, but he said, he could not possibly do it till Wednesday. Today has been so wet that we are glad not to have begun.

Tuesday 18. We, ie H, Maggie and I went to Church, but it was showery almost all day. No weather for hay making.

Wednesday 19. At last we have apparently got summer. It rained in the night and till 8 or 9 a.m. After that very fine and hot. Aimie Becher came directly after breakfast

and spent all day. Got the nets ready for the strawberries and Herbert put them on capitally. After dinner Lawn Tennis going on constantly, till 6.40, when we took Harry to the station and sent him off to Oxford, very much the better for his sojourn with us.

Thursday 20. Very hot, but Mr Cobbett does not send to cut the grass, which is provoking, as with this beautiful weather we are losing time.

Friday 21. Weather intensely hot. M and I to Church, and directly we returned, I went up and saw Cobbett. He promised to send his machine, either this afternoon or tomorrow morning. After dinner M, Mary and I drove through Hartley Row to Hazeley Heath and home through Bramshill and Eversley. On getting home, found that machine had not come. After Church this morning had a teachers meeting at the Vicarage.

Saturday 22. Commenced cutting at 8, and had finished by 4. Splendid weather. Did not go to the Club, as it was at Lady Glass', and she has not called on us. Not at all sorry to stay away, the heat being very great.

Sunday 23. M and I to early Celebration. The heat so great that she did not come to Church at 11. Looking like thunder in afternoon, but none here. Mary went with us to Church in evening.

Monday 24. Grand weather for the hay. We worked on all day till 8 p.m. Most of it ready to carry tomorrow. Heard that there was tremendous rain and thunder and lightning in London yesterday afternoon. We were very fortunate in not having it here.

Tuesday 25. Glowing weather continues. Had farmer Thrift, with his horse and waggon and by working till 8.30, got all the hay taken up, and all but one load into the stack, in splendid order. I hope our neighbours, Stilwell and Mason, may be as fortunate as we have been.

Wednesday 26. I worked so hard at pitching hay yesterday, that today I feel very seedy. Only played a few games at Tennis in the small court in evening. {"X 30" in margin, see Sunday 30th}.

Thursday 27. Still feeling very tired and out of sorts. Mary spent the day with the Bechers. M and I drove into York Town calling at Parkers as we returned. There is a jay doing no end of mischief in the garden among the peas, so this evening I wrote to William to ask him for one of his guns.

Friday 28. So very hot that I did not go to Church. Feeling better than the last two days. Got the large Tennis court marked out - it is in beautiful order. Yeomans, from the Royal Oak began thatching the rick. Did not quite finish it. Got a telegram from William to say that he had sent off a gun by the 11 train from Charing Cross. While we were having 5 o'clock tea on the lawn, Miss Dumbleton came in (riding), then Maggie and B. Mason. The two latter were going on to York Town, and kindly called at the station for me and got the gun.

Saturday 29. Being St Peters day, there was Service at 10.30, to which I went. The rick was completed before breakfast, so that we had one hay crop up and secured in just a week. At 5, Mrs and Miss Noad, Miss Dumbleton and Aimie Becher came to tea and Tennis, and we played in the large court. Miss D. left about 7, the others stayed to tea.

Sunday 30. Much cooler. M and I to early Celebration then I to Vicarage and School. M did not come to Church. Mr Padwick being away, Mr Sumner played the organ in addition to his other duties. There was a Flower Service at Sandhurst at 3 p.m., which must have been very much interfered with, as there was heavy rain with thunder and lightning from 2.30 to 4.30, but it cleared off enough to enable us all to go to Church in the evening. Yesterday as I was returning from Church met a man in the road who looked like a gardner so I spoke to him, and found he was on the look out for a place. In the afternoon he came in to see me about ours. During last week I have got a small pump put up at the back of the stables, just over the well, which we find a great convenience. {"X" in margin}

Last Wednesday, we went to the Tindals to call on the Elwyns, who were out. Then to Miss Stobarts (the pretty looking house on Eversley Green). Found her in Also called at Mrs Rushs - she was out. Mrs Barham, who is staying at the Plough, has been up once or twice in the week.

July 1878

Yateley

Monday 1. Church at 10.30. Began making a second Tennis ground in the field. At 4.30, M and I to the Stilwells, to practice at Tennis. Found nothing ready. Had to get my own net. M. Mason and Edie Tringham came, also Mary and Aimie. There was drizzling rain at intervals. Mary had been dining with the Bechers. Aimie came back with us and Mrs B. came to tea and we had Bezique.

Tuesday 2. After dinner, M and Mary went into York Town, leaving me at Parkers. I sat with Miss Parker for some time, then went on to Mrs Thrifts (E) and enquired about a boy. After tea had a little Tennis, but it was rather damp. Mr Stilwell came in for a long chat.

Wednesday 3. At 10.30, to Church. Then across the Green to enquire after a boy, but without success. After dinner M and I drove to Wellington College Hotel to enquire after a lad. I went to the W.C. station to send off egg box. Was accosted by two gentlemen who proved to be General Walker and Steve Babington. Then we drove to some cottages a good way beyond Coll. Jones's house and home by the Mill. Then to Kirkhoffers. M asked Miss K. to come in to tea and Tennis. She came and Aimie was here. Played in the small court. About 9.30, Mr K. and two of his pupils came in for a few minutes. I walked home with Aimie.

Thursday 4. Fine weather, looking settled again. In the afternoon, Mary and Aimie Becher went to the Masons, while M and I went to the Dumbletons to see Coll. D. We stayed there about an hour and then returned to the Masons, where I played one very hard game, Aimie B and Mr Murray, against Miss Kirkhoffer and myself. We were very much overmatched but managed to win 5 games to 5. Lost the set. I was very tired. Showery from 5 to 6.

Friday 5. Mr Deacon came to lunch and after we had some Tennis. Then Aimie Becher came and we had lots more. She stayed to tea and we played Bezique and I walked home with her.

Saturday 6. Very warm. The Club at the Stilwells. It was arranged that we should all go, but it turned out otherwise. After dinner Mary was so unwell that she could not go, and as John Petrie wrote that he was coming by the 4.41 train, M. drove down to meet him and I went alone. Not a good meeting. There was a counter attraction in a large party at Mr Kirkhoffers. Mrs Willis was at the Stilwells and it was pleasant to meet her again. Mary very seedy.

Sunday 7. Mary very poorly all night and so much so in the morning that M. did not go to Church. I went as usual and John met me at the church door, when I came from School. After dinner Mrs Willis came in and had a chat, also Mrs and Aimie B. Mary a little better, so M. went to Church, after which John and I walked over Cricket Hill to the Flats.

Monday 8. Mary rather better. Up early and took John to the 8.45 train. Then on to York Town and home by Parkers. Feeling very tired and seedy myself. Mary would come down stairs and in the evening was as bad as ever again. M and I were up till 12.30. Fortunately I had ordered some ice from Snuggs in the morning.

Tuesday 9. Mary better again this morning. Got her to keep more quiet. Lost an old hen by her falling into the liquid manure pit. Got the rick fenced round today, so that we can now turn in the cows.

Wednesday 10. Mary getting on all right At 11.45, we drove into York Town and on to Camberley to get jam pots. Mary with us. On our way home called at Mr Fitzroy's lower lodge to see his bailiff about his gardener's character, who is applying for our place. We hear a good account of him. P.m., M. very busy making a large batch of currant jelly. I walked as far as Mrs Noads and back with the Bechers. Mrs Leith was to have come to us on Friday, but we heard from her today, that she is not well enough to come yet. Talks of next week, when we also hope to see Cora and Dora, so as Mrs Leith brings her maid we shall be pretty full.

Thursday 11. Mary better. It is settled that she is to leave us tomorrow. Heard this morning from Polly, offering a visit next week, but that is impossible as at present arranged.

Friday 12. Mary continues much better. We took her to the station at 3.[38] and saw her off to London. Then drove on to York Town. By the midday post got a letter from Tudor Trevor, asking us to lend him £10 to send his wife and daughter up to town next week but asking that it should be kept secret from his wife. I sent him the cheque but would not agree to this condition and said that he must tell her of it. M could not bear the idea of keeping it secret from Cora.

Saturday 13. All our 14 young ducks are missing. Had over Mrs Rackley and she and Edward were hunting for them half the day, without success. Made enquiries in all directions, but could hear nothing of them. At 4.30 to the Club at the Tindals. I did not intend to play at all and only did play one very slow game. We were asked to go to the Stilwells yesterday but it rained so much when we returned from the station, that we did not go.

Sunday 14. M and I to early Celebration, then I to Vicarage and School. When we got home from Church heard that all the ducks had been found. Rackley and Herbert had found them in [Smiths] long grass near the river. Aimie Becher and Arthur Pennington came in, and Arthur Noad to tea. M and I to Church. Walked home with the Stilwells and went in and supped with them.

Monday 15. Busy getting rooms ready for Mrs Leith and her maid, who come tomorrow, and for Cora and Dora whom we expect on Thursday. After dinner called on the Don Marshalls and had a long chat with them. She is particularly cheery.

Tuesday 16. Had Rackley over and put a wire fence round the pond to keep the ducks in, as they will soon go to the bad if kept in confinement. M and I to Church at 10.30 and then I to Vicarage to get some buds of Marechal Neil. At 4 into York Town and at 4.41 to station and met Mrs Leith and her maid. By the midday post heard from T.

Trevor returning my cheque and saying that his wife and daughter are not coming to town.

Wednesday 17. Very hot day. At 4.30, we all went to a garden party at the Sumners. Mrs Leith and M. stayed about an hour, then took a short drive. I played two sets, very hard games and the heat was intense. Rackley put up a good fence between the park and the fields, by the duck ponds. I was so hot when I got home that I had to change everything. Played Bezique.

Thursday 18. Very tired indeed, but had to go into York Town. so drove in by myself at 11 a.m., and called on Mr Williams to enquire about the character of the boy George Moren. The result was not very satisfactory, but it seemed that Mr W. spoke with a good deal of pique. After this I went to Snuggs for ice, and Claypole. Seeing Alcock I asked him to look at Nancy, and he thought that she looked so ill, that he strongly advised me to ask Wheatley of Reading to see her. Got home about 1. It was intensely hot. In the evening the boy Moren, came up, and after M, Mrs Leith and I had sat in committee upon him, we decided to give him a trial.

Friday 19. Weather continues very hot. Not so tired as yesterday, but I have determined to give up Lawn Tennis while this very hot weather lasts. At 4. M and I walked and called on the Addisons. They seem pleasant. Then I went to the Stilwells and looked on at Tennis for an hour.

Saturday 20. Weather the same. Feeling better but still tired. No Club this afternoon as there is a Cricket Match between Eversley and Wellington College. I could not go as Wheatley had appointed this evening to come and see Nancy. He came, and thought badly of her. He says she has Nasal Gleet, which may turn to Glanders if care is not taken. In one nostril the membrane is of a dull leaden hue, which is very bad, and he ordered Sulph. of Copper 3[.]three times a day, and beans with her oats. Yesterday evening, our new man William Gilham came and went over the garden with Herbert. Today night Herbert left us, to the grief of all the establishment and not the least so to his own. He would have been very glad to stay, but gone too far in his engagement to the lady he has gone to near Dorchester. I hope our new man will turn out satisfactory.

Sunday 21. Not quite so hot. A haze over the sun and cool wind. I went to School as usual and then to Church, to which neither M. nor Mrs Leith came. Stayed to Holy Communion. Walked home with Genrl Addison. Mrs L. did not feel well enough to go to Church in evening, so M and I went.

Monday 22. As the new man was to come today, I got up at 6. Found he had come and I went into the fields with him, very foolishly, as I had only slippers on, and must have got a chill. Felt very unwell all day, with severe pain in the bowels, and pains and aches all about me. Got worse towards bedtime, so put my feet in hot mustard bath. Had a linseed mustard poultice and took some Blue Pill &c. Mrs Leith also was very poorly.

Tuesday 23. Had a very bad night, and poor Maggie had worse. She was much frightened about me and wanted to send for Dr Denny, but this I did not think

necessary. I took a dose of Castor Oil, the first for 21 years. Stayed in bed till 3 p.m., feeling better but still very poorly.

Wednesday 24. Had a good night. Mrs Leith feeling very poorly, fidgetting about herself. Wants to go away at once, but we wont let her. I better. Did not get up till after breakfast. Feeling very weak. Received a parcel from Polly, with some tools and books of Charlie's. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in to tea and played Bezique. The new man seems to be going on very satisfactorily, and we both like what we have seen of him very much.

Thursday 25. Both self and patient better today, but still I feel that I want a good deal of care. Able to be about a good deal. After dinner Mrs and Miss Addison and Mrs and Miss Noad called.

Friday 26. After dinner today, drove Mrs Leith and M. to Eversley Church. Met Mr Neville and had a talk with him about his China pigs, of which he has a very fine breed. Home by Kingsleys Winter Garden and Firgrove. Did not feel well enough to go to Church this morning in the heat.

Saturday 27. Did not drive today, as Mrs Leith wanted to sketch. The Sumners and Mrs Utterton called on their way to the Club at Mrs Gibsons. We did not go.

Sunday 28. M. very poorly in the night with feeling of faintness and shivering. I was up two or three times. She could not go to early Celebration, so I went alone, then to Vicarage, School and Church. Found her a good deal better when I got home. In evening we had the carriage, and all 3 went to Church.

Monday 29. After dinner took M and Mrs Leith to call at the Sumners. Then we drove to the Mill and ford along the road below Coll. Jones, and up to Finchampstead along the Ridges, and home by Wellington College and Ambarrow and Sandhurst. Mrs L. was much pleased.

Tuesday 30. I went to Church at 10.30. At 4.20, took Mrs Leith to station and saw her off. Train so late that I fear she will miss the corresponding one at Redhill. Then we went on to York Town.

Wednesday 31. Up early and to London by the 8.45 a.m. train. To Royal Academy, where we stayed till 4.15. Not a very good exhibition, nothing very striking. I think the best figure painting is Calderons Removing Nuns from a Convent at Loughborough and the best landscape P. Grahams Wandering Shadows. We came home by the 5.13 train, getting to Blackwater, punctually and home.

August 1878

Yateley

Thursday 1. Fine all day. After dinner M. went into the district with her magazines. I remained at home, as I had to see Mr Wheatley, who came about 5.30. He thought Nancy going on most favorably.

Friday 2. Dull cloudy day. To Church at 10.30. While at dinner Douglas Petrie came in, having ridden from Cookham near Maidenhead on his bicycle. After dinner we had a few games at Tennis in the small court. He left at 5 for Bentley. We then drove over to Hartley Row, and went to Shillings nursery, and ordered some strawberry plants. We got home by 7.30.

Saturday 3. There was rain at 5.30 a.m., and again in the middle of the day, there was a thunderstorm. At 4, we drove into York Town and at 4.45 to the station to meet Fanny Johnstone, who was coming from Reading. The train came in, but no Fanny. However we found Mr Mason who had come from Richmond via Wokingham, so we took him up and home. At 7.30, Fanny arrived in a cab, having missed the 4.15 train and come by the 6.40.

Sunday 4. I went to School as usual. At 11 M and Fanny to Church. M and I remained to Holy Communion. F. remained without communicating. From 3 to 5 p.m., there was a thunderstorm. We all went to Church at 6.30.

Monday 5. On Saturday Edward left us, and the new boy, George Morren came. I hope that he and the new gardener will do well. At 4, Fanny and I drove into York Town, forgetting that it was a Bank Holiday, and found every shop shut. At 4.45 to station to meet Alfred. When we got home we found Mrs Becher and Aimie, who came to 5 p.m. tea. We had a game at the Tennis. They left at 6.30. After our supper we had music Fanny playing beautifully.

Tuesday 6. We all went to Church at 10.30. There was heavy rain during the night but fine all day. After dinner M. took Fanny and Alfred for a drive. In evening music as last evening.

Wednesday 7. Fine till 6 p.m., then heavy rain for an hour. Took Fanny to the 1.36 train for Reading. We have enjoyed her little visit much and I think she seemed to do the same. I then went on to York Town and did some business, and back home. At 4.20 Alfred and I drove to the station and met Lucy Wood and Katie and brought them home. Mr Mason called on A.

Thursday 8. Fine all day. After breakfast Alfred and I walked to the Village as far as Aaron Bunch, to see the new Screen, which will be very handsome. Called at Sumners and Masons the latter at home. After dinner M. took Lucy and Alfred for a drive to Finchampstead Ridges. Katie and I walked to the Flats and home by Cricket Hill, calling at the Bechers where we stayed some time. After had some Tennis in the small court.

Friday 9. We all went to Church. At 1.40 Alfred left in a fly for Farnboro (SW), to go as far as Plymouth tonight and on to St Erth tomorrow. His visit has been very pleasant, we wished he could have stayed longer. After dinner we all drove to Minley, saw the view from the churchyard. Then M. and L and K. walked from the lodge of Minley on the Flats, along the edge of the wood, till they came to a break, where M. expected to find a beautiful view and succeeded in doing so. I had kept as near as I could to them on the heath or road. Then we drove by the Winter Garden to Eversley church and thence home.

Saturday 10. A good deal of rain at night and during the forenoon. At 5, to a party at the Don Marshalls, a very quiet affair. Played a little Tennis. About 6 o'clock a perfect storm of rain came on - we had seen it for half an hour before coming up from the direction of Odiham. It lasted till 7. When we got home found that there had been only a few drops here. Indeed it seemed to have been entirely confined to South of the Flats.

Sunday 11. Lucy, M and I to early Celebration. I to Vicarage and School. All to morning Service, at which Mr Gillett officiated, having changed with Mr Sumner. After dinner M, L and K went to 3 o'clock Service at Sandhurst and we all went to Evensong at Yateley. Threatening for rain all day, but none fell.

Monday 12. Glass fallen much. Fine rain in the night and till 8 p.m. Again very heavy at 3 to 5. At 7.30 we all went to dinner at the Stilwells. Had a pleasant evening. A partial eclipse of the moon.

Tuesday 13. We all went to a large garden party at the Stilwells. I played two games at Lawn Tennis, and was not tired. A little rain in afternoon.

Wednesday 14. At 10.36, took Lucy and Katie to the station. Lucy is very pleasant, Katie the most taciturn girl I ever saw. We went on to York Town and on our way home went up to Starveacre (where we had never been before) about honey. After dinner we walked to Darby Green, M. to see Mrs Thrift and I to see the Parkers. Mrs and Miss Noad to supper.

Thursday 15. At 11, to Sunday School teachers meeting at the Vicarage. After dinner we drove to some brickfields near Wellington College. Then called on the Cardales (friends of the Stilwells) at the Plough. When we got home the vet from Reading called, and then we went to a second garden party at the Stilwells.

Friday 16. M and I to Church at 10. Went in to the Masons to see a sick servant. Showers at intervals till 4 p.m. At 5, Mrs and Miss Noad, Mrs Becher and Mr and Mrs Cardale came in to tea. Mr C, Miss Noad and I had a little Tennis. Then Aimie Becher and her niece and nephew came in and had some Tennis.

Saturday 17. In the afternoon the Club at the Masons. It had been fine all the morning, but at 4.30. till 5, there was a very heavy shower, making the ground very wet, but we played all the same. I only played 2 games and went home early with Maggie.

Sunday 18. I to School, M. to Church and we stayed to H.C. Walked home with the Addison. To Church in the evening, where there was rather a disturbance made by the Holders' butler, expressing his disapproval of Mr Sumner's sermon. It appears that he is out of his mind.

Monday 19. After dinner we called at the Masons on Mrs Alcock (all out), then on Mrs Rush - at home. Then to Sandhurst and called first at the Dumbletons then at Mrs Turner - both out, then at the Shaws - at home.

Tuesday 20. Had old Billy at work, getting up the potatoes, which turn up very badly, both the Regents and Lapstones. Crop small and a great deal of disease. We dined at the Sumners. Met there, Mr and Mrs Neville, Mr and Mrs Jackson (from Finchampstead), Miss and B. Mason, a young Gibson. Had a pleasant evening and a capital dinner. M and I to Church at 10.30.

Wednesday 21. A very heavy day, getting ready for a start tomorrow. Bunch sent men to pave the upper cowshed, which they finished at 4.30. Mrs, 2 Miss and Mr Shaw came, also Mrs Turner and her son and Mrs Tolmin, Miss Noad, and we had a lot of Lawn Tennis and tea out of doors. Mrs Noad and F.N. stayed to supper and said goodbye, as they leave Yateley tomorrow for good. Had got most of our packing done during the day and finished off before bed time.

Cromer

Thursday 22. Up at 6, and left home at 8.20. To Cannon Street by the 8.45 train. Cabbed across to Liverpool Street. Started at 11.35, by the fast train to Norwich. Only stopped once between London and Cambridge. Thence to Ely. There is a fine view of the Cathedral from the station. Thence to Norwich. Until 1/2 way between these two last places the country is flat and very uninteresting. About Norwich itself it is much better. Could not see the Cathedral. Changed our train here and got to Cromer at 4.25. The station is on high ground nearly a mile from the town. Leaving our luggage we went down by bus and at once commenced a search for lodgings, which we soon found to be hopeless. However we persevered for a long time. The only rooms we could find were most miserable, in little cottages. In one the bedroom was reached by a sort of ladder stair, with a rope to help one up. In all our [Scotch] experience we had never seen anything so bad as these. We had been told that all the hotels were full, but at last in despair, we tried the Bath Hotel, and were happy in finding a beautiful huge bed room, facing the sea, just vacated, and with the use of a fine coffee room. The hotel is close upon the beach, so here we fixed ourselves, thinking ourselves very lucky. Got to bed very tired.

Friday 23. Woke to find a regular wet day, so all the better satisfied that we had got into such comfortable quarters. It continued to rain incessantly till 6 p.m. An excursion train had come from Wisbeach and 3 different parties came and dined in the coffeeroom, there being nothing else they could do.

Saturday 24. A fine day. At 11, we walked up the cliffs to the eastward of the town, by the lighthouse and on beyond till we looked down on the village of Overstrand. Pretty country inland, and delightful turf on the cliffs. Home to dinner at 2.30. After

dinner, Mrs Abel our landlady having lent Maggie a beach chair, we sat about on the sands. Weather looking rather threatening, wind backing to the North W.

Sunday 25. To Church at 1/2 past 10. A very large congregation. We could only get chairs in the middle aisle. We stayed to H.C. which is only celebrated once a month, on the last Sunday. A large number of communicants. The church has been a very fine one, a magnificent tower lofty and handsome nave, but the chancel is utterly in ruins and the chancel arch has been built up, so that there is not even an apology for an East window. A small part of the ruins of the chancel still stand in the church yard, to show what it must have been. Everything here is of a very low type, as might be expected, the place having always been under the influence of the Gurneys and Hoares. I am quite sure that there are many here to whom more frequent Services would be acceptable. There is no evening Service, why I cannot imagine, as there are all the appliances for lighting. There is Service at 3, to which we did not go. About 5, walked along the west cliff nearly as far as Runton, when it came on to rain, and continued to do so till we got home. M. not feeling at all well, very gaspy, indeed neither of us seem in very good form.

Monday 26. Had a very indifferent night. M seedy. A lovely day. After breakfast we bought a beach seat for ourselves, and so having two, went and sat on the sands, M. sketching. Some young folk were playing at Tennis on the sand. After dinner we went along the west beach, but it is not nearly as nice as the east. When we came back, went into the town on business.

Tuesday 27. A lovely morning, wind westerly and offshore. Soon after breakfast went out fishing and caught 14 codlings. Stayed 1 3/4 hours till M. began to feel sick. Soon after we got in it rained heavily and did so several times during the remainder of the day. M. better, but still both of us feeling seedy. The living in the hotel is not sufficiently attractive to make us care to stay longer, so we have determined to be off on Thursday. Walked up to the station and found that our tickets will take us back to S. Pancras so wrote to Bessie to say we would look in at Euston Square and if they would put us up stay the night. By night mail heard from Mary, that she and Alice and Bessie start for Geneva on Friday mg. so we shall not be able to sleep there.

Wednesday 28. Another lovely day. Fresh breeze from NW. Before dinner sketching for some time on the east beach. M. doing a picture for the Society time occupied to be stated. After dinner on the west cliff sketching town &c. A lovely sunset. There were one or two showers a.m. After tea got almost all our packing done, as we start early tomorrow to give us an hour in Norwich en passant.

Yateley

Thursday 29. Up in good time and had all ready. Left by the bus at 8.50, and train at 9.19. On arrival at Norwich left our luggage with that for St Pancras and went out and saw the Cathedral. It has a spire and from a distance has a mean look, but improves upon nearer view. It is looked upon as one of the poorest of our Cathedrals but it has some fine features, especially a most perfect square of cloisters round a green burial ground, recalling to mind the Campi Santi of foreign churches. The building inside strikes one as being very narrow, but it is also very lofty. Some parts are being restored in colours like what it was originally, but they are by no means

pleasing. We started again at 11.30, and only stopping at Ely and Cambridge, reached 44 Euston Square at 3 p.m. Found Bessie Mary and Alice all at home and the house in a state of topsy turvey with painters &c. After having some dinner we went to Maples and bought a very pretty tea set, and after that again went out to Oxford Street, to try and get some drawing paper such as Mrs Leith had given to M. but we were unsuccessful. Back to tea and then cabbed to Charing X, in time for the 7.8 train. At Guildford Mr Sumner got in, returning from Bognor. On arriving at Blackwater, the only cab there, was one that Mr Sumner had ordered, so we shared it with him. Got home about 10. Found that through a misunderstanding of Gilhams they did not expect us till tomorrow evening. However things were soon put ready for us, and we were very glad to get to bed after a long days work.

Friday 30. Wet all day, a wretched day for the flower show at Bramshill to which we did not go.

Saturday 31. Wet all the early morning. At about 11 I walked up to the Bechers. After dinner drove M. to the Gibsons, and then leaving her at home, I went on to the Tindals, where the Club was held. Had a couple of games.

September 1878

Yateley

Sunday 1. Fine but dull all day. To School at 10. M. to Service and HC. Service in evening.

Monday 2. Weather as yesterday. Mrs Cardale came up in afternoon but we had to go out to the Bechers with whom we had a long ramble gathering blackberries. Then they came home to supper with us and had a game at Bezique.

Tuesday 3. Up early. M. drove me to the 8.45 train and then went on to York Town, taking Harriette to have a tooth out. I went to Charing X. Thence to Victoria and saw William for a few minutes. They had a terrible accident at Sittingbourne on Saturday. 5 killed, 40 wounded, some badly. An excursion train ran into some trucks being shunted, through some extraordinary mistake of the under guard of the goods train, who pulled over points that he had no business with. Indeed he had not to touch any at all. I went by tram to the Oval, to see 2nd day of a match between the Australians and Players, but from some financial differences the latter were very poorly represented. None of the really great professionals were there. However it was a very good game. The Australians have got one really first class batsman, viz. C. Bannerman and their great strength is in their bowling and fielding. They work so well together. I stayed till 10 to 5, then to London Bridge and home by the fast train. M. met me at the station and I was at home by 7.45, having had a very pleasant day.

Wednesday 4. Got Rackley and set to work covering the outhouses with strong cloth instead of felt. In the afternoon I went to the village.

Thursday 5. We are now having very heavy dews, days very warm again. Going on with the outhouses. After dinner we drove to the Military College to see the flower show of the united parishes of Sandhurst, York Town, Camberley and Frimley. It was very good. Miss Dumbleton won a prize for table decorations, which she well deserved. While we were away, the maids gathered a lot of blackberries in our fields, and Mrs Rackley sending some more, we had enough to finish up a lot of jelly.

Friday 6. Fine weather. Getting on with our work. Walked into the Village to see Bunch. On Wednesday George gave notice.

Saturday 7. Having got some bricks from Bunch Rackley paved the hen house and did it capitally, without any mortar. Ought to have had the tar for the outhouses, but Bull fails us. At 4 to the Dumbletons and had two good games at Tennis. Met Dr Nicholas from the Broadmoor Asylum and Dr Russell the new doctor coming to Sandhurst. Yesterday we went at 11.30, to Sandhurst Church to the induction of Mr Randall an interesting Service. The Bishop was not there. The Archdeacon of Berkshire officiated.

Sunday 8. M and I to early Celebration. Then I to Vicarage and School as usual. Service at 11. At 4 Mrs Cardale and two of her children came up and had tea with us.

From 5 to 6, very heavy rain. M and I. to Church. Mr Sumner preached a particularly good sermon. After supper we got most of our packing done for tomorrow.

Hollingbourne

Monday 9. Started at 10.15 for 10.37. train, by which we went to Redhill and thence without any stoppage to Tunbridge Junction, where we had to wait nearly an hour. Thence via Paddock Wood to Maidstone, where Lester met us, with a wagonette and very nice pair of horses. He has a son of Biddulph [Pinchard] staying with him. After a cup of tea, we went into the Vicarage and played Lawn Tennis. Dined at 6.30. After Lester and I played Chess. Won 2. each.

Tuesday 10. Beautiful weather. At the Vicarage in the morning. After lunch, Lester and Mrs, M and I, drove to Boxley to call on some people of the name of [Mawsell], he a Captain R.N. a fidgetty little man, with nice wife and daughters. Home through Maidstone. On our way back called at the Workhouse to enquire about a boy.

Wednesday 11. Some Tennis in the morning. Lester and M. sketching as yesterday, the cottages by the church. After lunch we all went to Leeds Castle, L and M. sketching. Some of us reading and lying about in the grass. After Mr and Mrs Gibson and Grace came in to dinner.

Thursday 12. After breakfast M and L. sketching as usual, I at Vicarage. After lunch, at 3 p.m. a wonderful squall, of wind with a little rain past over. At 4 we all went up the hills towards Detling, and got a few blackberries, and a vast lot of mushrooms. After dinner played 3 games of Chess with L. I won 2.

Friday 13. About 2 a.m. M. taken ill. Sick and in much pain - effect of the mushrooms. We got no sleep and she continued very seedy till 3 p.m., when she was well enough to get up. I went for a fast drive with Lester, through Leeds and Otham to the Workhouse and thence home. I drove the greater part of the way. The horses pull very hard. Very tired and sleepy.

Saturday 14. M all right again and I feeling very seedy, digestion quite upset. Went (Lester and M and I) after breakfast to see Mrs Thomas' pictures, sketches &c. left by her husband who was artist to the Queen and Pre. Albert. She has some very nice things. After lunch I stayed at home. Most of them went to Leeds Park and M. had a very delightful afternoon sketching.

Sunday 15. Nearly all right again. Church at 11 and 6.30. It is a fine church, and in good order but Services very infrequent and what there are, badly attended. The people here do not appreciate evening Service as they do with us, and today is the last for the year. Blowing hard and looking like rain.

St Leonards

Monday 16. Some heavy rain in the night, but fine all day. Drove into Maidstone to catch the 12.25 train. Fortunately went fast and were before the time, for the time had been altered to 12.10. We caught it by 1 minute. We should have greatly enjoyed our visit, but that we were both seedy. It is very clear that the place does not suit either of

us. The last time we were here M. was very unwell. It is not considered relaxing, but it seems so to us. I do not think the water is good and I am sure that the sanitary arrangements are horrible. We got to St Leonards at 2.20, and found all at home but Bessie. Saw Kitty for a few minutes. She left at 4. All well. We did not go out that evening.

Tuesday 17. Blowing very hard all day. After breakfast Fanny (m), and I went to see Henry Shakespear. He was out. Saw Mrs S, then we went to Miss James's and home. M. had been into Hastings with Fan. In evening M and I went out for a few minutes, and Miss James came to tea.

Wednesday 18. Raining hard all night and half the day. M. had a fly and went at 11 to Miss James. Had a lesson in cooking. At 1 we met at the Rampkes. At lunch, only the two elder ones at home. Marion is nursing in a childrens hospital at Gloucester. Saw Mr R, but he is now so deaf that it is very hard work talking to him. We left about 3. M. went home, and I went to try and see Shakespear, but he had gone out. Bessie came home. She had been staying near Bath. M and I went out in the evening and got some little china things.

Thursday 19. A fine morning. M. went and had another lesson from Miss James, and brought back with her Polly, who had come over from Brighton, where she is staying. About 11, Henry Shakespear called and stayed some time, and I walked with him to the library. It is just 22 years since I saw him passing through Bombay. I should not have known him in the least. He has become quite the old man, almost white, and lame from gout, and injured hip. Judging from the look of their house, I should think he must be a poor man - and he was always extravagant in India. After dinner we took Eliza and Annie for a drive. First to Gilbert's nursery in Hastings, where we bought some ferns &c, then round by Orr and Culver Hill. It rained before we got home. For a wonder this place has done us both good, but it was a good chance coming here after Hollingbourne.

Yateley

Friday 20. Heavy rain in night, but fine day. A general break up, Arthur returning to Radley. Fanny went to town with him at 10.30. Charlie returns to school this evening. We left at noon. On arriving at Tunbridge Junction found that my portmanteau and hat box and our basket of plants had been left behind. Telegraphed for them and just as we were starting for Redhill got a reply, that they had been sent on by a Brighton train and on arriving at Redhill found them already in the van of the train we were going on by. Reached Blackwater safely but 40 minutes late. Home again by 5.30 and found all well.

Saturday 21. Glass rising and fine weather. A good lot of work has been got through in our absence. All the outhouses tarred, the coal hole roofed in and a door put to it, and the roofs of other places and my garden house put to rights. Today picking the Autumn Bergamot pears. At 3, to the Hall where the Club was held, the last we shall be at for the season, as the last of all is to be at Lady Glass's next Saturday. I had the two best games I have had this year. Charlie Tindal and myself, against Mr Sumner and a Mr Nugent. We won both.

Sunday 22. Early Celebration. On coming out found it raining and it continued to threaten and drizzle occasionally all day, and when we came out from evening Service it was raining hard. Yesterday evening, on our way home from the Holders called on Mrs Cardale and sat some little time with her. She leaves on Monday, for which we are sorry, as we like her very much. Heard also on Saturday from the Master of the Workhouse at Hollingbourne that the Guardians would not let the boy I had asked about come so far away, so I wrote to Alfred to see whether he has any boy he wants a place for.

Monday 23. At 11, drove to Starveacre about honey for Kitty. Then into the Village to Gadds and Woods. Did not go out any more. Fine all but one light shower.

Hadley

Tuesday 24. By 8.45 to Charing Cross. Left our luggage at the cloakroom and went to Coop. Had a long morning there and did a lot of business. Then to Goringes, and also had some lunch. Back by Charing Cross, and cabbied to Gt Northern. Reached Barnet Stn at 4.15, where Mrs Wilde met us and took us home. Both Isabella and Ellen at home.

Wednesday 25. Wet all day. I went out with Mrs Wilde about the grounds to advise her about repairs of gates, fencing &c. M went out to Barnet with Isabella. Rain was light.

Thursday 26. Isabella has found a boy for us, who came up to be looked at. Seems a nice lad, rather smaller than George. Before lunch Isabella, Ellen, M and I went to Cutbush's nursery garden and selected 3 Camellias and 3 Azaleas. In afternoon, Mrs Wilde, Isabella, M and I went for a drive, first takin{g} a lot of ferns that Ellen has given us to Cutbush to be packed with the plants we bought. Then we drove to South Mimms and saw the church there. Then a pleasant [hum] through the lanes and home. Ellen had been to the station and brought home Sam Wildes eldest girl, Nelly. We went in to the Mylne's, living just opposite, to see one of the M's drawing. They are really beautiful. She is a pupil of Naftel's.

Friday 27. Soon after breakfast we (that is Isabella, Nelly, M and self, drove to Barnet station. Went thence to St Albans (waiting 20 minutes at Hatfield. Miss Martineau (I's cousin), met us at the station. Then we walked to the town, and went all over the Abbey. Great works going on there. One bit of engineering of unusual character and interest has lately been done. The pillars and clerestory wall of the south side of the nave had fallen from the perpendicular as much in some parts as 2ft 10ins. To replace this, they lifted the roof, and then by hydraulic presses forced back the wall into its proper place. We spent 2 hours in the abbey, then had some lunch, and after walked the ruins of old Verulam, whence we went to Miss Martineaus where we had tea. Then back to Hadley as we had come. In the evening Isabella, M and I dined at the Miss Pagets. They are two very wealthy single ladies, who have bought Sam Wildes house on Hadley Common and are making very extensive alterations, and mean time are living in lodgings on the Green. The younger of them dined with us of Wednesday. We had a pleasant evening, meeting Mr [Hutton], the Vicar of Barnet, a Mr Carter and his daughter. Mr C. is the Wilde's doctor. I met him at the Sidebothams last year.

Yateley

Saturday 28. After a very pleasant little visit left at 9.25. At the station found waiting for us a great basket from Cutbush. On arrival at Kings Cross took all our things to Euston Square. Found Elizabeth, Nelly and Miss Smith. Went out at once to Maples and chose floor cloth for our hall, and got cloth and fringe for mantel board for dining room. Then to Carters in Oxford Street, and got back to Euston Square at 1. Lunched, and then cabbied to Cannon Street. Our plants and roll of floor cloth looked so formidable that for the first time for some years, we were charged for extra luggage. Got to Blackwater quite 1/2 an hour late. Left the plants and floor cloth at the station. Took the rest of our goods in the carriage and having deposited them and M at home I drove back to the station and got the plants &c. Found all well at home, but heard from Emma that she had sent off 4 letters last night, which we had just missed at Hadley, and as Emma had heard from Mrs Leiths maid that Mrs L. was very ill, we feared that one of these must have been about her.

Sunday 29. Fully expected to have got our letters from Hadley, but did not. M and I to early Celebration and I to Vicarage and School. In the evening we went to Church at Sandhurst as it was their harvest celebration and also Mr Deacons farewell sermon. I went to the Bechers in the afternoon.

Monday 30. Very busy all day. Put down the new floor cloth in hall. Then put the old down in the lobby between kitchen and scullery, making a very good job of both of these.

October 1878

Yateley

Tuesday 1. On Saturday in London had a grievous loss, viz. my silver pencil case and gold pen. It was not till noon yesterday that we got our letters back from Hadley. There was one from Mrs Francis telling us of Mrs Leiths very dangerous illness and one from Mrs Mackintosh, dated Sunday, reporting her a little better, but still in a very precarious state, fearing paralysis of one side. Our church is closed for 4 Sundays. The Services will be in the Schoolroom, and there will be no weekday Services or Sunday School. At 10.40, walked to the Village with M, who had to attend a meeting of district visitors at the Vicarage. I paid bills &c. Got new mantel board for dining room covered and put up. A great improvement. About 3.30, a regular flood of visitors - Mrs Mason and Beatrice, Mrs Turner, Mrs Toulmin and a niece, Mrs Shute and Susie. When all were gone, we went into York Town.

Wednesday 2. On Monday evening we went to an entertainment given at Sandhurst Schools, at which a purse (£55) was presented to Mr Deacon. There was a great deal of singing. A Mrs Fisher, wife of a former curate sang beautifully, chiefly Scotch songs, and Mr Sumner sang particularly well. Several others also, among them 3 young men from the Military College, one of whom played very well on the piano, and gave a comic performance, an Irishman's description of Trafalgar Square. I read the Emigrants Luck and was the only reader. It was altogether a success and a very pleasant evening. Mr Randall made a very genial chairman and Mr Deacon, besides singing twice, returned thanks with much feeling. Did a great work today. Took off the shabby old green cloth from the door to the kitchen, and covered it with crimson baize, put the latch in good order and put a spring on the door. A great comfort it will be. Just as I had finished, about 4 p.m., who should come in but Edward. He only left Parkhurst yesterday morning and arrived at Sandhurst in the evening, and now had walked over - a good 8 miles, as they are in the South Camp. He is looking very well. He stayed till 6.45 when I drove him down to the station. His mother is coming to us on Monday next. We got a card from Mrs Mackintosh today with a somewhat better account of Mrs Leith.

Thursday 3. Lucy's birthday, which we have celebrated as we did last year with a garden party which proved a great success. I was very busy with the courts all the morning. Had both in the field, nothing on the lawn. Tea and coffee in the conservatory, fruit and wine in the dining room. Edward came over. We had Mrs and Miss Dumbleton, Mr and Mrs Mason and the 3 Misses, Mrs Becher Aimi and a cousin, Mr and Mrs Sumner and Maud, Susie and Florie Shute, Mr Kirkhoffer. They kept it up with great spirit as long as they could see. I took E. down to the station.

Friday 4. After breakfast went to the Village to pay bills and get some money. In the church met Col. Holder, who told me that he has taken Lord Alfred Churchill's house at Sandhurst. Went to Church at Sandhurst and met M. there. At 3 to the Masons - a small garden party. Had some very good games particularly one Miss Mary Becher and Mr Kirkoffer against Aimie and self, which we won by 6 to 4. M. went with Mrs and Miss Mason to Aaron Bunchs to see the pulpit with which she was much pleased.

Saturday 5. Lovely weather continues. Busy all the morning in shop and garden. At 3.30 called at the Randalls. Found Mrs at home and very pleasant. Then called on the new Doctor Russell who is living next to the Shaws. They were out. Then called on Mrs Shaw, and after that at the Bechers, on Mrs Sullivan B. At 5 Arthur Noad came, whom we had invited to spend Sunday here.

Sunday 6. The church being closed and the Service held in the School House, there could not be any Sunday School, so I had a holiday. At 11, M and young Noad went to Sandhurst and stayed to Holy Communion. I went to the School and also stayed to H.C. The room was quite full. The folding doors put in last year proved of the greatest use, as it enabled the infant school room to be used for a chancel and the Communion Table to be put at the east end. At the Service several of us went and looked at the old church, as Mr Sumner thought it would feel lonely, left to itself all Sunday. After dinner M and Noad went for a walk. Very fortunately I declined to do so, as soon after Coll. Dumbleton came in, and had a long chat. Then stayed to tea, and we all went to Sandhurst. Mr Randall preached a fair sermon, nothing very particular. The Bechers, 4, were at Church and we all walked home together, getting a soaking.

Monday 7. Rain threatening, but continued fine. Fresh breeze. After breakfast, went to the Village, with Noad. Got my fund paper signed by Mr Sumner. At the church for 1/2 an hour. A great deal going on there. At 3.25, to Blackwater. Dropped M. to call at the Gibsons, then took Noad to the 3.43 train. Back for M. and drove to York Town, through the College grounds, back to Dr Dennys. Called there out. Then to the station to meet the 4.38, which was 1/2 hour late. Annie (Polly) came by it. Took her home with all her baggage.

Tuesday 8. Rain in night and till 7.30. After an early breakfast, M, Annie and I drove to the 8.45 and I went to town. Charing X. First to Coopve, to look for a set of breakfast cruets, that we want to give to Mr Deacon. Could not get what I wanted, but did some other business there. Then on to Pentons, in Buckingham Palace Road to get cloth for Maggie's Jacket. Thence cabbed to Carters, thence to Mappin and Webbs. Got the cruets I wanted. Had some soup at Simpsons, and by bus and tram to Clapham where I had the luck to meet Lucy at the door just going out. Spent an hour and a half very happily and by bus to London Bridge. Got home by 7.20 and found M and Annie at the station. Edward had been over from Aldershot and they had taken him to the train.

Wednesday 9. Rain threatening, but we all three went to Service at Sandhurst. Mr Deacon was there. It began to rain as we came out. We went to the Post Office, and then home. It rained almost all the rest of the day, and till 5 p.m. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in for a few minutes in the evening.

Thursday 10. Very wet till past midday. After dinner I went to the Village, to look at the things for sale at Mr Barlows. We were to have had the Misses Shaw to Lawn Tennis, but it was too wet for them to come. Mrs Turner Mrs Tolman and Miss Barrow came to 5 o'clock tea and after they were gone Mrs Blakeley called. Mrs Becher came to supper. Aimie had gone to some performance at the Military College.

Friday 11. A lovely day. M and Anny went to Church at Sandhurst. Mrs Addison came in for some plants. At 3 we drove to the Military College, and saw the sports, getting home again by a little past 6. We did not put up the carriage at all.

Saturday 12. Another beautiful day. Started at 2.30 and got to the college at 3. Left carriage at Alcocks and walked to the ground. Met the bicycle race just starting from the grounds, and had a good sight of the finish. Also saw the pole jump, steeplechase, donkey race and several other things. Also went into the gymnasium and saw the prizes given away. The tug of war was a complete failure this year. Edward was there both yesterday and today.

Sunday 13. M. and I went to early celebration at Sandhurst and we all three went to Service at 11 and 6.30. Mr Randall preached both times, both good sermons, but especially that in the evening, on Prayer. St Luke, 11, 1. Edward came to dinner. He has been told that he is to take leave from Tuesday 15 to end of November. We have asked him to come to us till Saturday. Anny is to leave on Thursday, but she has no house to receive him in.

Monday 14. A lovely day. After early dinner we drove to Aldershot and with some difficulty found Edwards hut in the P. lines, South Camp. Found his quarters very fairly comfortable, he and his chum Kirkpatrick having thrown the 2 sitting rooms into one. We had beautiful weather and a very pleasant drive, Nancy doing her work capitally. Were home by 5.35.

Tuesday 15. We were very fortunate in our weather yesterday. Today dull and cloudy. After breakfast Anny and I went to the Village, to pay bills, look at the church and I went to the Vicarage with papers for the Parish Mage. After dinner M. had a lesson in drawing from a Mr Heaphy. The two younger Shaws came in and we had a game at Tennis. In the middle of the day, I went with Mrs Becher to see Aimie who was sick.

Wednesday 16. Still very dull. We all went to Church at Sandhurst and I had a chat with Mr Randall in the vestry. Found him very pleasant. Then I went up and saw Aimie B. Found her better. After dinner M. took Anny to Eversley and I went to see the Parkers and sat and read with them for some time. Got a basket of Camellias and Azaleas today.

Thursday 17. At 12.36 we took Anny to the station. I think she has in her own way enjoyed her visit, and she has been very pleasant, except that we neither of us like to see any guest [showring] themselves. After dinner we called on Mrs Blakeley and her uncle and aunt Mr and Mrs Luke. They were out. Then at the Dumbletons, but they were away from home. Then on the Monktons, and then to an at home at the Caulfields, where I had some of the very mildest Lawn Tennis, in a court not much larger than our conservatory. We took Mrs Turner and Mrs Tolman as far as their home.

Friday 18. To Service at Sandhurst. Then we went to see Aimie B. After dinner, Dr and Mrs Russell called, and then we went to afternoon tea at Mrs Shaws.

Saturday 19. Last night found in the Standard an advertisement that shocked me very much, viz. that the Ober Ammergau people are coming over to perform the Passion Spiel at the Royal Aquarium. This does seem such a terrible desecration of all that is holy. It is to be hoped that some means will be found to stop it. On Thursday evg, our sow farrowed - 11 - but from having become too large for her sty she has killed 4. After breakfast today I went to the Village, called at Masons, then to church and Vicarage. Told Mr Sumner about the Passion Spiel. In afternoon to Sandhurst to see the new shop opened by a Miss Clench. She is a grand daughter of old Mr Clench, who had the New London Inn, Exeter before Cockram. She is to sell fancy work, stationery, newspapers &c. Then I called at Mr Randalls, but found him at the church, and told him about the Passion Spiel at which he was much shocked.

Sunday 20. M. went to Sandhurst at 11, I to the School. Both stayed to Holy Communion. In the evening we both went to Sandhurst. Mr R. continued his course on prayer. 1.S.John.v.14. The Bechers and some of the Masons there.

Monday 21. Glass falling and weather very threatening, but continued fine. In the afternoon Mrs and 3 Miss Shaws and a Mr Oliver from the College, Mrs Turner and Mrs Tolman, Aimie and Mrs Becher came. Had a lot of tennis. While at tea, Mrs Blakeley and Mr and Mrs Luke called, filling our little drawing room to overflowing. Mrs B. and Aimie remained to supper and Bezique. They were in great trouble having had a tremendous row with their servant. I walked home with them. It was then raining. On Saturday night, I wrote letters to the Standard and the Guardian about the Passion Spiel.

Tuesday 22. Blowing hard with rain in night followed by a lovely day. At 10.30, M. and I drove to Camberley to order some wood at the saw mill at work there. At 3.30, Mr Heaphy came to give M. a drawing lesson. In todays paper a letter appeared from Mr Wyhow Robertson announcing that he has withdrawn the Passion Spiel, on account of the objection of many people to its production.

Wednesday 23. A beautiful day till 3 p.m., when it became rather showery. To morning Service at Sandhurst. At 4, called on Mrs Vickers, the newcomer at Yateley Lodge. She is a widow with one son. Did not find her at home. Then to p.m. tea at Mrs Turners. Met Mrs and Miss Randall and Mr and Mrs Luke, Mrs Ditchfield and Mrs Russell. Walked home with the latter and went in for a few minutes.

Thursday 24. At daylight found it raining and blowing very hard. Yesterday got a basket of Xmas roses from Lucy Wood. After dinner planted them. Carpentering. M. called at Mrs Addison and sat with her some time. Mrs and Miss Wyatt called.

Friday 25. To London by the 8.45. First to Coopve, to try on clothes and did some shopping. Then by rail to Clapham, where we hoped to have seen Mary and Mr B., as they were to have come up yesterday. But they had put it off till today, and we just missed them, as they would not have arrived till nearly 5, and we had to get to London Bridge by 5.27. After lunch Lucy accompanied us to call on Mrs Noad, who has taken a small house, 1 Wellington Road, a little way down the Bedford private road. Got to Blackwater in capital time. Had a cab, and were at home by 7.35.

Saturday 26. Raining hard at night and until noon. Yesterday a lot of wood was brought from Camberley and also 5 sacks of grain from London. Busy carpentering &c. About 5 M and I walked to the Village, and she to Mrs Rush's, I to the church and Masons.

Sunday 27. A cold foggy morning. M and I to early Celebration at Sandhurst. At 11 we went to Service at the Schools, for the last time I am glad to say. After this we went to the church. M. had not seen it since it was closed. She was much pleased with it, it does look very nice indeed. People will hardly recognise it. At 5, Mrs and Miss Becher came to tea and then we went together to Sandhurst Church, where Mr Randall continued his course of lectures on prayer. Text, Zechariah.xii.10, "And I will pour upon the House of David and upon the people of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and of supplications". The first sermon was on the blessedness of prayer, that it should not be thought of as a duty, but as our highest privilege; the 2nd on what prayer is, the breath of the spiritual life, the spirit of prayer sent by God into the heart of man, circulating through his spiritual being and returning from him to God who gave it; and the 3rd on how to pray and tonight he advanced so far as to lay down 3 stages. 1st asking God to give the spirit of prayer. 2 preparation consisting of a, habitual, or that of the whole life b, immediate, or the review of ones sins and wants directly before kneeling down, 3rd, avoiding of all sin that may place us in a state of enmity to God. It was a most beautiful sermon, quite equal to the first of the series. The church was very full, a great many from Yateley being there. M and B. Mason and Edie Tringham walked back with us and the Bechers as far as the Royal Oak.

Monday 28. A little white frost, followed by a lovely day, with one or two showers. We started for Service at Sandhurst (SS. Simon and Jude), but were turned back by a shower. At noon I walked over there to P. Office and Miss Clench's. Walked back with Mrs Russell. At 1.50 drove to Fleet, called on the Bartons, whom we have not yet met. Found Mrs and Miss. They seem very pleasant, and friendly. They have lately moved into a new house, that they have been building. We were going on to Crookham, but heard that there was an afternoon concert going on at the Wickhams, so finding that there was a good road to Hartford Bridge we went that way, and found a most delightful drive. Stopped at the Heathers cottage, then home by Star Hill and Vigo Lane, stopping at the Masons as we came home. Found that Mrs Vicars had called, while we were out, which we were sorry for.

Tuesday 29. A dull cold day. I am afraid that it does {not} look very promising for Thursday. After breakfast went to Village to pay my books, and to the church. The new pipes for the organ are up in the sound arch, and Mr Sumners new window in the chancel is in. After dinner M. had her lesson from Mr Heaphy and then we drove to York Town.

Wednesday 30. A slight white frost. A fall of sleet or snow about 5 p.m. M and I went to Service at Sandhurst and after Mr Randall walked with me to Yateley Village, looked all over the church, and then I walked back with him as far as his house. I had a good deal of conversation with him and was much pleased. He is so earnest and straightforward and seems to have his mind so settled upon religious points. After dinner M. went into her district I was at various jobs about the house and garden. Weather threatening, glass falling.

Thursday 31. Our long looked forward to day opened fairly well, and continued so till 2 p.m.. At 8.30, M and I to early Celebration. There was a very fair number present - 35 to 40. The Bishop of Winchester celebrated and old Mr Sumner, Mr Utterton and Mr S. assisted. At 11.30 to Service again. A large congregation, many old residents, 30 clergy in their robes. The Bishop preached. I helped to collect the alms which amounted to more than £37, in the morning more than £7. Did not get out of church till nearly 2. M. took Mrs Turner home with her. After 2, the weather changed and became very thick and dark. At 4 I went to the Masons, to a Tennis and Musical party. The former was a failure, the latter went off very well. At 6.30, M and I with Mrs Turner to Service at Sandhurst, where Mr Randall preached on the keeping of All Saints Day.

November 1878

Yateley

Friday 1, All Saints. M and I to early Celebration. After breakfast sent Nancy with the cart for some coke, and also got in two loads of road scrapings. Did not go to 10.30. Service. Very busy all afternoon. We could not get the conservatory fire to burn, so got up Harmsworth and swept the chimney and opened and cleaned the flues. Put in 38 gallon of kerosene on a stand in my shop. At 7 to Church. Old Mr Sumner preached.

Saturday 2. A fine day with rising glass. Busy in the morning preparing for fumigating the conservatory. Rackley at work fencing. After dinner M and I drove to Sandhurst. First to Mr Randalls - he was out. Then through the College grounds where we looked on for a time at football. On to York Town to do some shopping and so home.

Sunday 3. A fine morning. At 10, to Sunday School for the first time in four weeks. To Service at 11, and we stayed to Holy Communion. Walked home with Mrs Vicars. In the evening we went to Sandhurst to hear Mr Randall continue his sermons on prayer. He took for his text, Ezekiel xxxvii.3, "Son of Man, can these bones live? and I said O Lord God, thou knowest". He said that this passage seems to have been given in by God, as an encouragement under a sense of want of progress, and as it occurred in the 1st lesson for this evening he thought it might be taken as a text for his sermon, as being an encouragement to those who felt difficulty in prayer. Then going on from last Sunday he said, that the next great requisite for acceptable prayer was attentive reverence. An old writer (S. Augustine?) had said, "How can you expect God to attend to prayers, that you do not attend to yourselves". How often do we get half through a prayer, and not know what we have been asking for. Is it not a direct insult to God to give them less attention than we do to our business, our pleasures the most ordinary affairs of everyday life. Then he spoke of the indecency of not kneeling in Church. We need not think that reverence should check our familiarity with God, that we might still tell Him all our wants, that like Enoch we might walk with Him as a friend, always thinking of Him as a loving and merciful Father, and hence we get two secrets of the greatest value, a perfect faith, that our prayers would be answered, and hope of salvation. We must not be disappointed at delay in answer to prayer. There are many reasons why delay might be good for us, and one is that it leads us to perseverance, another attribute of acceptable prayer. And lastly how are we to approach our prayers so that they may not be dry and cold. Kneel down and ask yourself. Why am I here? Who is God? What right have I to address Him? What was I going to ask of Him, what sins have I to confess to Him &c. And then with humblest reverence, acknowledging His infinite greatness and goodness and your own utter meanness and worthlessness offer up your prayers. I am not sure whether this is to be the last of the course or not.

Monday 4. Strong white frost, afterwards fine. Busy in garden and workshop all day. Planted bulbs in pots. Cut our first hay from the rick.

Tuesday 5. I went to Service and got back as soon as possible. Then M and I drove into York Town, and at 12.2 met Lucy, and took her home. Busy in the garden all the afternoon. Mrs Roman called.

Wednesday 6. I went to Sandhurst to Service and see Mr Randall. At 3, we drove out to Crowthorne to find Cox, Sawyer. Found that he has not sawmills, as I expected, but kept two men constantly at work sawing. His prices are less than those at the sawmill.

Thursday 7. Had a very busy day in the garden. Got one of the long beds, and the large side border finished, and Rackley completed the fencing round the park, all but one little bit. I was working all day with William. Lucy and M went out on the heath botanising after dinner.

Friday 8. Weather threatening. Some rain about 9 a.m., after fine till noon. Lucy M and I drove through Blackwater Fair to York Town. The pleasure Fair has been entirely removed from the street, but is held in Mr Cooks meadow opposite the White Hart. The cattle seemed less than usual. A good show of horses, hardly any pigs. Wet at intervals in the afternoon. All the servants went to the fair. Mr and Mrs Sumner called, as they did last year. Blowing a gale all night from S.W.

Saturday 9. A lovely day. At 11.15, I drove to York Town, then to the station and met Henrys boys, who having an exeat, we asked them here for a change. After dinner, Mrs and Miss Shaw called, and we had some Lawn Tennis and then the boys and I walked with the Shaws to Sandhurst, where I wanted a strap for Nancy's foot, from Evans.

Sunday 10. Raining and blowing hard almost all day till 6 p.m. M and I to early Celebration. I to breakfast at the Vicarage and S. School, where only Mrs Sumner and self. About 25 children. Henry and Willie came to Church. We were unable to get out at all for a walk, but it became fine in the evening and M, Henry and I went to Sandhurst, where Mr Randall finished his course of sermons on prayer. He took for his text, S. James, 1,vv.5,6 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith nothing wavering". He began by recapitulating the two last sermons. Requisites for acceptable prayer; preparation, habitual and immediate; holiness of life, freedom from habitual or unpardoned sin; fervent hope of prayer being answered as distinct from faith in Gods power and willingness to hear and help; deep reverence and attention, but also familiarity, if we may use such a term, in laying open to Him, the whole heart and every want however small, realising the love of God for us, and so loving Him more and more; belief that God hears not only prayer generally, but our own individual prayers. He then went on to state some of the reasons why prayer is not answered, but before doing so gave a word of comfort to the poor and uneducated, that prayer was never left unanswered because it was brief and poor in words, see how very short and simple are most of the prayers our Lord recorded in the New Testament, as Lord help us - we perish, and many others. Then 1st, we do not pray as if we believed in the efficacy. We do not practise it. If we had a sword to defend ourselves, a shield to protect, a key to open to us some great treasure, should we not do our utmost to use them, and is not prayer all these and more so to us. 2nd, we really do not want God to grant at once, what we pray for. We would rather continue

to enjoy ourselves for a time in the world, and gave a wonderful instance from the confessions of St Augustine. 3rd, not believing in our own individual prayers being answered, we are like children shooting arrows in the air, without aim. And then he finished with an earnest appeal to his hearers the prayer to God, because He desires our prayers; to love Him, for he does so love us. When we returned home it was as glorious a moonlight night as I ever was out in.

Monday 11. As the boys had to leave by the 7.50 train, I was up at 6, gave them their breakfast and took them to the station. Then had the mares fore feet shod, as I wanted to see it done. After dinner I put up my new shelf in the greenhouse. A great success. M. took Lucy for a long drive. To Fleet station, then by the road alongside the railway and so through Hartford Bridge. The way we went this day fortnight.

Tuesday 12. After breakfast we all went to Church. Just before starting, Mr Sumner came in to tell M. that Mrs Pope (on Darby Green) died in childbirth yesterday afternoon, so as soon as she got home, she went on there. I looked in to ask after the Masons. After dinner I first went and saw Pope and said a few words to him, and then on to the Parkers and sat with them for some time. A dull cold day.

Wednesday 13. Dull morning, wet afternoon. M and I to Sandhurst, then M. into the Village to get some material to make up some black for the Pope children. No further going out, but M and Lucy hard at work, I trying to plan a flowerstand for the middle of the greenhouse.

Thursday 14. Lucy was going away today, but we persuaded her not to go till Saturday. A very rough wet day. L and M busy all day at the mourning, and I helped with the machine. Maynard took away the little pig. Cut hay from the rick, 14 trusses.

Friday 15. Wet all day. M and L at the childrens dresses till dinner time. M. went to the Popes to see their aunt, a very sensible woman from London. I went to Service at Sandhurst, and saw Mr Randall about the Berrys. After dinner I was [working] in my shop.

Saturday 16. A fine day, no rain, some little sunshine. At 12.36 took Lucy to the station and said goodbye after a very pleasant visit. Then on to York Town. Carpentering a little after dinner. About 5 Mrs Addison called, and then M and I went up to Mrs Bechers to take some measurements for her, she being in London.

Sunday 17. To Sunday School, and M. met me at Church at 11. Stayed to H.C. Walked home with the Addison's and Mrs Vicars. Heavy rain from 3 to 4 p.m. Both of us to Church in the evening. Both of Mr Sumner's sermons had reference to the two deaths that occurred last Monday, Mrs Pope and Mr Taylor, both of or near to Darby Green. In the morning, S. Luke,xxiii,42, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom. A very good sermon. In the evening, Heb.ix,27, It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement. A dark rather stormy night.

Monday 18. Sent Nancy to be clipped for the second time. In the afternoon to my great astonishment William gave notice to quit, for no reason that I could make out. This is very annoying.

Tuesday 19. A lovely day. After breakfast M and I to Church, after which I to meeting of S.S. teachers at the Masons. Then I went with Mr S to the Vicarage, where he gave me a lot of tulips. After dinner we drove to Farnboro' to see the Relieving Officer about the Berrys, and returned home by Frimley and York Town and dropped M at the Popes in Darby Green. Nancy went splendidly. After spoke to William and he withdrew his notice.

Wednesday 20. Our greenhouse boiler fire did so badly that after breakfast I had a bricklayer and took down a great deal of the brickwork and found the outflow pipe leaked badly at its junction with top of boiler. Have to get a man from Wokingham to repair it. Had intended to have a regular day at gardening but at 12.30, Mr Deacon came in, and we were very glad to see him, as we had a little present to give him. At 3, we took him to see the church with which he was greatly pleased. Then we took him to Sandhurst and leaving him to go to the Rectory we drove on to Mrs Turners. While M. was in there, Miss Dumbleton came down the hill and asked us to go in and have a cup of tea, which we did and stayed till it was quite dark so much so that Nancy was quite frightened at first, but soon got all right.

Thursday 21. Intended to do a great deal in the garden but only got a very little done. Had such a lot of little jobs to do. Man came from Wokingham about the boiler, but had not proper tools, so had to go away and make them. Not coming till tomorrow. Took to pieces and cleaned the [threshing] mill. Put hook to kitchen spring door. Latch to back gate. Got in some plants in left hand front border. In afternoon the Dumbletons and Miss Tipping, Mrs Turner and Mrs Tolman came to see the Chrysanthemums and have afternoon tea. We walked as far as Sandhurst School with latter two.

Friday 22. M and I to Church at 10 a.m. After that busy most of the day gardening somewhat disturbed by Mrs and Miss Shaw calling, to ask us to dine with them tomorrow at 7 of all dreadful things. The man from Wokingham came and repaired the boiler joint, but had not done in time for the bricklayers to come and build up the flue again.

Saturday 23. Got the bricklayer to work soon after breakfast, and by noon the work was finished and the fire lighted to dry the new brickwork slowly. There was a sharp frost last night (20), but the kerosene stove kept the house fairly warm. We today commenced getting the leaves out of the shrubbery. M and I bottled off a cask of [Carbartz] and got all done and stowed away before dinner. At 3.30, I walked to the Village. Left a book at Mrs Rushs, to Vicarage and Church, then to see how Mr Mason was getting on. He has been laid up with rheumatism for some time. Found him rather better. When I got home, found Mrs Addison and Mrs Willis having tea with M. At 6.50, walked to Sandhurst, where we dined at the Shaws, besides them Mr Ditchfield and his sister. Had a fairly pleasant evening. Home by 10.35.

Sunday 24. The glass has been falling the last three days and today it has rained until 6 p.m. Very warm in the evening. We went to early Celebration. The Bishop of

Guildford was celebrant and preached both morning and evening. Very good sermons particularly the second. His texts were 2 Thessal.iii,1 "Finally brethren pray for us" &c and Haggai,ii,6 to 9,"For thus saith the Lord of Hosts, yet once it is a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, dry land &c This sermon was extempore and was very good.

Monday 25. Had a good morning at putting in bulbs, which I finished. Also some roots of Anemone Japonica that I got through the Exchange and Mart. At 3.45, had the carriage round and then found that Nancy, who had been turned out in the morning and was very frisky had cast a shoe. This was a nuisance, as we wanted to be at Farnborough station SW. to meet Lotte. Got away about 3.55, drove slowly to Davis at Blackwater, who put on a shoe. Then briskly to Farnboro' and on the railway bridge met Lotte in a cab. M. got in with her, and I drove home alone, keeping ahead of them. We were only gone 1 hour and 20 minutes in all.

Tuesday 26. A dull, drizzly morning and it continued more or less wet all day. I went to Church by myself. After dinner carpentering.

Wednesday 27. A dull morning but Lotte and M. were able to go to Service at Sandhurst. Just as they got home it began to rain and at once turned to snow, which continued for two hours, then became sleet then heavy rain. I had a good day of carpentering.

Thursday 28. Another very wet day, not ceasing until past 7 p.m. Carpentering all day, making a stand for the middle of the greenhouse. We were asked to dine at the Vicarage, but Lotte did not care to go, so I went alone. Had a pleasant party. The Bishop of Guildford and Mrs Utterton, Mr and Mrs Stilwell, Mrs Mason and Beatrice, Hetty and Susie Shute, Mr Ditchfield, Mr Kirkhoffer, young Macgregor from the College, and self.

Friday 29. When I came home about 11 last night, there was no appearance of frost, but on getting up this morning found a white frost, and the ther. on the front of the conservatory at 28. After breakfast we all went to Church. After I worked in my shop and after dinner M and Lotte drove into York Town. Very sharp evening.

Saturday 30. Another white frost, and chill all day. At 10.30, we all went to Church, it being St Andrews day, a day of intercession for missions. We found that I had made a mistake and Service was at 11, so M and Lotte returned home. I stayed for Service. On getting home having to find fault with something William had done in my absence, he flew into a passion and gave notice to leave, so this time I suppose we shall part, as I have no intention of offering him to take him back. After dinner M and Lotte went into the district with the magazines. General Addison called for some chess, but being worried I did not feel up to playing. Worked as long as I could see, then walked as far as the Plough and left Miss Gardner her magazines.

December 1878

Yateley

Sunday 1. A drizzly morning. M and I to early Celebration, then to Vicarage and School. Only Mrs Sumner Miss Gardner and self there. M and Lotte came to Service at 11. In the evening we all went to Sandhurst. Mr Randall preached on Missions, taking for his text S.Matt.xxviii,18, 19,20.

Monday 2. Had a very hard day, trying to get my flower stand finished, and by not planing all the wood I managed to make it usable. Last evening I left my spectacles in church so as they had Service at 8 a.m., I went over to it and got them. Lotte left by the 12.37. After dinner M. drove to call on Mrs Roman - out Then she called on Mrs Vicars and had a long chat.

Euston Square

Tuesday 3. Finished off my stand. Did all our packing. Just before we started, Mrs Becher came in in a great trouble about Hannah and Winter, but we were unable to help her. Went up to town by the 12.37 which lingered so, that we were nearly 1/2 and hour late at Charing X. Found all well at Euston Square. Before dinner we went in and saw Mrs Cardale, for whom we had brought some flowers from Mrs C. Bunch and some sweeties for the children.

Wednesday 4. I went to the Coop, then to the City and got hair cut. Then to Johns office. He has determined to wind up his business and retire for a time. It seems a wise resolve, and his mother and friends most concerned quite approve of it. Douglas has gone off to America. M. went with Bessie and had a long day at the Dudley Gallery, and South Kensington. After lunch I went out again. Got some things I wanted, going as far as Picadilly.

Thursday 5. M and I had a long morning at the Coopve. Had our lunch there and did not get home till 1/2 past 4. Then had to dress and be off immediately to Clapham, where we met at dinner Leroux Wilson and his wife, (staying there,) Andrew Jukes and his daughter, Henry and Arthur; quite a party of old Harrow schoolfellows. Had a very pleasant evening and then Harry cabbed back with us.

Friday 6. Directly after breakfast M and I to the old Water Colour, where we met by appointment Lester, and with him were his aunt Mrs Lester and a friend. We spent two hours very pleasantly, a good exhibition. Then home to lunch, after which I walked with M as far as Goodge Street. Then I went on alone to Carters, Charing Cross, Southampton Row. Elizabeth and [Mary], M and I dined at Johns. When we came home it was snowing fast and we had difficulty in getting a cab.

Saturday 7. At 11.30, M and I to Oxford St and then to Lottes, where we lunched. Stayed till 3.40 did a little shopping and then home, I with rather a sore throat.

Sunday 8. At 11, to St Johns Wilton Road. Service did not begin till 11.15, so had to leave before sermon was finished. On to Clapham where we dined. My throat was so bad, that we did not venture to stay out late. Home by 5.15 and did not go out again.

Monday 9. Throat better, but at M persuasion had my breakfast in bed, which I did, and did not go out all day. She went with Bessie to Whiteleys, then to Colville Road to see Arthur and Bessie and Charlotte. Then called on Mrs Fuller, whom we had met in Oxford St on Saturday. Last evening, when we got home, I found a note from Mr Cardale, announcing that Mrs C. was confined that morning, with a little boy. M. called to enquire this afternoon.

Tuesday 10. Sore throat better. A cold frosty day. After lunch M and I went to see Mrs Willis, who lives with her father and mother at 33 Gordon Square. Then we went to Shoolbreds and Dixons, a new stained glass manufacturer in University Street, to whom Mr Spiers recommended us. Yesterday Mr and Mrs Palmer (whom we knew in Bombay) John and Emmie, and Mr Spiers dined with us. The last is a pleasant person.

Speldhurst

Wednesday 11. Still hard frost and a little snow. Left Euston Square at 12 and Charing Cross at 12.30. Got to Tunbridge Junction at 1.20. Found Mrs Leiths carriage and Mrs Mackintosh waiting for us and got to [Etherton] Lawn by 2.15. Found Mrs Leith looking much better than we had expected. She has recently recovered the use of her right arm and hand, but her memory still fails her a little. Mrs and Miss Mackintosh are with her for the winter.

Thursday 12. A thick mist all day, with sharp frost. In the afternoon Mr and Mrs Francis called, after which M and Miss Mackintosh and I walked as far as Dr Vaughan's house at Southborough. Too thick to see anything. Before and after dinner various games. We like both Mrs and Miss M. much. We had met Mrs before some years ago here. This house is heated to such a degree, that it is almost dangerous to live in.

Friday 13. A sharp frost, very white, followed by a lovely day. Various occupations during the morning, Miss M. showing Maggie how to paint on tiles, which she does very well indeed. In afternoon we walked to Speldhurst Church, the tower of which they have just raised very considerably. Saw Dr Leiths grave, over which there is a nice cross. After we called on Mrs Francis, she a very bright, cheery person, and a most kind neighbour to Mrs Leith. Last night, while we played Bezique, Miss M. sang and played, both of which she does well. This evening she finished a tile, for Maggie.

Yateley

Saturday 14. At 10 a.m. left [Etherton] Lawn, after a short but very pleasant visit. I do not feel at all satisfied with Mrs Leiths condition, and she is very incautious about herself. We are very glad to know that Mrs and Miss M. are to be with her all the winter. Mrs L. sent us in her carriage to Tunbridge Junction whence we reached Redhill at 11.29, and ought to have gone on at 12.9, but it was 12.45. before we got

away. Had a comfortable carriage and hot footwarmer. Found much more snow after leaving Guildford than there had been at Speldhurst. Found all our animals right at home. William the gardener sick with Rheumatism and Neuralgia. Everything looking very wintry.

Sunday 15. To School at 10. M. I to Service at 11 and stayed to H.C. Frost giving way, and a little rain, but light frost again in evening. Both of us to evening Service. The gardener away all day.

Monday 16. From daylight thawing greatly. About 3, a little sleet and snow. At 4 p.m. to Service. On arrival on Saturday, and all yesterday we found the house feeling so very cold. We thought at first that it was entirely from the contrast with Mrs Leith's, but I think that it was in a great degree from there having been very little fire kept up. We found the outer pump quite frozen, also the tap in the maids room and the escape pipe from the cistern upstairs, but now from a good fire having been kept up in the dining room these latter are all right and I have got the water pump right again also. The night before last there were 12 degrees of frost last night only 30.

Tuesday 17. When we went to bed last night it was quite mild, but towards morning it froze hard and continued to do so all day, with a little snow at 11 a.m. M and I to Church. After I went to Mr Sumners. We were to have gone to a Shakespeare reading at the Addisons tomorrow, but he has put it off on account of hearing of the alarming illness of his brother. In the afternoon I walked to Sandhurst to P.O. and Miss Clenchs.

Wednesday 18. Frost very sharp again last night, 13^o of it. I went to Litany. M. working at a picture for the Portfolio. After daylight a rapid thaw set in and after dinner I drove by myself to York Town and home through Sandhurst. I had no roughing on Nancys shoes, and in York Town, the College grounds and as far as the Bull and Butcher had to drive with great care, but got along all right. At 7 M and I went to Sandhurst to Service. Heard a short but very good sermon from Mr Randall, on the collect for 3rd Sunday in Advent. What blessings do you feel that you have received from having access to the services of an ordained ministry". A bright starlight night, with slight frost.

Thursday 19. Only 4^o of frost. Very fine all day, thawing from noon till 5, but chiefly from the sun. Both yesterday and today doing a good deal of work in my shop. At 4, M and I went out to Darby Green, she to Popes, I to Parkers. Miss P. much the same, Annie P. decidedly much better. Sold six little pigs to Rackley, for 12/ each. The Stilwells sent in and asked us to go with them to Church in their carriage which we did. I walked back with the Bechers and M, who had returned with the Stilwells came back and met us and we walked some way up the lane. The B's are going away tomorrow for 3 weeks. Mr Randall preached, a very fine sermon - Amos; Prepare to meet thy God. It was a sort of meditation on death. 1st What is death. 2, Its certainty. 3, Its nearness. 4, Its oneness. And 3 subjects for further thought. 1, Imagine yourself on your deathbed. 2, A few hours after death. 3, What would you wish to have been in your life? True, true to your God, true to your faith in Christ, true to your fellow men, and true to yourself. It was a very grand and solemn sermon, in which I fancy he carefully avoided anything doctrinal, except one point, viz. that to

every individual soul, the day of death is the day of judgement. There was a very good congregation, while at Sandhurst it is very sad indeed to see such neglect of such teaching and such earnestness. Last night there were hardly more than 25 people in the church, of whom [4] were from Yateley.

Friday 20. Very cold again last night. White frost, and then, did not rise above freezing all day. M and I to Litany at 10, and looked in at the Masons after. At, 3.30, I went to the Stilwells pond, but did not take my skates, for indeed I am rather afraid of trying Acmes for the first time. I found on the ice M and B.Mason, Norah and Alice Stilwell and Mr Livingstone, one of Mr Kirkhoffers young gentlemen. After, the Masons looked in. M. went to Church at Sandhurst taking Emma with her. I did not feel up to it. She was disappointed in not getting any sermon. Indeed Mr Randall was not there at all.

Saturday 21. Not so cold last night. A dull day, glass just at 32 all day. At 4 M and I to evening Service. I was half inclined to go to the Stilwells pond and try to skate, but thought it best not as I could not go on with it. Mrs Shute and Susie called.

Sunday 22. M and I to early Celebration. Very cold though wind S W. and appearance of either snow or thaw. Breakfast at Vicarage and after School. When we came out of Church, slight thaw then a little sleet, followed by steady fall of snow for two hours. Then sharp frost again. There is to be a Confirmation in February, and our maid, Harriet and the boy are candidates, so this afternoon M. took the one and I the other for a short time. I went to Church alone M. had caught a little cold. Mr Stilwell was not there, so I read the lessons. Freezing hard when I came back.

Clapham

Monday 23. M's chest feeling so bad in the morning that at first I wanted to telegraph, that we would not go to Clapham, but after breakfast in bed, she felt better, and the day turning out very bright and fine, though very cold, we determined to go. Had a fly and went to the 12.37. train. Took the Indian rubber bottle full of hot water, which kept M's feet quite warm till we got to Dorking, where the guard brought us another regular footwarmer. Got to London Bridge 1/2 an hour late, to Clapham by 4 exactly. To our great surprise, found William at home. He is a prisoner in the house, on account of an accident he met with on Saturday. He was standing at the bookstall on the L.C.D. platform, when a porter from the Brighton, with a very heavy truck of luggage, ran against him, striking him just below the left knee, on the outside, and knocking him down. I imagine that he had a very narrow escape from dislocation of the knee, as all the pain and strain is on the inside. M not much the worse for her journey.

Tuesday 24. Still very cold. M, feeling the worse for London air and smoke, did not get up till 11. Busy till luncheon, sending off Xmas cards. After lunch I went by train to Moorgate, to Gilbert and Fields, where I selected books for Sunday School prizes. Then by train to Gower Street, and to Hogs to get some wool. By bus to Victoria and just got home by 6.30. At going to bed this evening, M's chest very much tried by smoke and fog, which was very thick, filling the house.

Wednesday 25, Christmas Day. M. had a very indifferent night, but got up to breakfast. Could not go to Church. Lucy, W. and I went, and L and I stayed to Holy Communion. W could not kneel and therefore did not stay. Directly after Church I went to the Noads, and saw them all L.L. Mrs, Emily, Sophie, Fanny and Arthur. When I came home it was snowing fast. Having had a bit of lunch, I went by train to Euston Square, where I saw all but Douglas and Graham, who had gone to Hendon to skate. John and Emmie and the children all came in while I was there. Bessie has had a very bad attack of asthma, and Mary has a cold. I took a splendid pineapple to Elizabeth as a present from William. On leaving Euston Square I went in to the Cardales and saw the three younger children. Mr C. was out, and Mrs C. still upstairs. Home by train in good time. No one but ourselves at dinner.

Thursday 26. Thought that it felt much warmer in the night, and on getting up found that a rapid thaw had set in, and it soon began to rain hard. William being so lame, we could not take our usual boxing day visit to Harrow, so I went to Victoria at 11.30 and thence by train to Ealing, where without much difficulty I found the Johnstones and spent 2 or 3 hours very pleasantly with them, getting home in good time. Lucy was very poorly yesterday p.m. and today - ulcerated sore throat. Found that M. had been out after lunch, as far as the Noads.

Friday 27. M. feeling so much better, that soon after breakfast we sallied forth to the Bon Marchi a great shop at Brixton, to get toys for the Sunday School treat. Then we went to Edward's. After lunch, I walked to the Swan, to call at Laws about a clock. Then trammed to St Georges Church. Could not get a bus, so took a cab to Coleman Street, and went to 19, to see a young lad from St Erth that Alfred asked me to call and see. Thence to Gilbert and Fields, and fortunately, for they had not sent off my books. Then walked to St Pauls church yard and got something for Lucy. Then into Moorgate Street and saw the Holborn Viaduct lighted with electric light (Jablokhoff). Very good, but terrible waste from the density of the opal globe. Bussed to Oxford Street, got the corkscrew for Lucy and then a very pretty mustard pot and a match holder, at Mappin and Webbs. Walked to Carters to enquire about boots of Maggies, and cabbled to Victoria. M. had been as far as Mrs Greens. On Tuesday we heard that our cow, Sally calved soon after we left on Monday. The next day we heard that she was not at all well, and today got a better account of her.

Yateley

Saturday 28. Weather quite warm. At 10.30, left Clapham, and cabbled to London Bridge. Were 1/2 an hour late in getting away, and did not pick up anything on the road. Got home about 1/2 past two. Found the cow better. Harriet had not returned, as she ought to have done last night. M. was so anxious about her, that we sent off Rackley, to go to her fathers house and make enquiries. He met her on the flats. Instead of being at all repentant, she gave to notice to leave. I had a very violent scene with William, when he left, as he did this afternoon for good, so altogether we had rather a turbulent home coming. The frost had done no harm.

Sunday 29. M. did not venture to early Celebration, so I went alone. Then to Vicarage and School. M. met me at Church. Poor Harriet looking very doleful all day, as if she repented of her folly. I went to Church alone in evening.

Monday 30. A beautiful morning, so at 11.30, we set out and drove to Hartford Bridge. First to the Heathers, then went on to Hartley Row and to Shilling's gardens. Found no one there to show us anything, so went back as far as Hartford Bridge and found S's foreman, and with him returned to the gardens. Selected some fruit trees, and ordered a few other things. Then home by Firgrove and the Village, calling at Mr Sumners. Did not get home till nearly 2.30, and soon after it began to rain. While we were away, Cox of Crowthorne sent in a lot of wood that I had ordered, and today Rackley began a railing down by the kitchen garden hedge in the park, which is very much needed as twice lately the cows have got through the hedge and destroyed a large part of our stock of greens.

Tuesday 31. We both went to Church at 10.30, and then I went to a Sunday School meeting at the Vicarage to settle the programme for the coming year and also about the S.S. treat. After dinner we were going out for a drive when it rained heavily for 1 1/2 hours. Rackley very nearly finished the fence. In the evening there was a supper at Pope's for the ringers. Mrs Heather came over today and after some time Harriets difficulty was got over and she was forgiven.

January 1879

Yateley

Wednesday 1, New Years Day. M and I went to early Celebration, and did not go to Church again. Shilling came about 11, bringing the things we ordered on Monday, and we at once set to work to put in the trees, but it rained so very heavily all the afternoon that we could not do anything. Today Beauty went out for the first time. Tremendous rain all the evening. Glass falling much. Rain continued till we went to bed, but wind had backed to east.

Thursday 2. On waking this morning surprised to find the ground covered with snow and a sharp frost. This had come on with a sudden change to N.W wind. Continued freezing slightly except in the sun all day. Busy getting in the plants &c. that were brought yesterday. I hope they will not be injured by the frost, but they were quite unprotected last night. After dinner M. went into her district, and after four, I went to meet her, and took her Magazines to Mrs Picton.

Friday 3. Raining hard almost all day. Had a hard days work in the greenhouse, looking over all the geraniums &c. Did not go to Church.

Saturday 4. A lovely day. Sent the pony to be shod. At 1, sent the boy down to meet his brother, who was here by 2.30. Then we drove into York Town. We have been quite cut off from Sandhurst for the last 3 days, even for carriages. I hope our new arrangement will answer, but it seems rather a risk taking two quite lads into the house. Heard from Alfred today, that he hopes to be with us on the 1st Febry. Also from Mrs Trevor that Dora would come to us, if well enough, on Wednesday next. Freezing sharp at night.

Sunday 5. Frost white, a perfect day, and lovely moonlight evening. To S. School as usual at 10. Our School treat is fixed for the 16th. M and I stayed to H Communion after midday Service, and at 4, she had Beatrice Pope, and I had in the two brothers for a short time and heard them their Catechism. At evening Service Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon on confirmation, taking for his text our Lords being taken to Jerusalem by his parents at 12 years old.

Monday 6. Very hard frost, 12^o of it. Very white and no sun all day, so that the cows could not go out at all. M and I to Church at 10.30. Mr Atkinson read the Service. After this we went to see whether we could get to Sandhurst by the fields, but M. soon had to turn back. I got there, but with considerable difficulty. Met Mrs Sumner and Miss Shaw. Got Tims licence and paid Miss Clench. Called at the Shaws, and came home the way I went. After dinner, M. went out and called at Shutes, Rush and Mason. I went to Cobbetts, and after twice walked to the Village to meet M. Not nearly so cold, I think.

Tuesday 7. Frost continuing, and enabled us to get a good day's work done, viz. got out all the manure from the yard into the fields. Had 2 carts and got it all done by 2 p.m. M. finished her district. Miss Mason and Miss [Oberthin] came to afternoon tea.

Wednesday 8. To town by the 8.45 train. Very punctual. Went first to Coop. and got pair of warm gloves for M. Then to Victoria and saw William. His leg is not well yet. Then by bus to Oxford Street and took the tile that Miss Mackintosh painted to Mortlocks to be fired. Then to Carters and after to Lotte for a few minutes. Then bussed to Euston Square. Only found Elizabeth and Mary, both pretty well. Then at 3, went to 4 Taviton Street and had a pleasant chat with Mrs Cardale. To Euston Station at 4, and in a few minutes Dora Trevor arrived. Took her to Elizabeth, where she had some tea and got warm. Then on to Charing Cross and home by the 5.13, which was punctual and we were safely housed by 7.40. All well at home.

Thursday 9. E. wind still blowing, but died away in evening. None of us went out till about 5 p.m., when I walked along the Sandhurst Road. Found that the water had gone down. Road quite passable, but covered with chips of broken ice. Freezing sharp still. Sold Beautys calf yesterday for 34/.

Friday 10. Sharp frost continues. At 10.30, I went to Church at Sandhurst. When I came back I took my skates to our little pond, and tried how I could get on, but of course, not having been on the ice since 1865, and before that not since 46 or 47, it was all new to me. However after dinner I went to the Stilwells pond, and skated for 2 hours, getting on much better than I expected. Only had one fall. M and Dora went for a walk before dinner. Beatrice Mason sent me an old pair of skates in the evening, that Dora might try tomorrow.

Saturday 11. Busy in the morning grinding skates for Dora. At 3, M, D and I went to the Stilwells, and I got young Mr Livingstone to help D, who can do very little. I got on quite as well as I could expect to do.

Sunday 12. I think the coldest night since Christmas. M and I to early Celebration. We did not think it prudent for D. to come out so early, but she came with M. to 11 a.m. Service, and also in the evening I went as usual to the Vicarage.

Monday 13. When we came home last night, some fine snow was falling, and the glass had risen to 32. This morning a rapid thaw had set in. There was a little rain about 10 a.m., and after fine. Pruning the fruit trees, pears and apples. After dinner M, D. and I drove into York Town and after through the college grounds to Sandhurst calling at Mrs Shaw's.

Tuesday 14. Rained all day. I went to Church and after waited till 12 at the Vicarage, then went to a meeting of the Horticultural at the School, where much to Sr. W. Cope's disgust it was decidedly to let the Society fall into abeyance. Mr Fitzroy gave me a lift home in a cab. In afternoon I went up and saw the Bechers who came home last evg. When I got back found that James had been so insolent to M. that she had given him warning, which I confirmed.

Wednesday 15. Spoke to George, and after a short time James came and made a humble apology to M. and begged pardon which was granted. Began spreading the dung in the fields, though the frost was hardly out of it.

Thursday 16. Had Rackley and finished the dung. Yesterday afternoon it was very fine, and M and Dora walked to Sandhurst and called at the Shaws, Turner and

Dumbleton. Did not see the latter. I walked to meet them, but must have missed them at the turning to the Village, as I went to the church. The water was so much out that at one place I had to walk through it, and I hardly thought they would have got across. This evening the Sunday School treat, which went off very well. We first had tea for all the children at the Vicarage. Then went to the school. Gave the prizes. Had a Post Office, from which each child got a present. Then a great game at Post.

Friday 17. A white frost and foggy all day. M and I went to 5 p.m. Service at Sandhurst. I had already been to 10.30 Service at Yateley. Got on with our fencing.

Saturday 18. Rain constantly till 5 p.m. At 6, Mrs and Aimie Becher, 2 Misses Shaw and young S. came to tea and we had a pleasant evening.

Sunday 19. To School as usual. M and D. to Church and we stayed to Holy Communion. The Addison's have returned. We walked back from Church with General and Mrs A. and Mr Vicars. To Church again in the evening. Mr Sumner preached a very good from St Luke, xxii, vs. 31, 32. Simon Simon behold Satan hath desired to have you &c. In the morning he had preached a short sermon on Holy Communion, S. John, vi, 55 and announced his intention of preaching a course on the subject on the Sunday evenings in Lent. Freezing when we came home.

Monday 20. A white frost and cold, strong E. wind. Rackley finishing fence. At 12, I went and tried the ice on the pond by Rackleys, but it would not bear. Then to the Stilwells, but there was no one there, so I went on and saw the Bechers. At 3, I walked out and called on the Tindals, but did not see anyone, as Mrs T. was very busy packing. They leave for a years absence in Australia on Friday night. When I got home, I found Mrs Tolman, Mrs Turner and Philip calling. When they were gone, went for 1/4 hour to the Stilwells and found Aimie, two Masons, and Mrs S and the children there. The ice very strong but rough, from snow on Saturday night.

Tuesday 21. We were all up early and had a fly to the station for the 8.45 train. Took the hot water bottle which kept M and D. warm till we got a regular footwarmer at Dorking. At Charing X, put M and D into a cab and sent them to Euston Square, whence they went to Mrs Willis. I went to the Cooperative and to the National Societies Depot. Then by bus to Marble Arch and to Mortlocks for the tile. Then to Peirce and got 2 milk tins and a new siphon for water barrow, and thence walked to Euston Square, where I found them all at lunch. At 2.45, we that is, M, D, and self cabbed to Madame Samtons, (71 Gloucester Place), where we were at once admitted to an audience and Dora went through her trial. Madame S. said her voice was very good and might probably be made excellent, but that at present it was a blank, as far as cultivation was concerned. She said she would be much pleased to have her in her academy. After this we returned by rail to Euston S. and had tea, and at 5.13 to Charing X and home. Our siphon and milk pans which had met us at the station, were pitched off the top of the cab as we left Blackwater.

Wednesday 22. Blossom calved about noon. A cow calf. At 3, we all went to the Stilwells pond and Dora and I skated. I got on pretty well. D. made very little progress. At 6.30, gave Blossom her dose. Going on all right.

Thursday 23. Cutting hay today I went to the pond at 11.45 and skated till 1.15. At 2.45 M and I drove to Camberley and called on Coll and Lady Louisa Hall, (not at home). Home through the college grounds. To the Stilwells pond. Skated till dusk. At 6.45, walked to the School, where there was rather a swell concert, chiefly supported by the Sumner family, and Uttertens. A cousin, Miss Louisa Sumner, sang most exquisitely - a lovely voice. As an interlude Mr Kirchoffer gave a recitation, the Battle of Limerick and when encored sang the Widdie Malone, both very well. We did not get home till 10.25.

Friday 24. M and I to Church at 10.30. At 3, Dora and I to pond and skated till dusk. She made some progress. All the Sumner party there. Cow going on quite well.

Saturday 25, Conv. of St Paul. I went to Church at 10.30. D and I to skating and M. walked with Mrs Becher to Sandhurst. D got on capitally. I hoped to have had a pair of skates for M, having written to the Coop. on Thursday night for a pair, to be sent by post, but they have not come.

Sunday 26. All of us to early Celebration. I as usual to Vicarage and School. M. came to 11 a.m. Service and I went to the childrens Service at 3 p.m. Mr Sumner did his catechising very fairly. At 6.30, we all went to Sandhurst. Heard a very fine sermon from Mr Randall, from 1 S. John,iii,8 "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil". The Church was terribly cold, their heating apparatus has been out of order for several weeks. In the morning Mr Sumner preached a capital sermon to Candidates for Confirmation from the text Fight.

Monday 27. After breakfast, as Harriets tooth was very bad, M. had the carriage and drove into York Town, but Claypole did not succeed in getting it out. After dinner Dora and I skated till 1/2 past 5. Mrs Turner and Mrs Tolman called, and left me a play of Shakespear's to cast for them - As you like it".

Tuesday 28. M and I to Church. After, M. having heard that one of Mrs Spicer's children was very ill she went to Darby Green to see her. After dinner Dora and I to the Stilwells to skate.

Wednesday 29. Soon after breakfast I went to Mr Sumners to speak to him on district business for Maggie. I had intended to call at the Shutes to ask for Susie, who has been unwell for a fortnight past. Heard from Mrs Sumner that she is dangerously ill. Went on to Robins Grove, met Mr Sumner and also Dr Maunder (Dr Fry's successor). Heard that poor Susie has effusion of the brain from a fall on the ice and is in imminent danger. Went to the Bechers and told them. In the afternoon Dora and I skated but left rather early, as we had to dine at the Stilwells, where we met Mrs and Mr Vicars and Malcolm Murray. Rather a stiff evening. Mrs Becher and Aimie came after dinner.

Thursday 30. After dinner Dora and I to skating and M. taking Emma with her, drove into York Town, and then to the Shutes to enquire after Susie. The account was rather better. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea and we had a capital reading of "As you like it".

Friday 31. I went to Church, and on my way there heard that Susie Shute had just died. This is a most sad blow to her mother and sisters and we all feel it, as if it were a relative of our own. I went in after Church to the Masons to enquire after Beatrice, who has been sick for some time, but is getting better. Then I went to the Bechers to tell them about poor Susie. After dinner feeling that we ought not to go to skate, I went into the district and left some of the magazines for M. Went to the Parkers for a few moments, but did not stay as their Minister was with them, but while there Annie P. had a fit, the first she has had for 10 weeks. I have no doubt brought on by the excitement of hearing of Susie Shutes death. At 7.30, Alfred arrived. Not at all well, suffering from cold and cough and a boil.

February 1879

Yateley

Saturday 1. I walked to the Village after breakfast and enquired for the Shutes. After dinner I went and asked Mrs Stilwell whether she was going to skate, and as she was, I took Dora at 3. No other ladies were there. Alfred and M. walked to Sandhurst and saw Mr Randall, and then came for a few minutes to the pond. Alfred began reading to M and me Body's Life of Justification. His boil is troublesome, but will not be a big one I think. I feel that we have had our last day of skating. The clouds which have for some time past, been a black leaden mass, this afternoon broke and showed 2 distinct strata, and at 7 p.m., there was a sharp shower of frozen rain.

Sunday 2. A thaw set in, but the road were at first very slippery from a coating of frozen rain that fell last evening. Alfred, M and I, went to Sandhurst, where A celebrated. Coming home I cut across the fields to Yateley and breakfasted at the Vicarage. Then to School. Mr Sumner went with me and opened School for the first time for a long time. M and Dora came to Church at 11, and we all went in the evening, the Stilwells kindly coming in and offering 2 seats in their carriage. A. preached an excellent sermon on, "Lead us not into temptation", S. Luke. Hetty and Florie Shute were at Church both morning and evening, thus setting an example that it would be well if people would follow. It seems strange that custom should deny to people the consolation of Church Services and Holy Communion at a time when they are most needed.

Monday 3. Thawing. After dinner Mr Stilwell called on Alfred and then Mrs Dumbleton and Mrs Turner. When they were gone, M, A and I went in the carriage to Sandhurst. They went on to York Town, and I called at the Randalls to ask them to dinner on Thursday, but Mr R. had an engagement so they cannot come. Mr R. promised to come to lunch on Wednesday. Then I went and called on Misses Coplestone and Ditchfield, who live where Mr Deacon used to live. They were both out. Then to Miss Clench, and after 5 p.m. Service.

Tuesday 4. No Service today. Tomorrow instead. On Saturday I gave James leave to go home to his sisters wedding, but quite forgot to say on what day he was to return. He did not come back yesterday, but was here by 2.25 today. After dinner A. and I walked to the Village and looked over the church, with which he was much pleased. I had a long talk with him today. He reads to M and me every evening.

Wednesday 5. I went to Church at 10.30. Mr Randall came to lunch, and was very pleasant. He seems to be a great fern fancier. It came on to rain very hard about 2 p.m. I walked with Mr Randall to Sandhurst then to the Bechers, to try and get some shell gold, for an illumination that Alfred has begun.

Thursday 6. At 3, A and Dora went for a walk. M and I to Church to Susie Shute's funeral. There were a great many people present, all in black, and many, when at the grave, in tears. It was a very simple funeral, walking, and the coffin carried on a bier, instead of on the shoulders. The coffin was quite covered with white flowers. There were no hatbands or scarves. There was a hymn in church and one at the grave.

When Mrs Shute and her daughters were about to leave the grave, Hetty stepped forward again, looked into it, with the most wonderful expression on her face - joyous but yearning. It seemed to say, "Goodbye dear, we shall soon meet again". It was most touching. Mr Sumner tells me that she feels her sisters death to have put her in communication with the unseen world, and she says that she feels her sister to be much nearer to her than ever she was when alive. It was very sad to see Coll Holder. They returned last Friday or Saturday. He is a perfect wreck. Sr. James Paget says that nothing further can be done by operation. They can only inject morphia to allay pain. At 7, the Stilwells, Mr Sumner and Mrs Becher came to dine with us, and we had a very pleasant evening. They did not leave till nearly 11, after which A, M. and I sat up while A read to us the last chapter of Body's book. It was nearly 1.30, before we got to bed.

Friday 7. A very wet morning. Alfred left us at 10 for Farnboro' Station, hoping to be at Plymouth by 6.15. There he is to stop the night and hopes to be at home by 2.30 tomorrow. M wanted him to stay, for he is not at all well. After dinner M and I drove into York Town, and on returning, I called to see Lucy Parker, who is a good deal worse, and then M. went into her district, to finish what I began last Friday.

Saturday 8. Saw the sun for the first time for many days. A beautiful day. Got in peas and spinach, 5 days later than last year. George gave warning, being angry because I did not put the whole of the seeds into his charge, and then being impertinent because I did not approve of something he wanted to do in the garden. Upon my telling of it, he asked for his discharge. I am afraid that I am quite unfit to manage men. I am not sufficiently firm and decided with them at first. After dinner, M, Dora and I. walked to the Hall and we called on the Holders (out). Then home by Cricket Hill.

Sunday 9. Wet again. Rain more or less all day. M and I to early Celebration, then I as usual, to Vicarage School and Church. Neither M. nor Dora to Matins. In the evening Dora and I to Church. Both morning and evening Mr Sumner preached on Death, with reference to Susie Shute. Mrs S. and both the girls were at early Celebration and Matins, and the girls in the evening. Mr S's sermons both good.

Monday 10. Very wet again. James asked for his discharge. In the evening I had in George and spoke to him, and he owned to being sorry that he had spoken as he did on Saturday. This afternoon I went and sat for an hour with Miss Parker.

Tuesday 11. On coming down to breakfast found a letter on the table from George, so after breakfast I had him in before M, and had a long talk with him which resulted in his asking to stay. I told him that I would make no change in my ways to please him, that if he wanted to stay he must be content to take things as he had hitherto found them. I went to Committee at the School to audit the accounts and sign the books. Found Mr Sumner, Mr Mason and Mr Fitzroy there. At 11.45, Mr Green and his assistant Mr Brookes Government Inspector, came and took the School Examination. I stopped till about an hour, then walked down Sandhurst Lane to see how deep the water is, as we are engaged to go if possible to Mrs Turners this evening to a Shakespear Reading but I found that it was far too deep for our carriage. After dinner, M, Dora and I drove into York Town and while they were in Bessells, I saw Coll and Lady Louisa Hall pass, but could not leave the pony to speak to them. We drove

home by the Flats and Cricket Hill. There was terrible news today from the Cape. A whole British Regt with 30 officers has been surrounded by 20,000 Zulus and entirely cut to pieces. Another extraordinary piece of news is, that it is officially announced that the 38 ton on board the Thunderer burst in consequence of a misfire havin{g} taken place and then the gun was fired with two charges both of powder and shot in it.

Wednesday 12. A fine day. We all 3 went to Church at 10.30, and I stayed to be present at an adult Baptism, Mrs Bourne. She has asked to be both baptised and confirmed and Mr Sumner has been much exercised about her. M and Dora went across the fields to the Bechers. In the afternoon Mrs Turner and Miss Shaw called, having driven round by Blackwater in Mrs Blakeley's carriage. Mrs T. came to settle about her Reading, which fell through last night, and it is now postponed sine die. The water is so deep in Sandhurst Lane that we have had no paper yesterday or today.

Thursday 13. Change again. Dull and drizzly, water going down. Got our paper today. Moving all the gooseberries from borders of paths to the long border by the east hedge.

Friday 14. Showery at intervals. I went to Church at 10.30. In the evening Mrs Stilwell called and sat for nearly an hour. Then we went to Mrs Bechers and spent a pleasant evening there.

Saturday 15. A few light showers. After dinner M. went to the Village and called at the Masons, and I took some jelly to Lucy Parker and sat with her for some time. Got in posts today to fix wires for the raspberries.

Sunday 16. To School as usual. We are in great difficulty for teachers. We are one short, and cannot get anyone to help in emergencies. Heard that Coll. Holder is not expected to live many days, and yet he is out and about. He was prayed for in Church, but both he and Mrs H. were at Holy Communion. M. and Dora came to Church and H C. A fine afternoon. M only went with me to Church in the evening.

Monday 17. Snowing till 9 a.m. After very fine and bright till 2. By midday post got a card from Willie (Capt) to say that he arrived at Aldershot yesterday, and is to sail from Southampton on Wednesday. Asking me to go and see him. At 3.30, M and I drove into York Town, did some business, and at 4.38 met Mary Coulcher. It had been raining hard just before, but fortunately cleared up just as she arrived. She had a very bad cold.

Tuesday 18. At 10.36, M. took me to the station. Found Mr Kirchoffer and all his pupils going to Aldershot, so joined them and we all walked to the Queens Parade about 3/4 of a mile, where according to orders the Duke of Cambridge was to have reviewed the regiments leaving for the Cape, but we found the place quite empty. We walked on nearly 2 miles, to the Permanent Barracks far in to the South Camp, and there found not a Review but an inspection parade. As soon as the Duke had done with them (i.e. the 91st), I found Willie and Arthur who had come down with him. W. had a good deal of regimental work to do, but after some time we went to the hotel he was staying at, had some lunch and stayed with them till 3.50, then cabbed back to station. Found M and Dora waiting for me at Blackwater and gave Mr Kirchoffer a lift home.

Wednesday 19. Mary, M and I to Church at 10.30. Had Nancy out with cart, drawing turf for repairing bank on the hill. In evening we all went at 8 to the Stilwells and had music. Heard from Miss Dumbleton with cast of King John, which we are to read at her house next Monday. I have the character of the Bastard Falconbridge, one of the best in the play. When we went to the Stilwells, found it was snowing.

Thursday 20. Found snow on the ground and ice but sun came out bright till 11 a.m. After that more snow. At 5, Mrs Becher and Aimie came in for a short time and I took out a tooth for the former.

Friday 21. Snow in the night and this morning till 9. After fine. I went to Church at Sandhurst and after to Mr Randalls and had a talk with him for half an hour. In the evening Mrs Becher and Aimie came and spent the evening and we read King John, as a rehearsal for those of us who have to read at Mrs Dumbletons on Monday.

Saturday 22. Quite fine morning, and continued so till 2 p.m. None of us went out at all. I was quite for a [sorts] for a short time in afternoon. After tea we played Bezique.

Sunday 23. A beautifully bright morning. M, Mary and I to early Celebration, I as usual to Vicarage and School. When we came out of School it was beginning to snow and soon did so heavily, continuing at intervals till 4 p.m. M, Mary and Dora came to 11 a.m. Service. I went alone in evening.

Monday 24. Very hard frost again. With us 10^o, at Mr Stilwells 14^o. If it had not been for the snow yesterday, I almost think that the ice would have born. At 11.30, M, Mary and I, to the confirmation. There were nearly 60 candidates, 30 from Yateley, the rest from Eversley and Minley. It was very nicely arranged, and the Bishops addresses were good, especially after the laying on of hands. After, Mrs Becher and Aimie came home to dinner with us. George and James were confirmed. At 6.30 drove to Mrs Dumbletons, where we had a reading of King John. It rather wanted life. Dr Osborne, who read King John, made him much too respectable a character, and gave no light and shade. Otherwise read fairly well but too pompously. Mrs Turner's Constance was very tame, as was Miss Dumbletons Arthur. Two of those who had promised to come failed to do so, and several parts had to be doubled up. As it was freezing hard when we came home, I put the roughs (screw studs) into Nancy's shoes and she came capitally.

Tuesday 25. Sharp frost again but nothing like the night before. At 10.30, M and I went to station and by train to Dorking, to see the Douglas's. Got to their house at a little before 12. Found Mrs, Edith and Margaret at home, and spent 3 hours very pleasantly. Got home by 5.5 p.m. Mary and Dora had gone to 5 o'clock at Mrs Bechers.

Wednesday 26, Ash Wednesday. Another raw wintry day, but no frost. We all went to Service at 10.30. Matins, Litany and Communion Service with two hymns. In the afternoon Mary and Dora went to Mrs Stilwells to practise some music. I went and saw Lucy Parker, (who is gradually getting worse) and also called at the Addisons. At 6.30, M, Mary and I went to Church. There was a very small congregation, the

only one of the gentry besides ourselves being Miss Mason. Mr S. preached a good sermon on repentance, 2 Cor.vii,10,11.

Thursday 27. Much snow in the night and snowing up to 9 a.m. After thaw and drizzle. I went to Church at 10.30. No one there but myself, Mr Hilton and two schoolgirls. After I went to the church by myself for a short time. At 6.30, I went to Church, to hear Mr Sumners address to those who were confirmed on Monday, on the Holy Communion. There was a very good attendance of the late candidates, and Mr S. did really very fairly making his teaching much more definite than I had expected. Snow going fast.

Friday 28. Thawing. We all went to Church at 10.30. During the day, George and I put up the wires for the raspberries, and he began moving the plants into their places. Col and Lady Louisa Hall called, returning our call. By the evening the snow had entirely gone.

March 1879

Yateley

Saturday 1. A fine day. At 11.20, Mary, M and I took the carriage and went to Minley, to get moss to send to M. Petrie. It was a most delightful day for driving. Mr Garths hounds were out, having met at Frogmore, but we did not see them. Mary and M. looked into the church. We went home by the Flats, as far as Blackwater Green &c. At 4, to Church. Just before the Service Johnny Hilton had taken up one of the gratings of the stoke hole, and Mrs Vicars walked right into it. She shook herself a good deal, but is not I hope permanently hurt. I called to see her as I went home.

Sunday 2. A thick white frost, followed by a lovely day. We all went to early Celebration at Sandhurst then I went across to the Vicarage to breakfast, and School. The others all came to 11. Service. In the evening Mary and M. went to Sandhurst, and were shocked to find such a bad congregation, and so little appreciation of Mr Randall's preaching. I went to Yateley and heard Mr Sumner's first of a course of sermons on Holy Communion, and he was very distinct on the real presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Monday 3. Another white frost, and fine till 10 a.m. After dull and some rain till 2 p.m. Got our raspberry plantation finished today. At 3.40 M, Mary and Dora drove first to the station, to send off Mary P's moss and then to Sandhurst to call on the Dumbletons. I found so much to do in the afternoon that I could not get to Church at 4 p.m.

Tuesday 4. Mary, M. and I to Church at 10.30. Finished the raspberries, sowed peas. At 3, Mary, M and I went to Sandhurst, to Service. It consisted of a few prayers and then an address from Mr Randall, on Meditation. It was not a meditation itself, but more an instruction as to how to meditate oneself. It was like all he does, very good. After we went to the P. Office for a P.O.O. and looking in at Miss Clench's heard that she was very well, so we went and saw her, and found her confined to her bedroom.

Wednesday 5. A thick white frost, afterwards beautifully fine. We all went to morning Service except M. who went into her district. In the afternoon Mary and M. to call, on Stilwells and Bechers. In the evening, Mary, M. and I to evening Service at Sandhurst. I went on ahead and took some medical comforts to Miss Clench. Mr Randall's sermon was on "our Lord praying, St Luke 11.1 Lord, teach us to pray, and pointed out how all our Lords own prayers follow the example of His own great model, The Lords prayer".

Thursday 6. Another lovely day. 10.36, took Mary Coulcher to the station, sorry indeed to part with her. She becomes dearer to us each time we see her. She calls us "Uncle John" and "Aunt Maggie". Dora came with us and we drove into York Town. In the evening we three went to Church. Mr Utterton preached, S. Luke 13 {23}, Are there few that be saved. He took almost all his sermon from Body's Life of Justification, but it fitted in so badly to his own part, and he read it, as with so little appreciation, that it was most difficult to follow, and very disappointing. Mrs and Miss Becher came home to supper with us.

Friday 7. Another lovely day. All of us to Church. On my way home I looked in to see Charlie Bunch who has been very ill with bronchitis. When I got home, had the two peach trees put into the little boothouse and smoked them. Mrs Stilwell came in to tea and sang after with Dora.

Saturday 8. Another white frost, followed by a lovely day. Last night the two young men emptied out the pit in the yard, and made a capital job of it. Today I put up the canvas coping over the peach trees in kitchen garden, for they are beginning to show colour in the buds. At 4 to afternoon Service.

Sunday 9. We all went to early Celebration. There were 24 present, I think the most I have ever seen in the morning except at the great festivals. To the Vicarage and School. Mr Sumner preached a short but very good sermon on sin causing God to withdraw his countenance from us. M and Dora came, and we all went again in the evening. Mr S. preached his 2nd sermon on the Holy Eucharist, taking instead of a text, part of the exhortation in the prayer book. I thought his sermon very good though in some points it might have been rather more explicit. A lovely day throughout.

Monday 10. Another beautiful day. In the afternoon we all went to Service. In the evening Master James asked for his discharge, as this was the day month from that on which he gave notice, but I would not let him go, as I considered he had withdrawn it, but I told him he should go next Monday, and I think it will add much to the comfort of the household, to be rid of him, as he has got very troublesome of late.

Tuesday 11. Have arranged with George, that he is to send for his younger brother in James' place. Had a long talk with him and hope we shall get on better for the future, but his great fault is inordinate conceit. Today Bourne got the ditch in our field cleared out. At 3. to Sandhurst to Mr Randalls meditation, on the indwelling of God in Man. It was very instructive and beautifully carried out. A great many strangers from neighbouring villages. From Yateley there were Miss Addison, two young Miss Holders and our three selves. After I went and saw Miss Clench, who is better. General Addison walked home with us, and came in to see the conservatory.

Wednesday 12. To Church by myself at 10.30. After to the Vicarage with Mr S. At 3, Dora M. and I drove into York Town. As we came back I stopped to see Lucy Parker. Poor girl she is getting much worse. It hardly seems likely that she will live much longer. Need not have written poor. Death seems to have no terrors for her, she talks of it as calmly as if it was going on a short visit. At 5, Mr and Mrs Sumner came for a cup of tea and to see the conservatory, which is so bright and pretty now, that it attracts many visitors. At 7.30, we all went to Sandhurst, and we were disappointed at hearing Mr Coplestone. I had hoped for great things from him, but they were not realised.

Thursday 13. Another fine day. George heard from his brother that he would not come, but he wrote again to him, advising him to come. Put up the peach curtain. Maggie suffering much from faceache all day, in the evening very severely. I went alone to evening Service. Mr Kempthorne, one of the masters at Wellington College preached. A very poor sermon indeed.

Friday 14. An unpleasant change in the weather. Sleet and rain all day. James unwell, in bed, with cold and feverish. Rackley at work in the fields. I went to Service at 10.30. There heard that Mrs Sumner was confined at 9.30 - a boy. M's face better, but still painful. She slept well.

Saturday 15. Was with Mr Randall by 10 a.m., and went with him to the church. He was most kind, and I feel I have in him a friend in whom I can put every confidence and go to for advice when I feel the need of it. In the afternoon M and I called at the Shutes (out), and Sumners to ask after Mrs S. and then to Church at 4 p.m.

Sunday 16. Raining when I went to School at 9.30, but cleared up by 11. We all stayed to Holy Communion, and also Emma and our two young men. Mr Sumner preached a short but very good sermon from S. Mark,vi,31, Come ye apart and rest awhile, and in the evening continued his course on the Holy Eucharist with a really excellent sermon on the benefits to the faithful recipient from S. John xiv,6. I am the way, the truth and the life.

Monday 17. Dull morning with fine drizzle. Began on new calf shed. Dora went by invitation to practise at Mrs Stilwells and brought us back word that Mrs Willis was there, so after dinner M and I called and saw her. Then across the fields to Yateley and called on Mrs Rush. Then to Church. Then Aimie Becher came home with us to tea. Stayed till 8 when I took her home.

Tuesday 18. I went to Church. From 11 to 1, there was fine rain, after quite fine. At 3, Dora, M. and I to Sandhurst. Mr Rs meditation was on the Fatherhood of God and was very beautiful. When we got home we went across to Mrs Stilwells and had 5 oclock tea with Mrs S. and Mrs Willis. At 6.30, Mrs and Aimie Becher came to tea, and we played Bezique.

Wednesday 19. We all went to Church at 10.30. Dora and M. went across the fields with Aimie, M. to Mrs Stilwell. After dinner I went and sat for some time with Lucy Parker, who gets weaker. Home by 4 p.m., when Mrs Willis came in. While she was there Mrs and 2 Misses Shaw came, and before they left Mrs Stilwell came in, which was a most unfortunate contre temps, as she and they are not on good terms. At 7.30 , M and I to Sandhurst. Mr Copleston preached, a better sermon than last week. A very fine day.

Thursday 20. Fine but with cold wind. Dora left us today. We took her to the 3.43 train, and then went to the Masons, who commenced Lawn Tennis - too cold for any but the players to be outside. I played several games and made myself very hot, and after felt it very cold. We stayed there till 7 and then went to Church. Mr Copleston preached, I think the best sermon we have heard from him 1 Cor.ix,26, I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.

Friday 21. Dull but cold N.E. wind. I went to Service at 10.30. At 3, M and I went to Sandhurst, driving, first to Dumbletons,(out), Mrs Tolman, at home, Mrs Blakeley out, Mrs Randall at home. Last Tuesday we got rid of the boy James Thrussell, and took in his place, Robert Hilton, son of the man who lives just beyond the Royal Oak.

Today we put him into livery. It is rather pleasant being by ourselves again, after having had a visitor for 10 weeks.

Saturday 22. Very cold. At 4 we went across to Sandhurst and had 5 o'clock tea with the Shaws. In the evening M. very poorly with pains all over her. She has not been feeling well for 2 or 3 days.

Sunday 23. M. not well enough to go out all day. I to early Celebration, Vicarage, School and Church as usual. After dinner Coll. Dumbleton called and sat with us for about an hour and I walked back with him as far as the bridge. I went to Church in the evening. Mr Sumner continued his course on the Holy Eucharist, tonight on the sacrificial aspect. His text was, 1. Cor. xi, 26 "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do shew the Lord's death until He come. A bitterly cold day, clouds clearing off at night.

Monday 24. Colder than ever. M. decidedly better. In the middle of the day, took a dose of quinine that did her much good. At 3.30 Mrs Dumbleton and the Coll. called and gave me a lift to Church. Being too early looked in at the Masons for a few minutes.

Tuesday 25. M. up to breakfast. Snowing a little all day. I went to Church at 10.30. Besides myself only Mr and Miss Mason. After a Vestry meeting which lasted 1 1/2 hours, walked home with Kirkhoffer. At 3, M and I to Sandhurst Mr Rs meditation was on the 2d Person in the Trinity Very good, but not so striking as the last. Mrs and Miss Becher the only other Yateley people there. They came to tea with us.

Wednesday 26. Light snow or rain all day. Smoking the conservatory. Gave first shift to our young Chrysanthemums. Got some Pompom cuttings. Mr Sumner having gone to London there was not any morning Service. Too wet and cold to go to Sandhurst in the evening.

Thursday 27. Dull cold day. In afternoon M. went to Mrs Spicer's. I walked with her to Darby Green and went in and saw young Parker's wife, who is [consumptive] and then sat some time with Lucy Parker. In the evening M and I to Church. Mr Sumner's father preached a very good sermon, indeed the best I have ever heard him preach. Fro LI, Psalm, "Make me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me".

Friday 28. At 10.30, M and I to Church. A dull morning but changed to fine in afternoon. M after dinner went to see Mrs Spicer about her child. I went to the Vicarage, to call on Mr Sumner (the elder) but he was out.

Saturday 29. A lovely day, much warmer. A sharp shower at 4 p.m., but after fine. M and I to Church.

Sunday 30. M and I to early Celebration. Just as we came out of Church, tremendous rain, lasting for nearly half an hour. M. took refuge at the Masons and had her breakfast there. I got quite wet about my feet and legs in going to Mr Sumners. Dried as well as I could and went in to School. It was fine for the rest of the day except

during a short time from 11.30 to 12. In the evening to Church. Mr Sumner preached the last of his course on the Holy Eucharist, Ephesians iii, 17,18,19. A good sermon.

Monday 31. Tried to arrange with George terms on which he should stay, the 3 months for which he came on his present terms, being up, but could not succeed satisfactorily. Heavy rain at noon, but at 1.15 to the station and met Willie (Briars) then to York Town. At 4.30 all of us to Church.

April 1879

Yateley

Tuesday 1. Began sending butter and eggs to Elizabeth. At 10.30, Willie and I to Church. After dinner to Sandhurst. Mr R's meditation on the Holy Spirit Very beautiful. In the evening George accepted the terms that I had offered him, of staying in the house at £22 a year.

Wednesday 2. All of us to Church at 10.30. Very showery but at 4, we started to gather moss for Mary Coulcher along the Flats to the cross road to Eversley and there found an abundance of very fine. Filled the basket then to Eversley church, that Willie might see Kingsley's monument and then home. Today George said he had again changed his mind and said he should go at the end of a month, and in the evening gave evident tokens that he was going to be very troublesome and that we should have a bad time of it for the next month. Mrs Becher and Aimie to tea and Bezique.

Thursday 3. M and I had a wretched night of it, having been so much worried about George. Directly after breakfast we called him into the dining room to speak to him, when he told us that he was not going to do any work except the garden, and had indeed already made over the pony and calf to the boy. He positively refused, to do the work and on being told he must go at once, said he should stay his month. As this could not be tolerated I walked to Frogmore to consult with Mr Fitzroy but he was out. On my return I saw General Addison, who said I had the most perfect right to discharge him at once. G. went off to Reading at 11.20, and returned at 4.15. At 5, M, W and I drove to Blackwater, sent of Mary C's moss and then I saw Mr Fitzroy. He was most kind, confirmed entirely what General Addison had said, and promised to write at once to the Superintendent of Police at Aldershot, ask him to come over tomorrow morning and would then send him on to us. At 6.45, Cowslip calved - a bull as was to be expected, she being so much over her time. Rackley managed everything, with the boy to help. I was so tired and worried, that we did not go to Church. We both sat up till nearly midnight, as Rackley came at 11.20 and he and I together gave Cowslip her drink. Tired to the last degree.

Friday 4. Got a better night. At 1/4 to 11, called in George and ordered him to leave. As I expected he refused, but soon afterwards came and said he would. Then in a few minutes sent a letter claiming a months pay without which he would not go, so had him in again. Told him that I should not give him his pay, and that if he stayed to the end of the month, I should not pay him. He had better go at once and not force me to call in the Police. At 12, I was just taking an observation of the sun, when George came up and asked me whether I did not intend to pay him if he stayed the month. I said "certainly not". Then he said I shall go at once and take out a summons. At that moment Mr Stevenson, Superintendent of Police drove in, and after some arguing, George packed up his things and walked off. Mr S. was very pleasant. He told me that they, the Police, may not lay a finger on a servant under these circumstances, or they would be liable to action for assault. They may only advise the man to go, or else interfere if there is any chance of a breach of the peace in the master removing the servant. Mr S. was so decided in his manner, that G. soon gave in, and has gone

off with the determination to summons me for his pay, which he is quite welcome to do. At 2.30, M. went to her district, part of which she had done yesterday. At 3.30 the Blackwater policeman called to say that he had met Mr Stevenson who had told him to look in and see me and to keep an eye on George that he was not troublesome to us. After dinner Rackley, the boy Robert and Willie carting in the stones and litter from the fields. Could not go to Church this morning on account of all this worry.

Saturday 5. Last evening when I took Cowslip her mash, she would not eat it, but I did not think much of it as she had had one at 5.30. But this morning I found her so decidedly unwell, that I sent off for Bone the Cow leach. She got worse and worse through the day, so that when Bone and I left her at 11.30 p.m. I did not think she had 1/2 an hour to live.

Sunday 6. On going down at 1/4 past 6, heard that the cow was a little better, and so having got Rackley we gave her a 3rd of a bottle of gin in hot water, and we kept it up during the day at intervals in gruel and by the evening she was decidedly better. I went to Sunday School as usual and M and W. came to Church at 11 and we all stayed to Holy Communion. All went to evening Service.

Monday 7. Cow this morning was standing up the first thing and through the day continued to mend a little. Obligated to feed her with gruel and the drenching horn. Yesterday and Saturday had to feed her calf from Blossom, who let her have milk quite kindly. Today she sucks from Cowslip. Had Jennings to work, as well as Rackley. M and I are doing the greenhouse. I went to Church with Willie at 10.30, and we all went at 7, when Mr Sumner preached from S. Mark xi,9, Christs entry into Jerusalem, on the evanescent nature of good impressions. No change in the cow.

Tuesday 8. I am now getting up every morning at 1/4 past 6, as I have to open the gates &c, which I lock up at night. Cow continued much the same during the day, Bone coming two or three times. She will neither eat nor drink of her own accord; everything has to be given her as a drench. Willie and I to Service at 10.30. A lovely day. At 3, M and I to Sandhurst, to the last of Mr Randalls meditations, "On the devotional life". Shorter than the others but very beautiful. At 7, all of us to Church. Mr Sumner preached on the 2nd cleansing of the Temple. Up till late waiting for Bone.

Wednesday 9. No improvement in the cow. Will not touch food. Church at 10.30 with W. and at 7, with both. Mr S. preached on the withered fig tree. Bone came at 9.30, and gave the cow a tonic. Yesterday morning I got a letter from George Throssell, which greatly astonished me. I opened it fully expecting that it would be defiant and abusive, instead of which it was most humble, expressing great sorrow, saying how unhappy he is, and begging to be taken back, but this cannot be. He says he was led away by a bad lot. The same bad lot would never give him peace if he came back, and I never could get a servant to stay with me again. Jennings at work today.

Thursday 10. I do not think the cow is so well as she was yesterday. Willie and I to Church at 10.30. A most unpleasant day, thick fog, almost rain. We all went to Church in the evening.

Friday 11, Good. Very cold morning. Ice. Cow much the same Rackley here several times. Willie and I went to our Church at 10.30, and from it I walked across to Sandhurst and met M. and we went to the 3 hours Service. It was conducted by Mr Randall, and very beautiful it was. There were a good many people there, but the only ones from Yateley besides ourselves were the Holders, and Miss Gardner and her niece. In the evening we all went to Church. Very cold E. wind.

Saturday 12. We all went to Church at 10.30, and as soon as we got home, M and I drove to York Town and then to the station, where we met Nellie Petrie and brought her home. Rain and sleet at intervals. I had Jennings at work, and got some grass cut on the lawn, which the old cow eat greedily. She seems rather better. A very wet afternoon.

Sunday 13, Easter. M, W. and I to early Celebration. A regular white world, snow on everything and snowing up to 8 a.m. In spite of the weather there were 41 persons at Holy Communion. Then to Vicarage and School. M, W. and Nellie came to Church at 11. A large congregation, and 73 stayed to Communion making a total of 114, 13 more than have ever stayed in any one day before. Nellie and I to Yateley, M and Willie to Sandhurst in the evening. At the former a very large congregation. The church was very nicely decorated. All we could send were two arums.

Monday 14. Cow continues to mend. eats plenty of hay and some grains. Left off gruel today. A fine morning. We all went to Church, and after I stayed for the Easter Vestry meeting, which was made very tedious by Mr Mason bringing up the subject of the rates, which were out of place at this Vestry. Found a man waiting for me about iron hurdles, a Mr Falkner from Bracknell whom Jennings had recommended as very moderate, but I found his prices most exorbitant. Rained hard all the afternoon, but M. being very anxious to see Mrs Heather she and Willie drove to her cottage, below Minley, in tremendous rain. I had Rackley at work. M is doing the chief part of attending to the conservatory.

Tuesday 15. As soon as possible after breakfast M and Nellie and I drove to York Town, on a servant hunting expedition, for Harriet leaves on the 3rd of May, to be married (or at least hoping to be so, which seems very doubtful,) and we are looking for a gardener also. We went to Starvacre to see about a girl we had heard of. Had a sharp shower, and when we got home found that they had had very heavy hail. Had Jennings at work. Pulled to pieces one of the hotbeds, and found it vilely made. Hope to get a little heat in it, by remaking. Gave the cow ground oats and pollard and grains, which she eat greedily. I think she is now well round the corner.

Wednesday 16. Jennings at work. A little rain in the morning, after fine. Cow going on all right. Repotted the Azalea.

Thursday 17. A few showers, but for the most part fine Had Cowslip out in the park for 3 or 4 hours. Altered path in kitchen garden leading to well, made it straight instead of winding. M, Willie and Nellie, walked to Mrs Turners in the afternoon. The young people rolled the Tennis court in the morning and we put up the net after dinner. I at work potting.

Friday 18. Sharp frost again. Rackley at work. Cowslip out directly after breakfast and remained out all day. After dinner M, W and N. drove to Hartley Row, while I did a lot of potting. On their return, put Nancy into the cart, and brought in a lot of hay that Rackley and Robert had cut and tied. M and I went to Church in the morning. Commenced painting outside of house, beginning with the conservatory. I have given Bunch a contract for £12.10. Got today a welcome surprise, viz a cheque for £2.7.6 for the old mowing machine, which I sent to Weeks and Watts last autumn.

Saturday 19. Colder still, but wind going to S E, and glass falling. Mrs Becher came in in the forenoon to tell of a female servant, that she thinks will do for us, if disengaged. Tim bit Nelly. I have tried in vain to persuade her not to torment him, but she will not obey. Had both Rackley and Jennings here. Yesterday and today turned out Cowslip for two or 3 hours. N. and W. at Lawn Tennis.

Sunday 20. Very wet morning, continuing so till past 11. I went to S. School. Miss Mason the only teacher present. M and the others to Service and she and I stayed to H C. Fine afternoon with one or two showers. N and W. went to Church at Minley. All to Church in the evening.

Monday 21. Turned out Cowslip after breakfast. Got rid of her calf today. Mr Wood took it for 12/6 A white frost, after fine. Philip Turner came to spend the day. He, N. and W. at Lawn Tennis and in afternoon walked to York Town. Mrs Turner and Mrs Tolman came to tea, and about 5, Mrs Becher and Aimie came in and they stayed to Bezique and supper. Mrs Becher is very anxious that we should take a cook who has been with her sister Mrs Forster and is now with Mrs Hutchison.

Tuesday 22. Thick white frost and ice, after fine. Painting going on today. Turned out the calf for the first time. Busy in the garden and conservatory. N. and W. most of the time at Lawn Tennis.

Wednesday 23. Rain till 3 p.m. Jennings did not come back after breakfast. Now send Cowslip out with the cows at the usual time. Too wet for the painters. I went to Church. At 3, M. with N and W drove to York Town, and thence, having heard of a servant, went on to Frimley and saw a girl that she thought would do, and who is to come tomorrow to see her.

Thursday 24. Wet morning, so sent for a cab to take N and W to station. Just as they left it cleared up. It is rather a relief to be rid of these young people. They are not very interesting, both intensely idle, but have not given us much trouble, as fortunately they have got on very well together and have amused themselves. I am glad to get rid of the Bezique, which took up an hour every evening. At 3.30, I went and saw Lucy Parker who is gradually getting weaker.

Friday 25. Yesterday had Rackley to clean the glass of the top of the porch, which he made a very good job of and today I showed him how to dab it over with paint, so as to look like ground glass. He took to it at once and did it capitally. M and I to Church. It is arranged that the servant whom Mrs Becher recommended is to come to us on the 12 Prox. Harriet goes on the 3rd, but she will stay till 12th, if she can arrange it with her young man. Very busy in the garden, getting in seeds &c. Many of the vegetable seeds that George put in have not yet come up.

Saturday 26. Generally fine. One or two sharp showers p.m. Up at 1/2 past 5, and got a lot of potting done before breakfast. M and I had a very long day at gardening, getting rid of all superfluous pots and rubbish from the conservatory. We found that George scamped a great deal of his work shamefully, potting things without a bit of drainage. Rackley finished the glass of the porch and Jennings did a lot of work in the kitchen garden.

Sunday 27. M and I to early Celebration. Then I to Vicarage and School. M to 11 Service. Continued fine till 1, then thunder and lightning and heavy hail storm and after this some very sharp showers at intervals. M. to 1/2 past 3 Service at Sandhurst and both of us to evening Service at Yateley. Raining heavily while in Church and on our way home.

Monday 28. Cold wind, but otherwise fine. Hard at work all day. Sorted out all the Chrysanthemums and took them out of frame. Filled two frames with bedding Geraniums. After dinner M, taking Robert with her, called at Wyatts, Don Marshalls and Tippings. I working all the time.

Tuesday 29. The painters began again. A lovely day. M again making calls after dinner, at Sandhurst and Crowthorne. I have had several answers to an advertisement that I put in the Gardeners Magazine for gardener and groom, but do not feel very sure of any of them suiting. I am in no hurry, for I get on very comfortably with old Jennings, though it is extra hard work for both M and self.

Wednesday 30. Had Rackley here whitewashing the kitchen. The painters also at work. I was busy all day, taking Geraniums out of the greenhouse and stowing them away under cover. Hen that was sitting on ducks eggs left them. We should have been in great difficulties but Charles Bunch lent us a broody hen, who took to the eggs at once. M very busy in the greenhouse. We both went to Church at 10.30.

May 1879

Yateley

Thursday 1. We had intended going to early Celebration at Sandhurst, it being a Saints day SS. Philip and James but when I got up I found it snowing. This only lasted a few minutes, but it continued to rain hard till 8 a.m., a most ungenial 1st of May morning. Rackley finished his job. The painters came after breakfast. I went to Church at 10.30. Yesterday, M. went into her district after dinner, and I sold the heifer Primrose to Potter for £9. Moved out more Geraniums.

Friday 2. A fine day, but with strong cold NE wind. M and I to Church at 10.30. Painters going on with work. When we came back from Church bought 3 very fine Chrysanthemums from a man hawking flowers M went into the district and finished it. Yesterday I received 1/2 a dozen Chrysanthemums from William. Today I sent him 4 sorts that he had lost.

Saturday 3. White frost very fine day. Very busy all day. At 2.30, we drove into York Town, taking Miss Addison with us. At 4, Harriet left. She has been with us 19 months and we are very sorry to part with her. She leaves to be married, but one cannot but fear that her young man has no intention of fulfilling his engagement.

Sunday 4. Another cold night followed by a lovely day. M. went with me to Sunday School and took Aimie Becher's class. Celebration after morning Service. After dinner we went and saw the Addisons taking some black currant jam to the General, who has been suffering from Bronchitis. To evening Church, for the first time did without lights, except in the Chancel and Pulpit.

Monday 5. Night not quite so cold. Had not a fire in greenhouse and Therm only fell to 490. Sun very hot during the day, wind still NE. After dinner M. took Mrs Shaw for a drive, and I besides many other jobs, got up the shading for roof of conservatory. Heard from Mrs Trevor that she hopes to be with us either on Friday or Saturday next.

Tuesday 6. Still milder than it has lately been. Rain in the early morning. Towards evening wind went again into its cold quarter. Painters came in the afternoon and finished off all but a very little. High wind. Busy all day in the garden.

Wednesday 7. Cold again. No frost, a little sleet at times. At 10.30, M and I to Sandhurst, to Service as there is none at our own Church, Mr Sumner being away for a holiday. After Service I walked across the fields to Yateley, to pay bills &c.

Thursday 8. Frost again. After breakfast the hurdles, which I have been expecting for the last week or more arrived. 65 iron hurdles and 2 wicket gates. They are not quite what I expected, but are cheap and will do what I want. In the afternoon went and saw Lucy Parker. On Tuesday evng, a young man died at Mr Kirchoffers. He only came to him on Friday night took to his bed the next morning and never rose again. As far as I can make out the cause of death was congestion of the lungs. Nancy was shod this morning.

Friday 9. Had Rackley and set about putting up the hurdles across the park, leaving a space at each end for a gate. Went to Sandhurst church. I had an engagement to meet Mr Randall after the Service, but he was not there. Found that he had gone to Coll Holders, who was much worse. As we walked home we met Mr R. near the Royal Oak, and he most kindly turned back with us and we both had some conversation with him and then I walked with him as far as his gate. After dinner M and I drove into York Town, called at Parkers and ordered some posts for our iron gates. On getting home again, found that Nancy's foot has burst out bleeding very much, and the crack seems worse than ever. It had not bled before for several weeks. Rackley finished the hurdles.

Saturday 10. Rackley cleaning the corner and ditch by the shrubbery, a great improvement. Directly after breakfast, I went to Sandhurst and got a deep strap made for Nancys foot, which I hope may be of use. Put it on as soon as I got home. After dinner at work with Rackley on the gates, putting in the pintles for the gates to hang upon. At 7, we drove to the station, where we found Mrs Trevor waiting for us. There had been a change in the 5.8 trains from Charing X. It had always been a slow train on Saturdays, but this month it has been made as fast as on other days. There was a very sharp frost this morning. Found Nancy's foot bleeding, but not so much as yesterday.

Sunday 11. A change in the weather. Wind S.W. and light rain. We drove to Church. Early Celebration, Mr Randall officiated. He had been at the Hall all night. I breakfasted at the Masons. M. did not come to 11 Service. Mr Copleston officiated, and after dinner he called and sat for 1/2 an hour. We all walked to Church in evening. Mr Randall did the Service and preached a magnificent sermon on God the Holy Ghost, S. John xiv,16, and I will pray the Father, And He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever." It was one of the very best sermons I have heard from him.

Monday 12. Continues mild and fine all day. Got the other gate in. At 4, I drove to the station with Robert, taking M and Mrs T. as far as Bailey's poultry farm, that they might walk back. Met the new cook, Elizabeth Williams, and brought her home. Nancys foot still bleeding a little. Wrote to Wheatley to call and see her, the first time he is over here. Both M and Mrs T much pleased with William's appearance.

Tuesday 13. Had a lot of work going on. Jennings as usual, his wife taking up daisies on the lawn. Rackley turning over the heap of mould in the corner of the park, and clearing the nettles &c, by the kitchen garden hedge. Billy Oxford turning over the manure in the yard. I at various works. Got two Tacsonias planted in the house, pricked out Lobelias, had earth got ready for Chrysanthemums. M and Mrs T. walked up to Mrs Bechers. Mrs Stilwell called and asked us to dine with them on Saturday night.

Wednesday 14. Very showery, some thunder, and heavy hailstorms. Between the showers I managed to get most of my Chrysanthemums potted. In the afternoon Wheatley the vet came to see Nancy and gave directions for her treatment.

Thursday 15. A fine morning and continued so till 1 p.m. After that constant heavy rain, with high wind. I went to the Village before dinner. About 4, young Neville

Thacker and Dunsterville from Wellington College came in for half an hour. On Sunday afternoon Neville T. and another boy, Caddell, came in.

Friday 16. I went to 10.30. Service at Sandhurst. After dinner, M, Mrs T. and I drove into York Town. During the day I put in the hasps for the two gates in the fence.

Saturday 17. Busy gardening in various ways. A fine day till the evening. M and Mrs Trevor took a short drive, but I stayed to garden. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea at 5.30, and at 7, M and I went to dinner at the Stilwells. No one else there. Mrs T. had a cold and could not go.

Sunday 18. A wet morning and showery all day. Yesterday morning shocked by hearing that Dr Biddle had died during the night. We had not heard of his being ill. Today we are told that Coll Holder cannot live through the day. He took leave of his family yesterday and is now unconscious. I went to School as usual. M. to Church, but Mrs T.'s cold would not let her come. M and I also in the evening.

Monday 19. A lovely day, the afternoon more like summer than we have yet had. Busy all day in the garden. After dinner M and Mrs T. took a drive. Coll Holder still lingers.

Tuesday 20. We all went to Church at 10.30. It is the day of intercessions for missions. The only additions to the ordinary morning Service were three or four special prayers for missions. After dinner M and Mrs T. were just starting for a drive when two Miss Shaws called, to tell us that there is an address by Canon Randall each Rogation day at 5 p.m. M. took them in the carriage to Blackwater and then round by Sandhurst, and when they got home, Mrs T. and she walked to Service at Sandhurst. Put out the two cows Beauty and Blossom for the first time at night. Cows in further part of park.

Wednesday 21. Another lovely day, soft westerly wind. I went to Service at 10.30. Coll Holder still alive. After dinner, M and Mrs T. went for a drive and I went with them as far as the church, where I attended at Dr Biddle's funeral. Mrs Sumner and Mr Mason were the only ones of the gentry present, but many of the poor people. I was surprised to find that Dr B was only 45 years of age. M and Mrs T, after their drive walked to Church at Sandhurst. Weather very warm.

Thursday 22, Ascension Day. We had the carriage and drove to Church at 8.30, to early Celebration. I did not go out again, I was so very tired and feeling so miserable that I could not go to Church in the evening. M and Mrs T. went in the carriage to Sandhurst. Neville Thacker came.

Friday 23. Showery almost all day. I got up at 6, but went back to bed till 7.15, and was not so tired as yesterday. Rained so much at 10.30, that we could not go to Service. After dinner Miss Dumbleton and Mrs Tolman called to ask us to take part in a Shakespear reading on June 12th. Then Mrs Addison came in and after Mrs Becher and Aimie.

Saturday 24. Did the same as yesterday. A lovely summer day. After dinner to the Cove Pottery to order some flower pots. Had a delightful drive, the country looking beautiful. Glass falling.

Sunday 25. Too wet for Mrs T. to go to early Celebration. M and I went. I to Vicarage and School. It rained till 9 a.m., after fine. We all 3 went to evening Service.

Monday 26. A lovely morning. Continued fine till noon. After showery. At 3.30, M, Mrs T and self drove into York Town and did some shopping. Very showery. Then we went to station for the 4.37 train and met Tudor Trevor and brought him home with us.

Tuesday 27. Rained all day. Unable to go out at all. We had a rubber in the evening.

Wednesday 28. A very wet night, but fine till 6 p.m. The Derby Day. Trevor and I went to Church at 10.30. Then we walked across the fields to Sandhurst, to the Post Office. In the afternoon M. and Mr and Mrs T. drove to York Town and through both the College grounds and home through Sandhurst. They dropped me at the Parkers, where I sat some time with Lucy P. Soon after we all got home, tremendous rain set in, and continued the greater part of the night. On Monday evening I took Aimie Becher and her cousin Carrie Hutchison to an amateur concert at the Sandhurst Schools. There was nothing very striking.

Thursday 29. Fine day after yesterdays rain all night. I took Trevor to the 10.30 train, and came back at once. At 4.15 to the Masons, a small garden party. I played 2 1/2 sets at Tennis. M and Mrs T. came for a short time.

Friday 30. Showery morning. I went to Church at 10.30. The Sandhurst Road more flooded than we have ever before seen it. Had Rackley taking up and laying in Crocuses and other bulbs. Jennings not here today. After dinner, M and Mrs T. drove as far as Waterers garden at Bagshot, but did not go in. A lovely afternoon. Kept Cowslip out at night for the first time.

Saturday 31. Showery morning, but got through a good deal of work of one kind or another. Rackley mowed the Tennis court and renewed the marks of it.

June 1879

Yateley

Sunday 1. Raining hard at 7 a.m., but held up enough to enable us to drive to early Celebration. Whit Sunday. There were 22 communicants. I breakfasted at the Vicarage and to School. Neither M nor Mrs T. came to 11 Service. They tried to go to Sandhurst but were prevented by the weather. Very showery in afternoon. Noticed in the morning that Emma was not in Church. Upon making enquiries, she said that she had gone there, but felt so sick and faint that she had to go out, and upon M. asking further questions, suspicions that had been for some days arising in her mind as to Emma's condition, were greatly strengthened. I to Church in the evening. So wet that neither M. nor Mrs T. went.

Monday 2. Mrs Rackley came to tea with Emma last evg to see whether she could make out anything from her, and today M. went and saw her, but she had not learned anything, so in the afternoon M. had E. into her room, and after much pressing E. confessed that she was in the family way, and that the late boy James was the father, and that it was entirely her own fault. A very wet day.

Tuesday 3. I went to Church at Sandhurst and then went home with Mr Randall and had a few minutes talk with him to get his advice about Emma. M. has written to Janie Woodcock to tell Es mother and to try and send some one to take charge of her as we are afraid to let her go away by herself.

Wednesday 4. A beautiful day, gardening &c. all day. Club day in the Village. At 6.30, M and I drove to Sandhurst, to a Shakespere reading at Mrs Turnors. It has been long impending and been twice put off. The play was "As you like it". Mrs T. read Rosalind better than I expected. I did Orlando. M. did Touchstone and Sylvius.

Thursday 5. Took Mrs T. and M. to the station to go to London by the 8.40. train, but just missed it. After dinner M and Mrs T. drove into York Town I was busy bedding out. They had only [just] come in, when Mrs Thacker and Neville came, having walked over from Wellington. I drove them back to Wellington Station for the 7 p.m. train. Heavy rain from 7 till 10 p.m.

Friday 6. I went to Church at 10.30. After busy gardening. After dinner M and Mrs T. drove into York Town. At 4.20 Emma's father arrived. We put him up in the man's room. It was an immense relief to us all, his coming.

Saturday 7. At 8.30, Emma and her father went off, and a real good riddance it is. I am afraid she has been at the bottom of most of our trouble with our boys, and that if she had stayed she would have got the present one into mischief. At 10.30 her successor arrived from Binfield, a demure looking little thing, by name Rose Jarvis, a great friend of Elizabeths, so we hope that they will be very happy together. Wet all day.

Sunday 8, Trinity. Fine but cloudy. All of us being tired, we decided not to go to early Celebration, as there was midday as well. I to School and all 3 of us to 11

oclock and after stayed to H.C. Let Elizabeth and Rose go to Sandhurst at 3.30, and M and Mrs T. went there at 6.30. I went to our own Church. It is well that the great festivals have come to an end. Mr Sumner entirely broke down and had to give up singing. I hardly thought he would have been able to preach, but he did, and a very good sermon, 1 Pet.i,1&2. Mrs Becher and Aimie walked with me. We went down Sandhurst Lane and met M and Mrs T. and they came home to supper. Fine but cloudy.

Monday 9. Wet again till noon, after fine. M. took Mrs T. to call at the Masons then for a drive on the Flats. On Friday, while M. was out, Coll and Lady Louisa Hall came to call. I showed them all round the place and gave them some Geraniums to take away. They came to ask us to go in to tea some afternoon.

Tuesday 10. Mrs T. left us today, and M. took the opportunity of going to town with her, to get some help in shopping. I took them to the 8.40 train and then saw Nancy shod, and on getting home, having Rackley at work, I got a lot of bedding out done. Both the long beds are nearly finished. At 7, drove to the station and met Maggie, who got back all right, having had a lovely day.

Wednesday 11. Wet again. I went to Church at 10.30. We were to have gone to the station to meet Anna Maria Tierney at 1.37, but it was too wet. She came up in a fly. Got a little work done in the garden, and p.m. M and A.M. went as far as the Addisons.

Thursday 12. More or less wet all day. At 6, Mrs Becher called for A M., and at 7, we (M and I) went to the Dumbletons to read Henry Vth. We did not get away till 10.45. Raining hard as we came home.

Friday 13. A fine day with only one or two light showers. We all went to Church at 10.30 and after dinner M. and A M. drove into York Town and home by Sandhurst. I busy in the garden.

Saturday 14. Coll Holder died this morning, after lingering several months in great suffering It is a happy release to himself and family. Had Rackley and finished bedding out. After dinner Emmie Mason came in, and detained M, so I had to go off in a hurry to the 3.43. train to meet Harry Johnston, who came from Oxford. A M. went with me. Soon after our return Mrs Becher and Aimie came in and the latter stayed and played Tennis with Harry.

Sunday 15. A very wet morning, so much so , that the only teacher at Sunday School beside myself was Elizabeth Bunch. Mr Sumner came in and took a class, and we managed somehow. Only Harry came to Church. In the evening we commenced a new arrangement. We locked up the house and outer gates, and both the servants went to Church with us. After Church we all walked round by the Stilwells to try and hear the nightingales but without any success.

Monday 16. Another very wet morning. Found my potting shed full of water. After dinner it was fine, and I had Rackley to put to rights. We had asked the Masons to come to L. Tennis, but they thought it would be too wet. Aimie came at 4, and the grass was really dry. She and Harry and after M and I, played a good deal. Mrs

Becher came to supper. After we had done playing (about 8 p.m), I harnessed Nancy and took Anna M, Aimie and Harry for a drive, up Cricket Hill, along the Flats and down to Blackwater Green and so home. It was a lovely evening.

Tuesday 17. A very fine day. At 11.30, M and Harry took A.M. to the station. At 1.15, just after M. returned, Mrs Thacker came in, soaking wet. She had walked from Wellington College, and found the water so deep in Sandhurst Lane, that she had to walk through it up to her knees. She had come to Wellington on account of Neville being sick with the measles. M drove her back to the college, and, found the water up to the steps for some distance.

Wednesday 18. Fine all day. Harry went with us to Church a.m. At 3, Aimie Becher and her cousin Mr Forster came and played Lawn Tennis till 6.30, when Aimie and I took Harry to the station, then drove in to York Town and tried to get something for Maggie, but all the shops were shut.

Thursday 19. After dinner M and I drove into York Town, did some shopping and called on Lady Louisa Hall and Mrs Maunders, both out. About 6, fine rain came on.

Friday 20. Rain in the morning. I went to Church. Fine after. Busy putting nets over two rows of peas, to keep off the jays in case they should come, as they did last year. Have had both Jennings and Rackley here whenever it was fine, as we are going away tomorrow for a week. Have decided to leave Rackley in charge of everything.

Fladbury

Saturday 21. Raining incessantly till 1 p.m. Had a cab to the 1.37 train. By the time we got to Reading it had cleared up, so having left our luggage at the G.W. down station we went into the town and got one or two things. At Oxford met Harry Johnstone and Mr Deacon on the platform. Went on by the fast part of the train to Evesham. Got out there and waited 35 minutes for the slow part by which we went on to Fladbury, getting there at 6.35, (nearly 1/2 an hour late). Mary and Mr B. met us and we walked to their house, which is only 4 minutes walk from the station. The church is exactly opposite.

Sunday 22. M, Mary and I went to early Celebration at 8 a.m. At 11, we all went to Church. (Miss Bromfield is living with them). After dinner Mary, Mr B and I took a little walk. All of us to Church at 6.30. It is a very handsome church, but to my thinking very much disfigured by a hideous East window. The rector, Mr Campbell, has a most remarkable and unpleasing delivery.

Monday 23. A dull morning. There is daily Service at 10 a.m., to which we all went. One of the chief inhabitants of the Village is Coll Preedy, who used to be collector of Kurrachee. After Church all but Miss B. walked first to Fladbury Mill and then crossed the river at the ferry to what is Crophorne Mill, where we found good subjects for sketching. The river here is the Avon, and the bank below the church and Rectory is very picturesque. There is a wide wear and lock. After dinner Mr B. and I (with man servant) drove into Evesham, a very pretty drive of about 4 miles. M and Mary sketched. While we were all out, Col and Mrs Preedy called.

Tuesday 24. Wet morning. All to Church at 10. As it cleared up after dinner we all drove into Pershore, and went over the church, a very fine one. Mary and I went to the top of the tower, rather a hard climb, but the view from the top was very fine. The soil all about here is the finest I have ever seen, a fat yellow loam, and a great deal of ground is taken up with market gardens, growing vegetables for Birmingham, Manchester &c. After tea M and I went to the railway station, where she got two little sketches, and at 7.30, we all went to Church, it being S. John Baptist's day, to whom the church is dedicated, and in honor of whom they have a guild. The sermon was preached by a Dr Quilter, and very good it was. His text was S. Luke, vii, 24, 25, 26 "What went ye out for to see" &c. He gave a view of these verses that was new to me, our Lord addressing three distinct classes of hearers: 1 Those who went to hear the Baptist hoping to find a weak person who would not interfere with their habits and belief; 2, Those, as the Herodians, who hoped to find a man who would truckle to those in high places; 3, Those who went with the earnest hope of really finding a teacher of righteousness.

Wednesday 25. A fine day. There were no Matins. After dinner we all (except Miss B.) crossed the ferry and Mary and M sketched for some time. While there a little screw steamer came from Evesham and into the lock. On Wednesday's she makes two trips in the afternoon from E to this place. Sometimes she goes from E. to Tewkesbury, but this is a long business, taking nearly 5 hours each way. There are several locks to pass through. I should like, if here again to manage a trip by her. I long to see Tewkesbury Abbey, but it is a most awkward place to get at by rail. At 5, we called at the Preedys.

Thursday 26. Mr B. was very poorly today. The damp weather affects him, and it is very wet today. M and I went to Matins alone. It was finer after dinner, and at 4, Mr B and Mary, M and I, went to see a large field of hops. They have a method of supporting the hops, that I have not seen anywhere else. Stout wires are stretched from end to end of the field about 15 feet above the ground, starting from strong frames at each end of the field, and supported by lighter frames at intervals of about 20 feet. From the wires strings are brought down to the clumps of hops and fastened to iron pins in the ground. M. got two sketches. Mr and Mrs Robert Preedy called as also Mr Campbell.

Friday 27. M and I went by the train at 10.9 to Worcester. Walked at once to the Cathedral and got in, just as the Litany began. The voice of the priest, the precentor Mr Hall, was exquisite, the choir rather rough. The Service concluded, we went all over the Cathedral, which is really most beautiful. The restoration, which has been going on for many years, is now complete, and it has been done with no sparing hand. Lord Dudley alone has given more than £50000 towards it. After this, we took a cab, and went to Smiths gardens, which are about 1 1/4 miles from the middle of town. We had not time to go over them and it being dinner time, all the greenhouses were shut. However we bought some plants, a seedling Begonia and 3 Nasturtiums. We returned to Fladbury by about 2.30, and after having some dinner we returned the Robert Preedy's call. They are very pleasant, particularly Mrs. I also called on Mr Campbell, but he was out. Coll and Mrs Preedy came invited to 5 o'clock tea, but stayed to supper and until 10 p.m.

Yateley

Saturday 28. Our visit came to an end. It has been pleasant, though also painful. Mary has a very anxious time of it with Mr B. and has also to look after Miss B, but in this there is a compensation in the affection of Miss B. to her. She is just devoted to Mary. Mr B is at times very troublesome to manage. We left at 11.45, and got to Reading just in time to catch the 3.15 train with a considerable struggle. Found the carriage waiting for us, and were at home by 4.15. Found everything right. The servants had worked very hard and cleaned the house beautifully, and Rackley had managed the greenhouse very well. In the evening we walked up and saw the Bechers.

Sunday 29 and St Peters Day. We went to early Celebration and then I as usual to the Vicarage and School. M. came to 11 oclock Service. In the afternoon, there was a sharp shower lasting about 15 minutes We went to Church at 6.30. There was a choral Service, with special psalms, lessons, anthem and hymns. Mr Sumner having made it a sort of dedication festival. Mr Randall preached, a very fine sermon chiefly on the character of St Peter.

Monday 30. A lovely day, the finest we have had this summer. It is very fortunate, as the choir treat, and a party of about 40, have gone to Portsmouth to see the Dockyard Victory &c. After dinner, M and I drove to Eversley and called on Mrs Malcolm Murray. They are living in the farm house just below Kits Croft. She is very young and seemed sad and out of spirits as Malcolm leaves her a good deal alone, being much taken up with cricket. Then we called to enquire after Mrs Rush, who has been very ill for the last week, and we went in and saw Mrs Haines and Miss Forman. Then called on the Stilwells, who returned from their foreign travels while we were away. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in the evening.

July 1879

Yateley

Tuesday 1. Quite a change from yesterday - one of the worst days we have had, raining and blowing very hard. Rackley and I both occupied in cutting sticks for Chrysanthemums and other flowers. At 4, it held up enough to allow M and me to drive into York Town and at 4.40 to meet Fan and Ethel and bring them home.

Wednesday 2. Had Jennings and got the Tennis lawn cut (with the scythe), and a lot of other work done. After dinner M and Fan and Ethel drove into York Town, leaving me at Darby Green, where I distributed some magazines, and sat for some time with Lucy Parker. It rained again very hard, and they got into two severe storms in the carriage. (At 10.30 we all went to Church.

Thursday 3. Rained almost all day, but in the evening I managed to get a few pots of Chrysanthemums repotted and tied out. Lucy and William asked us to go to them, to see the Agricultural Show, but the weather is so very bad, that we have determined to give it up.

Friday 4. Alternate sunshine and heavy showers. Got a lot more Chrysanthemums done. M and the girls went into York Town and got there and back without any rain.

Saturday 5. After breakfast Ethel and I walked to the Village. Rackley and Robert did all the mowing and tidying up, and very well. At 3, M and the girls drove to the station. The latter walked back, and M brought Jane Woodcock home, and doing so, met with an accident in the lanes. A man on horseback backed into the carriage and did some little damage to it. His horse fell and he was thrown off but not hurt. I got up the tennis net and just as we were going to play Mr and Mrs Stilwell called and they played for about 20 minutes. Then Mrs Becher and Aimie came in, and stayed to supper, and we had more tennis. I walked home part of the way with them. On Thursday we supped with them. I have arranged with Rackley that he shall be our regular servant at 16/ a week, and I am going to try and make him into a gardner.

Sunday 6. A tolerably fine morning. No rain till 2 p.m. To School, and all our party to Church at 11. M and I stayed to H.C. and Fanny noncommunicating. Showery in the afternoon, but we all went to Church.

Monday 7. Raining till 9 or 10, after fine. After dinner M. took Miss W and F for a drive, to Fleet pond Elvetham and Eversley. It was a lovely afternoon and they greatly enjoyed the drive. After tea some Tennis.

Tuesday 8. Yesterday afternoon Ethel saw and Robert caught in the pea net a hen Grossbeak, a rare bird, particularly at this time of year. Mr and Mrs Sumner called just after, and I showed it to them. After let it go. Showery, some very heavy ones. M, Miss W. and F and E drove into York Town. Mr and Mrs Malcolm Murray called and stayed to tea. I put out the Croquet things, and Miss W., M. and I. had a game, but could not finish it on account of the rain. Fan and Ethel played Tennis.

Wednesday 9. Showery, but tolerably fine in the afternoon. Did not drive at all. We all went to Church in the morning. After dinner, M, Miss W and Fan and I had a game at Croquet, the two first against the two last. They won. We were all [...] After tea Fan and Ethel went to the Stilwells and had some Tennis.

Thursday 10. A beautiful day. At 2.45 we all went in the carriage as far as Darby Green, where I put down M, Miss W and Fan, and Ethel and I went on to Camberley, to Coll Hall's whence we brought home Mrs Hassard. The two Miss Shutes came to tea and we had Tennis and Croquet. At the latter Mrs Hassard and I played M and Miss W. and beat them by one hoop.

Friday 11. Another beautiful day. Fan Miss W and I to Church. After dinner I did a lot of gardening. M, Miss W and Mrs H. drove to Eversley, Sandhurst and the Ridges, and to Yateley Hall, which Mrs H. was very anxious to see. Fan and Ethel went to the Masons. After tea the four elders went to the bog behind Mrs Bechers, where Mrs Hassard was delighted with the botanical feast to be had there. The Drosseras were in millions, and the moss more beautiful than I have ever seen it.

Saturday 12. Weather changed again, more or less wet after 12 o'clock. At 10.30, M. took Miss W. and Mrs Hassard to their respective trains for Reading, the former 11.1, and the latter 11.59. Mrs Hs visit was very short but we enjoyed seeing her again and I think she was pleased. No going out or playing after dinner, but I did a good deal of potting.

Sunday 13. [All] three of us to early Celebration, then I as usual to Vicarage and School. M, Fan and Ethel went to Church at Sandhurst. We all went to Yateley in the evening. Mrs Rush not so well again. Some very heavy showers during the day.

Monday 14. More or less showery all day, very heavy at 6 p.m. Mrs Rumance and her little girl were to have come to dinner, but it was too wet. They came about 3. About 6, it set in again with violent rain so that M. offered them a bed, but about 1/2 past 7 they were able to start, and got home without rain.

Clapham

Tuesday 15. A dull morning, but little rain, which was fortunate (it had rained tremendously at day light). I had sent last night to tell Gomm to send a cab, if it was wet, but he sent back word that he should not be able, as they were all taken up for the College. Sent on two heavy boxes by Bull, and at 12. we all started, Fan and Ethel for home, we for Clapham. They parted at Redhill. At London Bridge I put M and the luggage into a cab and sent them off, and then walked into the City and got my hair cut, after which went out to Clapham by bus. Found Lucy looking pretty well, and Henry there. He had been for some days on a special jury at Westminster and was just returning to Harrow. We walked with him to the station, then up Clapham. William came in at 6.35 seeming only pretty well.

Wednesday 16. After breakfast M and I to Victoria and by bus to Charing Cross, to Water Colour Exhibition. Did not think very much of it, no very striking pictures. Then to Euston Square, where we only found Nelly at home. Had some lunch, and then to Maples, where we did a deal of business. Looked in at Shoolbreds stock

taking sale, but thought it a do. Cabbed to Lottes. Found her, Evie and their cousin Mrs Montgomery there. Had a cup of tea, then walked to Mortlocks, back to Euston and cabbed to Victoria and so home. After dinner I took my gold watch to Laws and left it to be cleaned.

Thursday 17. After breakfast to the Royal Academy. From Victoria found a new [course] of busses, the Royal Blue, running from the station yard to Oxford Circus, via Grosvenor Place, Picadilly, Bond Street &c. This was very convenient as we had to go to two shops in Picadilly. After seeing 3 rooms at the R.A. went to lunch and had only just sat down when John Lester came up. He was there with Mr and Mrs Gibson so we went across to their table and had a pleasant chat. We took Academy Notes instead of the regular catalogue, and so got over the work more quickly than we should otherwise have done, but I would not do this again, unless in a great hurry. One loses many pictures you would like to know what they are, without any great central picture (perhaps the finest thing there is Long's [Ether]). There are a great many above the average. After this we walked to Howell and James, and then cabbed to the Army and Navy and there Lucy met us. Got Maggie a new gold chain and did some other business and home. After dinner I went round and saw the Noads. Sophy is very unwell. She has now been ill for some months, and it is feared that she is going into a decline like her sister Flory.

Friday 18. Directly after breakfast to the Cooperative, where we had some more business to do. Then to 166 King's Road Chelsea to look at wall papers. Could not finish our work there, as we had promised to be back at lunch at 1.15. Sent off M. in time for this, but I followed by the next train, having to go to Williams office. At 3, William and I met at Wandsworth Road Station and went together to Putney. Thence drove to the camp at Wimbledon, where I had never before been. Saw a lot of shooting, which seen for the first time is very puzzling. The most amusing was the running deer. The views from parts of the camp are very beautiful, particularly when one looks into Richmond Park. We got home about 7. M had been to see the Noads. Only saw Mrs.

Saturday 19. Fanny Noad came in directly after breakfast and then we went back to Chelsea. Selected three papers, then cabbed to Oxford Street and did some shopping. Cabbed to Victoria and home by 1.45. After lunch, packed our things, and at 4.25, said goodbye to Lucy, after a very pleasant little visit, but like all our visits to London made fatiguing by having lots of work to do. Went to Charing Cross instead of London Bridge, so has to have less bustle, it being Saturday. Got home by 7.45, and found all well. Till today, it has been fairly fine since we left home. Today it rained smartly both in town and here, and now it is looking very like more heavy rain. I had hoped to have commenced hay making on Monday.

Yateley

Sunday 20. Rain in the night and extremely heavy with high winds from 4 till 9 a.m., after showery. M. so tired that she could not go to Church. I went to School as usual, and after to Church and Holy Communion. Heard that Mrs Rush was a good deal better. Miss Gardner's niece, who died the day before we left home, was buried yesterday. Very wet evening. I went alone to Church. Mr Hardy Little preached

Monday 21. Still wet, though occasionally fine. After dinner M. drove into York Town, taking Elizabeth (our cook) with her. While she was gone I took advantage of a few hours free from rain, and gathered all the strawberries that were ripe, enough to make 13 or 14 lbs of jam. At 7.30 we went to the School to hear Mr Hardy Little lecture on Scenes in the Black Country. Very interesting. After we sent the servants home and we went to supper at the Vicarage, where we spent an hour very pleasantly.

Tuesday 22. At 8.25, met Mr Little on his way to the station, and gave him two cucumbers. At work during the day on a net work covering for the raspberries, which are beginning to ripen but are taken by the birds as fast as they colour. Made a very good job of it. I went to Church at 10.30.

Wednesday 23. At last some appearance of fine weather, a really summer day. Finished our raspberry defence. At 4 Mrs and Miss Mason called, and when they were gone, we drove to Crowthorne to a garden party at the Caulfields. Stayed an hour. On our way home called at the Shaws. At 7, Rackley came and we smoked the conservatory, for which I had made preparations in the morning. After this Rackley went to try and get the mowers to come and begin work tomorrow.

Thursday 24. Mowers cannot come till tomorrow. Did a lot of work at the conservatory. I had Jennings to help me at finishing off the Chrysanthemums. Robert cleaned and mowed the Tennis court by himself, and after dinner Rackley mowed the front lawn. At 4.30, Miss Janet Shaw and her brother came to tea and Tennis. We played 3 sets.

Friday 25. Being a Saints day M and I went to early Celebration at Sandhurst. Began cutting hay. They commenced with the field next the road, a very heavy crop but terribly beaten and trodden down by the fowls, and so the mowers made slow work of it. Busy on arrangements of my potting shed. Have put in a lot of boxes, holding different kinds of earth. Elizabeths brother in law, a regular professed gardener, came to see her and I got some useful information from him. After tea syringed some of the peach trees that were getting mildewy, with sulphur and soft soap. Yesterday news was received of a great victory over the zulus. Ulundi taken and it and all the other great military kraals burnt. Loss on our side 1 officer and eleven men killed, 8 or 9 officers and about forty men wounded.

Saturday 26. Continued mowing. Not so fine a day as the last 3, cloudy with a few light showers. After dinner, M. drove into York Town and took Elizabeth with her to meet her sister, who was to come by the 3.41. train, but not appearing M. left Elizabeth at the station and brought back Miss Mason, whom she met on the road. Took her home, then came back and at 5, we went to a garden party at the Dumbletons. Rather showery.

Sunday 27. M and I to early Communion. I to breakfast at Vicarage. School, and after to Church. M went to Sandhurst. In the evening the whole family to Church. A fine day.

Monday 28. Finished the mowing and set on all the hands we could get at hay making. Had beautiful weather. M went into York Town at 3.50, and to station at 4.38 to meet Maria Maclean. While she was gone a telegram arrived to say that she

had missed the train at Caterham Junction. At 7, we drove to the station, found her boxes and she came at 7.15. It turned out that she had got out of her carriage at Caterham Junction to help out a nurse and a lot of children, and by the time she was ready to get in the train began to move ahead. She asked the porter to help her in, and he mistaking her wishes, jumped into the carriage and got out her wraps, umbrella &c. and so she was left behind, and had 2 1/2 hours to wait there and at Dorking.

Tuesday 29. Another lovely day. Work going on well, but we are promised another storm tomorrow evening from America. Hard at work picking fruit - raspberries, strawberries and currants. I had to be busy in the garden in the evening, watering everything as Rackley could not be spared from the fields. This year we are not giving any beer. We give plenty of cooling drinks, a good tea and beer money. I do not see that any of them bring beer in to the ground.

Wednesday 30. Another fine day. Maria Maclean and I went to Service at 10.30. After dinner had a waggon and two horses and got more than half the hay carried. Had we been able to get more hands we might have got it all up, but of course we are all busy together. By 7 p.m., it came over very cloudy and looked as if the American prediction was coming true. At 10 p.m., drizzling rain had begun.

Thursday 31. A stop to hay making. There has been more or less of fine rain during the night, and this morning heavy rain. The rain stopped about noon, and after dinner it became fine enough for M and me to go to the Randalls. At 5 p.m., we drove as far as Blissetts leaving the pony and carriage there. Miss Maclean went with us so far, and then to 5 p.m. Service. We had been asked to tea and Tennis. It turned out that we were quite alone, Mr Randall having thought that we should like that better than a regular party with a lot of people, and he was quite right. I played one game at Tennis with the young people, and after had a long chat with Mr R. and was introduced to his father, an old gentleman of over 90. M. had a great deal of talk with Mrs Randall, with whom she was much pleased.

August 1979

Yateley

Friday 1. My birthday. The past year has been in some respects an eventful one, upon which I look back with gratitude. More rain in night and early morning, but cleared up sufficiently to go on haymaking after dinner. At 4, I went over to the Stilwells and had a little very quiet practice at Tennis while M and Maria M. went round the district. On my return, I walked to Darby Green and met them. After supper played a game at Chess with M.M.

Saturday 2. A fine day. Got the hay making finished and all up on the rick and well protected with straw by [6] p.m.. By that time the weather had become very threatening, a few drops of rain and about 9 thunder in the distance, but up to the time of going bed nothing more than this. Yesterday morning Elizabeths sister left by the 8.40 train. Robert took her to the station in the carriage.

Sunday 3. An extraordinary night. Soon after 11, a tremendous storm, thunder and lightning, the latter the most continuous I have ever seen in this country. Heavy rain, violent wind, and hail, that sounded like pistol shots against the window. How long it lasted I cannot say, but it greatly disturbed ones nights rest. At daylight no rain, but dull and threatening. Very thankful to have got our hay up. Maria M. went with me to School and took Aimies class. M. came to 11 Service and we all stayed to H.C. M. and M.M. went to 3.30 Service at Sandhurst. They did not hear Mr Randall so went again in the evening, and I went with them. Mr R. preached.

Monday 4. Fine all day. Yesterdays storm seems to have been very severe in the neighbourhood of London, particularly about Richmond Twickenham and Isleworth, where the nursery gardens have been wrecked and acres of glass broken by the hail. After dinner, I went to see Lucy Parker, and then went to a garden party at the Stilwells. Played 3 sets at Tennis. Fine all day.

Tuesday 5. Yesterday Rackley cut a little grass in the park, to make a top to the rick. Today generally fine, with a few showers. Sent Nancy to be shod, not home till past 1. M. went to see Mrs Addison and found her so poorly, that I went in to give her some advice and medicine.

Wednesday 6. We all went to Church at 10.30. Weather as yesterday, fine with showers. Heard from Katie Stone that her father is dangerously ill, with heart disease, unable to move about at all, and dropsy has set in. Saw Mrs Addison in the middle of the day. After dinner we drove along the flats and to Eversley Church.

Thursday 7. Still rather showery. Mrs Becher dined and spent the rest of the day with us. Mrs Addison better. In afternoon M., M.M. and Mrs B. went into the Village together. Mrs Rush not so well. Got the rick thatched today.

Friday 8. No Service at our Church, Mr Sumner having suddenly gone off to Brighton on Wednesday, to give Mrs S. a little change, so we all went to Sandhurst at 10.30, and were present at the first ringing of the new bell which Mrs Dumbleton has

given to the Church, with a new clock. Mrs D. first rang the bell. It is a very nice toned one. In the evening Miss Mason and Miss Foreman came to tea.

Saturday 9. Fine all day. Had a great clearing up in the flower garden. After dinner M. and M.M. drove via Sandhurst to York Town, leaving me to call at the Rectory. I went to call on Mr R's father, but he left yesterday. Found Mr R at home, and had a talk with him about Fanny J. At 4.45, Mrs and Miss Dumbleton came to tea. Mrs Addison decidedly better today.

Sunday 10. A rather cold night, followed by a lovely day. All of us to early Celebration. M.M. breakfasted with the Masons, I as usual, then to Sunday School. M. joined us at Church. In the evening M and M.M. and the servants to Sandhurst. I to Yateley. After Service walked along the lane and met them.

Monday 11. A very fine day. After dinner we drove to Blackwater and I called to speak to Dr Denny but he was out. Then home. I gardened while M. and M.M. went for a long drive, to Fleet, Elvetham &c. The Miss Shutes called. I have been so troubled with toothache for some time past, that I have determined to go up to town tomorrow to be overhauled.

Tuesday 12. We all three drove to the station for the 2.40, by which I went to London. From Redhill had Mr Coplestone as a companion Got out at Cannon Street. Went first to Mitchells marble works in Upper Thames Street to look at chimney pieces. Then by bus to Elephant and Castle. Got something for Maggie at Tarns then to Newington Crescent. Mr West took out a fang of a stump, and prepared a tooth for stopping. Then I went onto Clapham calling at Laws and getting my watch. Found Lucy just beginning lunch. Spent 3 hours with her. Trammed to St Georges Church, walked to London Bridge. Looked out for Mr Coplestone, but did not see him. However I found him at Redhill, (he had been in the back part of the train) and we had a pleasant journey to Blackwater, where the ladies were waiting for me with the carriage. It was a lovely day, and altogether my journey was a success.

Wednesday 13. We took M.M. to the train at 8.38 and saw her off to Reading. Thence she was to go via Chester to Llanfairfechan. Then I saw Denny for a few minutes. At 10.30 we both went to Church. A very close sultry day. Just as we sat down to dinner a thunder storm came on with tremendous hail and rain. It did not last long. At 5, went to a garden party at the Randalls. A great many people there. There were light showers while there. We got home at a little before 7.

Thursday 14. Fine all day. Busy in garden &c. Did not go out at all.

Friday 15. Another lovely day. To Church with M. at 10.30. After dinner called on Mr and Mrs Luke, Mrs Blakeley's uncle and aunt who are staying at her house. She is away. At 5, Mrs Becher and her 3 grandchildren came to tea and we had some mild tennis. Aimie is not to return till the beginning of next month for she cannot get an escort till then, and they do not like her to cross to Liverpool alone.

Saturday 16. Heavy rain at night and showery till noon. At 5, to the Addisons, for a game at Tennis. Hardly anyone there.

Sunday 17. Very heavy rain in night and till 5 p.m. I went to Sunday School and M. came to Matins. It was so wet that my boys did not come to me in afternoon. We went to evening Service at Sandhurst as I wanted to speak to Mr Randall about young Fan, who is coming to us tomorrow, in order to see him and have some advice. So cold today that we had a fire all the afternoon.

Monday 18. Heavy rain again at night but fine after 7 a.m. Warmer. Sent out invitations for a garden party on Thursday next. In the evening drove into York Town and then met young Fan at the station, by the 7.15 train.

Tuesday 19. A dull foggy morning. Had Jennings at work and cleared a new Tennis Court, parallel with the permanent one. After noon there was heavy rain, but we managed to get the court cut, marked out (almost) and rolled. Rackley clearing and planting strawberries whenever he could do so. Rain continued till bed time.

Wednesday 20. Rain all night, held up about 10, when I drove Fan to Sandhurst. I hardly expected to have got along, but did so, with the step just under water. We went to Service and after I introduced her to Mr Randall and left her at his house. Went and sat with the Shaws till past 12, then to the Rectory and sat with Mrs Randall till 1.20, when Fanny having finished her conference we came home. Found the water still rising. Managed to get the new Tennis court finished, but things look anything but hopeful for tomorrow.

Thursday 21. Light showers with thunder all the morning. Cleared up after dinner and our party went off capitally, 4 Masons, Mrs Becher, Florie Shute, Mr and Mrs Murray, Dr and Mrs Russell, Miss Shaw and her brother, 3 Addisons, 3 Haynes. We kept the games going without cessation and very good they were. The rain kept off almost entirely till past 7, when it set in again. The Shaws had to come round by the ford and Darby Green and then had almost to wade.

Friday 22. Heavy rain again till 10.30, then fine. At 11.30 Fan and I went to Service, and home by Mrs Bechers. In the afternoon we all drove into York Town and also saw the new Chapel at the Military College. It is in the Byzantine style and not satisfactory. On our return M and Fan walked to Darby Green with some grapes for Lucy Parker. Elizabeth is very poorly with violent pain in the back and sides.

Saturday 23. Rain harder than ever, almost incessant till 4.30. At 12, took Fan to the station in a torrent of rain. At 6, M. took Elizabeth for a little drive on the flats, but was caught in the rain. E. very unwell at night.

Sunday 24. At last a fine day. M and I to early Celebration, but M. did not come to Matins as she stayed at home with Elizabeth. She is a little better than yesterday, but still very poorly. My boys did not come to me, as they had promised. M and I to Church in the evening. At bed time Elizabeth a good deal better.

Monday 25. Elizabeth continuing to improve. Weather pretty fair, one or two heavy showers. Busy till dinner cleaning the harness with some new American soap. Rackley preparing to put the cows in the lower fields. At 4, M and I to York Town.

Tuesday 26. Elizabeth has made no improvement today, so after breakfast I drove to Dr Dennys and had a talk with him, and at 1 o'clock he came in and had an examination of her. He thinks all the trouble depends on chronic enlargement of the liver. I cannot but think that there is some other complication. She had a slight return of sharp pain in evening but on the whole was better. There is so little hope of her being fit for work for some time, that I have been obliged to write and put off Mary and Mr Bromfield's visit sine die. They were to have come tomorrow, but I wrote yesterday to say come on Friday. It is very disappointing. Today put the cows onto the lower fields.

Wednesday 27. We were called up at 5 a.m. to Elizabeth who had nearly fainted on getting out of bed, but after this she was better, being freer from pain than any time since her illness began. Yesterday was very wet, but in the evening the glass rose and I hoped for a fine day. However it fell again in the night and now (10 a.m.) is raining heavily. Too wet to go to Church, and could do very little in the garden for it continued to rain all day - the worst day we have yet had.

Thursday 28. Wet again in the night and all the morning till noon. Still I thought it would clear off in the afternoon, and so it did. At five went to the Stilwells, where there was what was intended to have been a very large garden party. There were a good number, but many did not come. We played Lawn Tennis, though under difficulties the ground being very sloppy. The Halls were there. No less than four Bombay Wallahs met; Col. Hall, Major Waring, who was for some time principal Inspector of Musketry in the Bombay Presidency, Capt Durner Hon 8th who had been at [Nehow] and Indore, and myself. Maggie and I stayed to dinner, rather a large party. Major Waring is a cousin of Mrs Stilwells. He is trying to rent Malcolm Murrays house, (what was Barlows.)

Friday 29. Weather improving. Occasional showers. I went to Church at 10.30, but M. could not as she has too much to do with household affairs. She does all the butter making &c. After dinner we drove into York Town. Had one or two showers.

Saturday 30. Weather still better. Only one or two slight showers, otherwise quite fine. Elizabeth getting on pretty well. Dr Denny called to see her. Busy gardening in various ways.

Sunday 31. A lovely day, from morning till evening. M and I to early Celebration. I as usual to Vicarage and School. M did not come to Matins. We both went to Church in the evening when Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon on the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, as connected with the Eucharist. Since Friday we have taken on Emma Hilton regularly as kitchen maid, and when Elizabeth gets about again, she is to help Maggie with needle work, while Emma is {to} do the cleaning and scrubbing, as we think that for some time at least, Elizabeth will not be equal to much hard work. She is daily improving in health, but still very weak.

September 1879

Yateley

Monday 1. Splendid weather, but very cold nights. A regular white frost this morning. Therm. on front of conservatory 38. At Mrs Gibsons 35 in air, 30 on grass. After dinner M and I went to the Stilwells to call on the Warings, and then we both went to Darby Green I to see Lucy Parker and took some magazines for M. We called also at the Addisons and after tea M. took Mrs A. for a drive.

Tuesday 2. Another splendid day, not quite so cold at night 41. I went to a committee at the School at 12. After dinner Mr Coplestone called. We drove to Sandhurst, first Rectory, then Shaws, then Dumbletons - all out. Elizabeth came down to tea, the first time for 10 days, that she has been down stairs. Met Mr Deacon.

Wednesday 3. Went to Town by the 8.40. train and got to the dentists at 10.50. He took casts for some false teeth. At 12, got to Clapham. Lucy was out but by 1 p.m. she came in and with her Fanny Butt whom I was very glad to see, not having seen her for a very long time. After lunch we went altogether and called on Mrs Noad, who has taken a house in Gauden Road, the new road that has been made from the station to Union Road. [Met] the 5.13 train at London Bridge, and home punctually M. met me at the station. Just by Mr Kirchoffers we met Mrs Becher, who came to supper and we afterwards walked nearly to her house with her. While I was away in Town, Maggie took Rose to Reading to see Dr Wells, who had kindly offered to see her, instead of M. going with her to the hospital. He says that she ought to go into hospital for treatment for 2 months. A lovely day.

Thursday 4. A storm was expected today, one having been telegraphed from America as likely to arrive between 3rd and 5th. I think it must have gone to the Northward of us. It has been cloudy and p.m. very threatening. After dinner M and I drove into York Town and to Camberley, and when we got back M. took Elizabeth for a little drive. She is improving though not very fast. Has gone down a little each day since Tuesday. Yesterday made a cake and today a pudding.

Friday 5. Generally dull, glass falling. I went to Church at 10.30. After dinner (3.30), M. was just starting to take Elizabeth for a drive, when it came on to rain. Just at that moment Mrs and two Miss Shaws came in and stayed until the rain ended about 4.15. They are leaving Sandhurst next week, which we are sorry for. M. took Elizabeth out for a drive, and Genrl Addison came in, and we played 3 sets at Lawn Tennis all of which I won, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. In the second set Genrl A. was 4-1, and I scored 5 games in succession. Aimie Becher came home. I met her and Mrs B. at our gate as they returned from the station. At 12.30, I went to Mrs Bechers to see her servant who was sick.

Saturday 6. Dull morning after fine, with one slight shower at 11 a.m. Made a new hot bed to try whether we can get more cucumbers at this time of year. Very busy making cuttings of Geraniums. M. took Elizabeth for a drive. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in and had some tea with us.

Sunday 7. A dull threatening day with one or two light showers. To School at 10. M came to Matins and we stayed to Holy Communion, 58 people. I think I never saw so many except at some great festival. Both of us to Church in the evening. Bad news from Cabul. The troops (Afghan) and townspeople have risen against the Ameer and British Resident. I fear it will go hard with Major Cavagnari and his escort.

Monday 8. Got rid of a dozen old hens for £1, and the same man said he could bring me a customer for the pigs. After dinner Dr Denny came in to see Elizabeth. At 5, we went to a garden party at the Wyatts and after drove to York Town to get some things

Tuesday 9. M and I went up to Town by the 8.40 train. Got out at Cannon Street. Went to Mitchells Marble Merchants. Then by bus to Tarns, and then walked on to the dentists, where M had two teeth stopped and I had one stopped, and the plates fitted for dummies. We went to Clapham, but Lucy had gone to Hythe yesterday to stay with young Arthur for a few days. We lunched and then walked up Clapham, and at a little past 4, by bus to Tarns, where we picked up a chair we had bought there, and then on {to} London Bridge. This morning when we got to the station, a large force from Aldershot was stopped till our train had past. They were going to take part in a sham fight, behind the College. Today I had a ride in one of the new one horse tram cars, running between Clapham and the Dover Road. They have no conductor, each passenger drops his fare into a sort of glass box, which the driver cannot open, but he tilts up a sort of lid, and the money falls into a locked till. At the same time a number is shifted on a dial showing how many fares have been paid since it was set. There is only one fare, 3d, for long or short distances. The entrance door is quite under the control of the driver, who shuts it as soon as a fresh passenger comes in. He has a mirror in front of him to see who are in the car. These cars do not work either end foremost, like the big ones, but when they get to their journeys end, go upon a turn table and turn right round. The{y} carry no outside passengers and travel very fast.

Wednesday 10. A lovely day. M and I to Church at 10.30. Busy in the garden, cuttings &c. At 5 Miss Shaw and her brother came for a last game at Tennis as they leave Sandhurst tomorrow. We played 3 sets, Maggie and Harold Shaw against Miss S. and myself. They won the first 6-5, we won the next 6-0, and the 3 we won 6-5. We began another set and were 4-4, but it was too dark to finish. We are sorry that the Shaws are leaving Sandhurst. Heard this morning from Catie Stone that her father died yesterday morning. He died at 4 a.m., and she wrote to me at 5, the evening before he died. He expressed a wish that I should attend his funeral, which I shall do if possible.

Thursday 11. Heard from the undertakers at Bath, with the formal invitation to the funeral, but asking me to be at Grosvenor Place by 10.25. This is impossible, except by my going over night which I do not wish to do, as Mary and Mr Bromfield come to us tomorrow, and I should not like to be away while at night, while they are with us, but I have written to say that if there is any change in the time, they are to telegraph to me. Busy gardening, and trimming the ivy from the bedroom windows. After dinner M and Elizabeth drove into York Town.

Friday 12. A stormy morning with drizzling rain I went to Church at 10.30, and at 11.30, drove to the station, and went by the 11.59 to Reading. Went into the town to Suttons, Huntly and Palmers &c. Then to the station and got some lunch. Called on Dr Wells to thank him for his kindness. After I walked along the Oxford Road to look at the aunts old house. Just after passing Trinity Church, met Mr Hardy Little and his sister. They were house hunting for a brother, who is coming here as a curate. Walked back with them and saw them off by train for Windsor. At 3, the train came in with Mary and Mr B. and Warner, and we got off comfortably by the S.E. train. It began raining heavily as we left Reading. On arriving at Blackwater, Mr B and Warner went up home in a cab, while Mary came with me in the carriage. Found a telegram to say that Stones funeral would not be till 12, and I am expected. A carriage is to meet me at the station at Bath at 11.35 tomorrow.

Saturday 13. By the 8.45 to Reading, and on at 9.50 to Bath. Got to Grosvenor at 12, and the funeral took place immediately. It was a walking funeral and semimilitary, the pall bearers being eight of the officers of the Volunteer Battalion of which Stone was the surgeon. He was buried in the crypt of S. Saviours Church, and it was the first and I hope it may be the last time that I am present at a funeral in a crypt. After the Service, two Mr Smiths, a young clergyman and I lunched together, and then I went up into the drawing room and had a chat with [...] and Catie. I only saw Mrs Stone in the Church, but not to speak to at all. I fear the breach with her has been wider than ever of late. The girls seemed very much gratified at my going to the funeral. I left Bath by the 3.17 express. We were 10 minutes late leaving and were 35 minutes late at Didcot, where I had to change into a train to stop at Reading. The train did not leave Didcot till 6 instead of 5, and so we were only just in time for the 6.40. S.E. train. It was raining hard, so I had a fly from the station.

Sunday 14. M and I to early Celebration, and M. brought Mary and Mr Bromfield to Church in the carriage. After dinner they all went to 3.30 Service at Sandhurst, and I went to Mrs Bechers to see Aimie, as I thought her looking very unwell. Mr B. was too much tired with his walk and was not well in the evening. I went to evening Church alone. A very nice day.

Monday 15. A beautiful day. After dinner Maggie took Mary and Mr B. for a drive, and I went to a party at the Stilwells. Had three games at Tennis. It was only a quiet village party. When I got home found that Mr Bromfield was in a very excited state and upon his going up to his room he became so violent that we had to hold him down on his bed for some little time. For fear we should want any additional help in the night, M. went to Rackleys, to warn him that we might want him and after she went to the Stilwells to see whether she could get any ice. They had not any, but soon after Mr S. came over most kindly to see whether he could be of any use, and to remind us that if any trained assistant were wanted, one could be got from Broadmoor. We got to bed by 10.45.

Tuesday 16. Mr B. had a rather restless night, but no more violence, and is tolerably well this morning. After dinner I took him and Mary into York Town. We only stayed out one hour, and he had a very comfortable evening. I was busy in the garden whenever I could find time.

Wednesday 17. Mr B. pretty well. I went to Church at 10.30, and then shifted a large lot of Cinerarias. Yesterday morning Mr Stilwell came in to say that he was going to see a sham fight in the neighbourhood of Broadmoor, could he do anything for us there. So I asked him, if he saw Dr Orange the Superintendent, to say that if he could conveniently look in any day soon, I should be very glad. He sent word that he would call at 3 today, so a little before that he came, bringing with him his wife to call on Maggie. Mary had a long and very satisfactory interview with him, getting advice on the best way of treating Mr B. He was very kind, I offered him a fee, but he would not hear of it. Mrs O. seems a very nice person. After they were gone, I took Mary and Mr B. for a drive, to Wellington College, through the grounds, and home by Longdown and Sandhurst Village. After tea we were rather afraid that Mr B. was going to be troublesome, but he settled down all right. Music seems to soothe him very much.

Thursday 18. Mr B. had a good night. I was busy all the {morning} potting our cyclamens. It was no wonder that some had of the old roots looked so bad after blooming, the earth they were in was so utterly unfit. After dinner M. took Mary and Mr B. as far as lower Minley. I continued gardening. Mrs Coxhead called as also Mr Copleston. Mr B. was at first rather fidgetty, but calmed down and got through the evening all right.

Friday 19. At 5 this morning there was a tremendous shower. It lasted for about 1/2 an hour, coming down a solid mass of rain. All the rest of the day, it was fine, but very close. We have had the wind at NE nfor the last 4 or 5 days. I have had a toothache for the last two days. At 10.30 I went to Church. Yesterday news arrived, which is confirmed today that [Cavagnary] is captured. Busy making Fuchsia cuttings. At 3, M, Mary and Mr B. drove into York Town and I got things ready for a game at Croquet, but Mr B. was so very restless that Mary could not get the chance of playing.

Saturday 20. A foggy morning, but turned out a very fine day, the best we have had for a long time. Chitty came with his mowing machine and cut about 3/4 of the park, but he had to go away at noon. Very busy gardening. At 3, M. took Mary and Mr B. for a drive, and after took out Warner and Elizabeth. Mr B. pretty well all the evening.

Sunday 21. Fine all day, though not very bright. I to School M. brought Mary and Mr B. to Church and we all stayed to Holy Communion. M. went to 3.30 Service at Sandhurst, and I went to evening Service. Mr Bromfield has got through the day very well.

Monday 22. A lovely day with NW. wind. Got the mowing finished. Had Jennings, tarring outhouses before dinner after haymaking. It was rather difficult to get Mr Bromfield up, but we got off by 1.15, they in a fly, M and I in carriage. I went with them to Reading, and saw them off all right for Fladbury, and returned by the 4.15 train. M met me. It has been a very trying week since last Monday, for I could not help feeling very anxious, and have hardly left the house, after Mr B. was up, till last evening. I trust they will have got home all right.

Kenilworth

Tuesday 23. A great change in the weather, blowing and raining hard. However we managed to get to the station in our own carriage at 12, and when we reached, Reading the rain had ceased, and we went into the town and so got over part of the hour and a half we had to wait there. Left at 1.55, and got to Leamington punctually at 3.50 and Kenilworth at 4.30. Found Mrs Woodcock, Janie and Mrs [Patullo], also staying with them a Mrs and Miss Cope. Rain had set in again and it was a very wet evening.

Wednesday 24. Rain all day. Was very glad to get a letter from Mary by the first post. They had a very good journey home, meeting people they knew. Mrs and Miss Cope left at noon, as we could not go out at all. After lunch we played Bagatelle. Mrs Woodcock is much more feeble than when we were last here. Never comes down till 11 1/2 or 12, and does not come into the dining room at all to meals, but is the same sweet old lady as ever.

Thursday 25. A beautiful day. After breakfast I went with Tippings to see the cows and Janie's field, and then M, Janie and I went all round the garden and outhouses. The latter are beautiful. After lunch Janie, M and I drove into Leamington, leaving J. to do some business. M and I first called at the Leathes, but they were away from home, and then went to Perkins garden and looked all through the houses, and bought some plants, two Fuchsias, two Carnations and 3 Geraniums. While there a very heavy shower lasting only a few minutes. We then drove to Col. Woodcock's house and looked over the garden. He has got it into beautiful order, but Mrs J W. fancies that it does not agree with her and they are trying to sell it. Got a beautiful Fuchsia, the finest single one I have ever seen, John Gibson. Got home rather late. A rubber after tea.

Friday 26. A beautiful day. After breakfast J, M. and I to Church, after which we went to Janie's field to see her cows, which I do not much admire and which are I thought far too much under Tippings management. Then we went and looked over a garden just opposite the Firs, kept by a man named Sutton. Frank Gregory came to lunch, and at 3, Mrs [Patullo] and M went for a drive in Stoneleigh Park, while I walked about a couple of miles with Gregory on his way home. Janie and M. were to go to the Convalescent Hospital after the drive, and so I walked to the Village to try and meet them, but after waiting some time I called at the home, and sat talking with the Matron Miss Scale till they came. The home is very well arranged and kept in the most beautiful order. It has been at work since July 78. As they were unable to get a suitable house to rent, Janie bought a house and altered it so as to suit, at a cost of £1000, and lets it to the committee for £50 a year. The Matron is a young woman, very intelligent and energetic. To get a patient into the home a ticket costing £1.1, is necessary. This admits for 3 weeks and in addition 5/6 a week has to be paid, so the expense is 12/6 per week. Janie has been one of the chief promoters of it. It has already received 96 patients and is much valued.

Yateley

Saturday 27. After a very pleasant visit, during which everyone has been most kind, as they always are, we left at 12. Got to the station only just in time, left Leamington 15 minutes late, and got to Reading 20 minutes late, but just caught the 3.15. SE. train

and were at home by 4.10. Found them just finishing taking in the last of {the} hay in the park, about a ton. They have had much trouble in getting it dry, the mornings have been so foggy, that they could not do anything till after dinner. All well at home.

Sunday 28. Fine till 8 p.m. M and I to early Celebration. M. did not come to 11 o'clock Service. At 3.30 we went to 1st Evensong at Sandhurst and heard a sermon from Mr Randall on Psalm 84, 1 They kept the festival today instead of tomorrow. As we came home fell in with Mrs Becher, who came and had tea with us, and she and I went to evening Service. Mr Ditchfield read and preached as Mr Sumner was preaching at Sandhurst. Rain was coming on as we returned from Church.

Monday 29. M and I went to Church, it being the feast of S. Michael and all Angels. We meant to have gone to early Celebration at Sandhurst, but it had rained very hard in the night and was so damp in early morning, that we did not venture. After breakfast it was fine. Sent off Nancy at 9 a.m. to be clipped. She did not return till past 5. Harry Johnstone came at 1, having come from Waterloo to Wokingham and thence here. I was very busy taking up from the ground and potting Schizostyles and Deutzias. Capt'n and Mrs Colding, who have taken Yateley Lodge, returned our call. At 5, M and Harry walked over to the Dumbletons.

Sunday 30. A dull day, but only a few drops of rain. Had several little jobs in the house to do, and so could not do anything in the garden. After dinner M. Harry and I drove to Broadmoor and returned the Orange's call. Found Mrs O at home. After tea, began quilting a skirt for M. It will be a very long job.

October 1879

Yateley

Wednesday 1. Rain all night and drizzly till noon. From 3 p.m. very fine. Harry and I to Church. On my return found Dr Denny and with him examined Elizabeth. She has some anomalous symptoms that are very puzzling, supporting aortic aneurism, but nothing well defined. At 2.45, M and I drove into York Town did some shopping and then called at the McGregors who are living at Frogmore. They were out. Then we went to Mrs Bechers, whither Harry had gone at 3. I had two sets at Tennis, Flory Shute and Murray against Harry and me. We won one each. Played Bezique after supper.

Thursday 2. Brilliant sunrise but after showery till noon. After that fine till 8 p.m., then rain and after fine again. Very busy all the morning getting Tennis courts mowed and marked, and making other preparations for our party, which turned out a complete success. We began at 3, and kept it up as long as anyone could see. We had Masons (5), Sumners (3) Shute (1) Murrays (2) Golding (1) Bechers (2) Addisons (3) Stilwell (2) Kirchhoffer (1) Waring (1) Dumbletons (4), Turner and Tolman (2), Harry and ourselves,(3). Mr Ditchfield was to have come, but was sick. There were several first rate Gentleman's games, between Mr Sumner, Golding, Waring, Murray and Kirchhoffer. I only played one set, having plenty to do to keep things going. Maggie had a bad headache all day, but worked away in spite of it.

Friday 3. A fine day. We all went to Church at 10.30, and at 4.30 went to the Vicarage, where the annual School treat was being held. At 6.50, sent off Harry in the carriage, with Robert, to the station, and we went to dinner at the Stilwells, to meet Mr and Mrs Meyrick, the latter was Mrs [Lewin]. The Bechers were there, and one of the Wellington Masters by name Tebbs, Mr Meyrick is a particularly pleasant and intelligent man. He had a large school at Amesbury, but has retired from that and now has a small Rectory 4 miles from it. General and Miss Addison came in after dinner.

Saturday 4. A very fine day. Did a lot of gardening. Got up a good many of my Solanums. I have not room for all in the greenhouse. After dinner M. went to her district. Just at tea time Aimie came in with a book, so we made her stay and have tea and then I walked home with her.

Sunday 5. Very foggy morning but fine day. I went to School. M came to Church at 11 in the carriage, bringing Elizabeth with her, the first time E. has been at Church since 17 August. We and she stayed to Holy Communion. M. went to Service at Sandhurst at 3.30, and I went to our own Church in the evening.

Monday 6. A beautiful day. Got a lot of gardening done. After dinner M. took Elizabeth for a drive, to Eversley and over the ridges home.

Tuesday 7. Went to Town by the 8.40. Got out at Cannon Str and went to the Marble Warehouse and ordered a white marble chimney piece for the dining room. Then left Maggie at Brookes in the Boro' and went to the dentists. I had to wait nearly an hour,

and then it took an hour to fit my new teeth, so I did not get to Clapham till 2 p.m. Found Arthur and Bessie there at lunch. Maggie had been there some time. We returned from London Bridge by the 5.22. Had it fine all day.

Wednesday 8. Dry and cold and very dull. Wind continues East. M and I went to Church, and after that I went to Mrs Becher's to get some Verbenas. After dinner we drove to Camberley to call on the Halls. They were out, but we got some plants that Mrs Hassard had sent for us. Then we went to the Staff College, to enquire for Fred Hutchinson, and found that he is on an acting appointment in the Staff College, but his tenure is so uncertain that he has not brought his wife and family with him. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea and supper and played Bezique.

Thursday 9. Face very uncomfortable, from my new teeth and also cold. A dull raw day. Very busy in the garden. M. for a short time in her district.

Friday 10. Face continuing very painful. To Church at 10.30. Doing a lot of work in the garden.

Saturday 11. A very foggy cold morning. At 8.40, to town. Fog thick a great part of the way, 20 minutes late at London Bridge. Went to the dentists - walked all the way. Mr West made the false teeth fit much more comfortably, but would do nothing for the one that was paining so much. I then went on to Lucys, where I met Polly and the Arthurs, and was rather easier. Left London Bridge at 5.26, and was at Blackwater most punctually.

Sunday 12. Had not much of a night, but as I did not feel in much pain we went to early Celebration, and I to Vicarage, School and Matins as usual. Walked home with Mrs Willis, who has come down to sing at the Stilwells great musical party tomorrow. After dinner I did not go out at all. Mrs Willis came in to see Maggie and M. went to evensong. When she came back, I was in such pain that she put me on linseed poultices to my face. We are living in the bedroom behind ours, Maggie, while I was away on Saturday, having got everything ready for the workmen to begin on the dining room tomorrow. The new chimney piece arrived on Friday. Mrs Golding is very unwell, Dr Denny says with Typhoid Fever.

Monday 13. Had a wretched night. A good deal of fever and great pain, and of course M could get very little sleep. Masons at work setting new chimney piece and Gale taking off old paper and scrubbing paint and ceiling. I had my breakfast in bed. Got up about 11, face so bad that I sent a note to catch Dr Denny at the Goldings, and he came in about 4 o'clock. Of course we had to send and decline the Stilwells. Mrs Becher and Aimie came up to see me. Tried the poultices again at night. Last night Maggie got up in the middle of the night to repeat them.

Tuesday 14. Pain very bad till midnight. After rather easier, but so feverish that I both lay awake myself, and disturbed M. very much. Lay in bed till Dr Denny came about 11.30. Was very uncomfortable all day, though pain not so intense. People very kind in coming and sending to enquire. Mrs Rush, Stilwells Mr and Mrs Sumner (sent me some beautiful grapes). Feeling a little better in the evening.

Wednesday 15. Heavy rain for a short time last night. Had a better night, less fever. During the night there was some discharge from the abscess and this continued all day. Dr Denny came about noon and I got up at 1, feeling very decidedly better. After dinner M and Elizabeth drove to Mrs Bechers and into York Town While they were gone Mrs Stilwell and also Mrs Becher called. About 3 p.m. copious discharge, giving very great relief.

Thursday 16. Had a delightful night. No pain, only swelling and stiffness. A fine day, following a sharp frost at night. I went out for a little bit into the garden. Dr Denny did not come at all.

Friday 17. Continuing to improve, but swelling goes down very slowly. Was out in the garden several times. Another sharp frost last night. All the French beans and marrows are cut, also geraniums, nasturtiums, Lobelias &c in the garden. Mr Mason called as also Mr Sumner.

Saturday 18. Consider myself off the sick list. Went to Church, it being S. Lukes day, and did a lot of work in the garden, potting cinerarias and trimming chrysanthemums.

Sunday 19. To S School and Matins. Stayed to Holy Communion. M. went to Sandhurst, as did Mrs Becher and Mrs Pennington, so after Service Aimie B. and I walked down the lane to meet them. At 4, I went to the Addisons, to thank Mrs A. for some very nice grapes she sent me last evening. Aimie came to tea with us intending to go to Sandhurst, but hearing from Rose that Mr Randall preached at 3.30, as well at 11, we all three went to Yateley - and had a very wet walk there. Fine when we returned. I took Aimie home. Heard this morning from Arthur that Lucy's cook was taken ill on Thursday night with spasms of some kind and died on Friday afternoon. I am much afraid that the shock and the fatigue may upset Lucy very much.

Monday 20. Had a woman (Mrs Whatmore) at work making up new carpet for the drawing room. It took M and me some time to fit and cut it out. Gale finished his work of painting and papering on Saturday and very nice it looks. After dinner Rackley and I did a lot of potting, cinerarias &c Every appearance of a frost.

Tuesday 21. No frost. After breakfast I went to Bunch's to see whether he had set to work on a new window we have ordered for the back bedroom, and which we hope he will get in this week. Rackley cutting up the old hay rick. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in before dinner to say goodbye as they are going away for a fortnight. With Elizabeths help, which has been great, the sewing of the carpet was finished by 3.30. I did a little gardening but not much, as most of my time was taken up in fitting new blinds in drawing room.

Wednesday 22. A very hard days work. Directly after breakfast Rackley and I set to work at laying down the carpet, and worked without ceasing as long as we could see, but still leaving a good deal to be done. M. drove into York Town, taking Elizabeth with her. Weather very warm. I was very tired at night.

Thursday 23. Again hard at work on the carpet which we finished by about 3 p.m. and made I think, almost a perfect job of it. It looks very nice. Got the bookshelves

up and books in their places. Got up new window blinds in drawing room as well as dining room. M. went into York Town before dinner to get some more horse hair to finish our mattress which has been pulled to pieces. Had Jennings at work clearing plants out of the beds.

Friday 24. Before breakfast Bunch's people arrived to put in the new window, so we had a great scramble to empty the room. Breakfasted in the dining room for the first time since Saturday 11th. Had Jennings at work and got the asparagus bed done up for the winter, and a lot of other work. The window was fixed and scaffolding down again by 4.30. M and I decided to try whether the writing table in the spare room would not do in the dining room window, so moved it down, and I think it will be a great improvement. Yesterday and today I have put in my lower teeth for some hours without pain. I went to Church at 10.30. Weather very warm and close.

Saturday 25. Had a busy day in the garden. Got up all I wanted to save from the beds, and stowed them away safely. Worked all day. M drove into York Town, taking Elizabeth with her. At 4.30 Col. Dumbleton called, and after having some tea I walked with him as far as the bridge. The water out in Sandhurst Lane. After tea I worked hard at putting up old newspapers in bundles to be stowed away in the man's room.

Sunday 26. A white frost. M and I to early Celebration then I to Vicarage and Sunday School. M. came to Matins. Bothered a great deal by the little pigs getting into the kitchen garden. We went to Sandhurst in the evening, but did not have the pleasure of hearing Mr Randall preach.

Monday 27. Began whitewashing ceilings and papering the bedrooms, commencing with the back spare room. I picked our crop of pears, a great many, but they are not ripe yet. I looked over all my geranium cuttings, and took off all dead leaves. After dinner M and I called at the Dumbletons Sumners, Mrs Rush and Masons. At the last found Mr Middletons curate, Mr Young and his sister, who had walked from Camberley, so gave them a lift back as far as Frogmore.

Tuesday 28. On putting up the new paper found a most extraordinary and unpleasant optical delusion, viz, that it looks as if the paper were hung all on a slope, and yet it is not, and the pattern is quite square. It is provoking. Got in a truck load of coals. Chitty carted it in from the station, and Rackley and Robert stowed it into coal house. It was all done before 5 p.m. At 3.20, M and I drove into York Town to do some business. It being SS. Simon and Jude, I went to Church at 10.30, but M. could not, because of her butter.

{Marginal note: Coals 6 1/2 tons}

Wednesday 29. A very dull day, with drizzling rain. ASfter breakfast M. went to Church and I took Nancy to be shod, and then met Arthur by the 11.59 train and brought him home. Took him back to the station for the 3.45. At 4.30, Mr Ditchfield called. Began papering the best spar bedroom.

Thursday 30. Finding that the paperers would be wanting work before evening, we set to work and cleared our own bedroom and moved into the back spare room, which looks very nice now with its new window. I had Jennings at work in the garden, and

root pruned some and manured others of the pear and apple trees at the bottom of the garden. There is still so much doing indoors that I can as yet do very little of greenhouse work.

Friday 31. A dies mirabilis. When M. went after breakfast to make the butter, she found that Elizabeth had already made it. This is the first time she has done so since the 22d of August. M and I to Church at 10.30. In the evening (at 7,) M and I to Sandhurst, there being a Service on the Eve of All Saints. Had a short but beautiful meditation from Mr Randall. His text was Wisdom III,v,1 "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God. It is a universal desire of the human mind to know what those dear ones, who have left us are doing. In this verse, though we cannot claim inspiration for it, we find summed up all that we are told in the inspired books as to the condition of the souls of the righteous. Should it not lead us to love God more intensely ourselves, when we see how He loves those whom we have loved so dearly. Should we not trust Him more entirely when we know how He has dealt with our dear ones.

November 1879

Yateley

Saturday 1, All Saints. M and I to early Celebration at Yateley. We did not go again to Church, for there was so very much to do at home. The paperers finished their work by 1 p.m. At 3 M drove into York Town taking Elizabeth with her, and on the way she left several of the Parish Magazines in her district. While she was away I got a good deal done in our bedroom, and by supper time it was all ready and we moved back into it, to our very great comfort. Yesterday afternoon I went to see Lucy Parker, whom I had not been able to see for a long time. On my way, I met Edgar Thrift with a note asking me to go and see his mother, so I went there first. Then sat with Lucy P. for 20 minutes.

Sunday 2. A sharp frost last night, or rather this morning, followed by a beautiful day. I went to School and Church and stayed to Holy Communion M. went to Sandhurst, as she had to see Miss Dumbleton. About 4 p.m. Coll Hutchison (Fred H) came in and stayed with us till we had to start for Church. He is very pleasant and intelligent. It is decided that he does not remain at the College. Heard from Fanny J, asking to come next Saturday. Young Fan and P[.] start for Cannes on Tuesday. Yesterday we heard from Mrs Coulcher, asking us to go to them so as to be there on Monday 17, to hear Brandram read the "Tempest". This would be a very great treat, but as I expect Beauty to calve about the 15th, I do not like to be away at that time, so we have written to say that we will go as soon after that date as we possibly can.

Monday 3. Lighted the greenhouse fire for the 1st time yesterday afternoon, but there was not any frost. Had a busy day, both in the house and garden. Potted 20 of our old pelargoniums. About 5, Major and Mrs Waring called. She looks very ill.

Tuesday 4. At work till dinner time planting all my pot bulbs. Got them all done, about 40 pots. After dinner M and I drove into York Town and on our way home called at Mrs Gibsons.

Wednesday 5. A lovely day. NW wind. M and I to Church at 10.30, and on our return, she went into her district and I went to see Mrs Thrift, and also to Chittys. After dinner at work on the house. Did nothing in the garden.

Thursday 6. Busy in the garden, getting in crocuses forget me nots, primroses &c, both Rackley and Robert working with me. A fine day. In the house we have nearly got everything straight again after all the upsetting we have had for the last 3 or 4 weeks, and certainly the rooms look much the better for what has been done. Piano tuned yesterday.

Friday 7. No frost, very fine day. M and I to Church at 10.30. Sent Nancy to be clipped. She was not back again till 5 p.m. Rackley busy on front borders, I potting Ixias and Sparaxis and other jobs.

Saturday 8. A mild night, hazy all day. At 11.30 we drove into York Town, going by the lanes, that I might see Mrs Thrift. At 12.36 to the station to meet Fanny, who

came from Hampton via Wokingham. Then home through Blackwater Fair. There seemed a good supply of beasts, but not a very brisk trade doing.

Sunday 9. M and I to early Celebration (F. went to Sandhurst, not to communicate). The Bishop of Guildford celebrated, and at Matins he preached a very good sermon for the S.P.G. M and F went to Sandhurst. Fred Hutchison came to Church and spent the rest of the day with us. After dinner he and I took a long walk on the flats, then he went to evening Church and came back to supper. The Bechers came home yesterday.

Monday 10. Our "quiet day" instead of a regular Harvest Festival. It commenced with early Celebration, at which 36 were present. I breakfasted at the Vicarage. At 10.30 a Service taken chiefly from the Communion Service, with meditation and silent prayer. M and Fanny came to this, and there was a very good attendance. We all went again at 4 p.m. when there was short Evensong and an address by the Bishop of Guildford. This was more specially intended for educated people. A good many from the neighbourhood came - Canon and Mrs and 2 Miss Randall, 3 Majendies, Mrs Beauchamp and friend, the Wyatts, 3 McGregors, Gordon Wickham, Gibsons, Miss Tipping and all our own people. Several of the poor. At 8 p.m. there was a full choral Service with Anthem, this being the distinctly festival part of the day. We did not go to this, being all of us tired, and it being Fanny's last evening.

Tuesday 11. Had a great surprise. Was called about 1/4 to 7, Beauty having calved, 4 days before expected. At 10.20, M took Fanny to the station. After dinner she and I drove into York Town, taking Aimie Becher with us. Cow going on all right. Had men at work pointing with cement the wall in kitchen garden.

Wednesday 12. Beauty all right so far. M and I to Church at 10.30. Beautiful bright day but cold NW wind. Got in the remainder of my out of doors bulbs. After dinner drove to Hartley Row to select some fruit trees from Shillings. Very cold. Began fires regularly in greenhouse.

Thursday 13. Frost, very slight. A lovely day. Beauty going on all right. Got in two loads of fern for litter. About 2.30, Mr Randall called and sat with us for some time. I walked with him as far as the church (he was going to Firgrove), and M. drove with Elizabeth into York Town. A very cold evening. Heard from William this morning that he will come to us on the 22d. Fred Hutchison has promised to spend the next day with us as last Sunday.

Friday 14. Very hard frost, fine all day. M and I to Church at 10.30. Busy in greenhouse. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea and supper. Then up late packing.

Ipswich

Saturday 15. Colder even than yesterday. Drove to the station for the 10.41 train and went to Cannon Street, 1st class. On arrival took our luggage to Liverpool Street, and left them with a porter. Had some lunch at Purcells in Cornhill and then walked down Victoria Street (Queen) and back to the G.E. station by 2.30. Got very good 2d class carriage and with foot warmer were very comfortable. Reached Ipswich at 4.30 and in 10 minutes were ensconced at the Coulchers. A very cold night, freezing hard.

Sunday 16. Mary M and I to early Celebration (8 a.m.) at the Tower Church. At 11, we all went with Mrs C. to their Parish Church, St Margarets. There it is very low, black gown &c. At the Tower rather high. A friend Miss Masters came in to tea, and at 7, she, Mary, M and I, went to a Church on the other side of the river S. Mary Stoke, where they had a harvest festival. Home by 9 p.m. Not nearly so cold.

Monday 17. A fine day. About eleven, we went into the town with Mary, and saw a few of the lions - there is not much else to see. Back to lunch at 1.15, and after went out again for a short time. Dined at 6.30, and at 8 to the Public Hall to hear Brandram read. The play was the "Tempest". We had never heard him before and it was a great treat. He certainly reads (or rather recites, for he has no book) magnificently. The way in which he keeps the characters distinct was wonderful. His face and action too is most expressive. The first scene between Prospero and Caliban was very powerful, but perhaps the cleverest of all was that between Caliban, Trinculo and Stephano when Caliban is leading the other two to try and murder Prospero. Miranda was not so good as the rest. I was greatly surprised at finding him so much older than I had supposed. He must be at least 58.

Tuesday 18. After breakfast Mary went to the Tower Church to practice on the organ, and at 11, we met her, and then walked to what is called the Upper Arboretum, why so I hardly know, as it is little more than an ordinary public garden. There Mrs C. met us. After lunch Mrs C and M. and I and Mary went to Ransome Simms and Head's great factory for agricultural implements and were shown all over the works. It was very interesting, at least to me. I am afraid rather tiring to the ladies. Miss Masters dined with us.

Wednesday 19. The last two days have been beautiful, and today fine till the evening. We all went to Matins at the Tower Church, where Mary played the organ, after which we all went to Gilberts nursery garden, a very poor affair, and then to the cemetery, very large, well kept and beautifully situated. Dined at 1 p.m. In the afternoon M. and I went into the town to try and find a present for Mary it being her birthday, but could not get anything suitable. In the evening Mary went to a choir practice. I have a nice task before me for tomorrow. Mrs C. is most anxious to go to the reopening of the Church at Wattisfield about 25 miles from them, and it involves starting very early and returning late, and Mary cannot well go, as she has a Lady's Ambulance class of which she is the secretary, tomorrow afternoon so I have offered to go with Mrs C.

Thursday 20. Called about 5.40. Had a cup of coffee in my dressing room. We cabbied to the station and started at 7.5, a cold raw morning with sleet. Went by the Norwich train as far as Haughley Junction. There we changed carriages, which we ought not to have done, and Mrs C. did not discover her mistake, till we got to the first station and found that we were at Elmswell on the Bury line, and 6 miles from Finningham where we should have alighted. No possibility of getting there by train till past 11, so took a fly and drove across to Finningham, where we had a wretched breakfast, and then started for a 7 mile drive in a very cold vehicle, a small wagonette with a top to it. It came on to snow heavily. We only reached Wattisfield just in time to go into Church, 11.30. The Bishop of Ely was there and preached an excellent sermon from Revn.22,17, "And the Spirit and the bride say Come. And let him that

heareth say Come"&c. There was a Celebration of H.C. but I did not stay to it. I meant to have looked round the village, but found it snowing so heavily, that I had to take shelter in the church porch. When the Service was over we adjourned to the Parish School, where we had a capital lunch. 60 or 70 people, and I got a seat next to an elderly clergyman named Gray, who was very pleasant. Then we went to the Rectory and had tea and coffee and at 3.15, started again on our very cold drive. Near to Wattisfield are two churches under one incumbent, Upper and Lower Rickinghall, the latter peculiar from having a round tower. This figured in Pettits book. We got to Ipswich at 6, and home 10 minutes later, just in time to dress for an evening party, a lot of people coming to tea and Shakespear. We read Coriolanus, the principal part being taken by Mr Vulliamy (Fanny's trustee), by no means an attractive looking person. The reading was not well managed. We read from the usual editions without any curtailment, and consequently when we got towards the end of Act 3, we had to omit whole scenes, or we should hardly have finished by midnight. As it was we did not get to bed till past 11, and then M and I had to pack up for a start tomorrow, the prospect of a pleasant day for travelling being very slight.

Yateley

Friday 21. Had all ready in good time, and left at 10 a.m., and the station at 10.20. Snowing all the time. Got to Liverpool Street at 12.15, cabbied to Charing Cross and left [our] goods in the cloak room. Then cabbied to Carters in Oxford Street, and got some boots each. Were told of a place to lunch at, the Blenheim in New Bond Street, and found it very good. Then we cabbied to Maples, and got some curtains, then walked to 24 Gordon Square, Elizabeths new house, expecting to find them getting settled, as they were to have moved in on Monday last, but they did not begin moving till yesterday and had made bad progress. At 4 p.m. today there was not a bed up, and yet they had to sleep there. We saw Elizabeth for a few minutes looking fagged. Mary is away at a friends during the moving. We then went back to Charing X and went down by the 5.12, train, going first class and with a good foot warmer we were very comfortable. At Guildford Mrs Gibson got into our carriage, which was very opportune, for on Thursday (yesterday,) M. had received a letter from her, inviting her to join a drawing class. Naftel is to come down and give lessons to six pupils for £5.5, each time, and now M. was able to hear the latest arrangements. He proposes to take 3 ladies for 2 hours, and 3 others for a like time, so as to give more individual attention. This is very liberal and the terms very moderate. The 6 ladies will be 2 Miss Connops, 1 Miss Wyatt, 1 Miss Gibson, 1 Mrs Mills, 1 Mrs Stilwell. We found a cab ready at Blackwater and got home by 7.45. All quite well, the house looking most comfortable and we very glad indeed to be at home again. The snow pretty deep.

Saturday 22. A little snow in the morning, after bright sunshine and thaw. M. went into the Village about 3 and found the roads dreadful. At 4.30, William arrived, nearly an hour sooner than we had expected him, having come to Camberley, instead of Farnboro'. It is more than two years since he has been here.

Sunday 23. Sharp frost again, fine day, thawing only in the sun. I went to School as usual. In consequence of Mr Sumners being away there was no early Celebration. M, William and Hutchison came to Church and we all stayed to HC. Mr Ditchfield officiated, but there was no sermon. At 3.30 M. went to Church at Sandhurst, and W,

H and I, walked as far as the Flats. In evening M stayed at home, and we three gentlemen went to Sandhurst and heard an excellent sermon from Mr Randall, (who had also preached at 3.30), from S. Luke II.25,26, "And behold there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon" &c. Hutchison came back to supper, after which we said goodbye, as we shall not be seeing him any more. He leaves Sandhurst on Dec 3, and will not return after this vacation, which we are very sorry for, as it would have been very pleasant to have had him near.

Monday 24. Very little frost and at day light a cold thaw which lasted all day, hazy and raw. William left us at 10.50, for Camberley, having I hope, enjoyed his little visit. M and I busy all day in various ways about the house. Rackley getting on with a pigstye.

Tuesday 25. But little frost. At work in shop and greenhouse. M. hard at work in the latter. At 6, went to the Bechers to tea and supper. Raining hard from 7 to 8, after fine.

Wednesday 26. We went to Service at Sandhurst, there being none in our church. Had Jennings at work. Got all the onions strung. Getting on well with the stye. Sold the calf for £1.1. Mrs Becher and Aimie and Miss Galindo came to tea. Mrs B. and M. played some duets, and we had some Bezique. Mrs Stilwell is getting up an ambulance class.

Thursday 27. Hard at work all day in garden. Had Jennings. Took up 2 dozen roots of seakale and put in pots in the greenhouse, and covered up all in the ground, but I am afraid that what we got from Shilling last year will not do much, it is still so very small. I planted crocuses and also took up and potted 3 lots of Christmas roses. After dinner M and Elizabeth drove into York Town.

Friday 28. Frost. At 10.40, drove to Mrs Gibsons to take M. to her first lesson from Mr Naftel. I left her there and went to station, then home by the lanes calling to ask about Mrs Thrift. Busy in garden and workshop. Got the roof of pigstye finished, tarring and all. Maggie came home from her lesson with Mrs Stilwell and was most pleased with it. After 4, M and I walked into the Village, to Gadds, Bunch's and the Butchers. Got in 5 sacks of grain.

Saturday 29. Not so cold. Indeed it was comparatively mild till sunset, when it froze hard again. Busy at carpentering chiefly. Dined at the Stilwells. Besides ourselves there were Major and Mrs Waring, Miss Mason and Mr Boys, architect, who is staying there.

Sunday 30, Advent and St Andrews Day. A very sharp frost. M and I. to early Celebration, I to the Vicarage where I met Captn and Mrs Utterton. Mr Sumner tells me that at Barrston, where he has been for his holiday it has been much colder than here. He was skating on Thursday, and it was only the snow that prevented skating any time for the last 10 days. It was very deep there. I went to School and Church. M. went with Elizabeth to Sandhurst. After Service the Stilwells came in to see the chrysanthemums. M and I went to Church in the evening. Freezing all day.

December 1879

Yateley

Monday 1. Very sharp frost again. Made many attempts to light the Roberts Stove in my shop, and at last succeeded. Went out before dinner to look at the ice. Found that in the pond by Rackleys it would bear, though bending a good deal. One of Mr Kirchoffers young men was skating there this morning. On Friday I wrote to Sr W. Jenner to ask him whether he would see a servant of ours and I heard from him yesterday, fixing tomorrow, so Maggie is going to take Elizabeth to him, as we are very anxious about her health. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in the afternoon. They are in a great state of excitement, having heard of the arrival of her son Captn. Becher from Afghanistan. He reached London on Saturday.

Tuesday 2. All up early. I took M and Elizabeth to the station at 8.40. Intensely cold. My [hands] a mass of ice, but they had the hot water bottle for their feet and I had sent to the Station Master to ask him to get a footwarmer sent from Reading. At 10.30 I went to Church. at 12.30, to the Stilwells pond, Mr S. having kindly sent me word that the ice was strong enough. I did not skate, but went on to the Bechers and fitted Aimies skates for her, a long job. When I got home, had a telegram from Maggie, to say that Sr W Jenner could not see her till 1.15 and so she did not expect to get home till the 7.15. I drove to the 4.41 in hopes she might have been able to come by that, but she did not. Found that the frost had got into the frame where my young stock of cinerarias are and I fear it will have done for them. Brought them up into my shop, where the stove is acting famously and keeping up a gentle warmth.

Wednesday 3. Another very cold night. Had Chitty with 2 carts, drawing out manure. M and I to Church at 10.30 (M and Elizabeth returned by the 7.15 train, having had a successful day. Sr W. Jenner cannot find anything physically wrong with E. Says positively that there is not aneurism, as Dr D. thought possible. M. did some good business in getting some very nice curtains in lieu of what we bought from Maples 10 days ago, and she also saw Lottie). At noon I went to the Stilwells pond and had some skating. Got on very fairly, the ice is not good, being covered with dead leaves, that have frozen on to it, and also being much broken up by the swans. I had intended to go into the district, but was prevented, so went to the pond again about 4 and had 3/4 of an hour. Captn Becher has arrived. Yesterday Mr Sumner and his brother in law Captn Utterton went to Fleet pond, where they found the ice splendid. Today, at Sandhurst the band played on the ice, and they were to have a bonfire. The glass falling and wind rising at night.

Thursday 4. Not quite so cold to the Therm but a high wind blowing. Finished getting out the dung before dinner. At noon I went and called on Major Becher, and then had 3/4 hour skating. After dinner, went to see Lucy Parker. She gets weaker each time I see her, but may live some time yet. Blowing hard from N E all the afternoon. At 7, M. and I and Elizabeth to Church. The sermon was preached by Revd A. Majendie, and was a good one, the text Revn. xx, part of 12 verse, "And the books were opened, and another book was opened which is the book of life. The two first books were the Book of the Law (of God) or the Bible, and the second the Book of God's remembrance. Not many at Church, but it was a very bitter night.

Friday 5. The lock of the dining room door got out of order, and while at breakfast, we found ourselves shut in. I had to get out at the window, but while at my shop getting some tools, Maggie most luckily got it open. Found the lock broken. Had the carriage and tried to get a new one at Lunns but could not, however Davis mended the broken portion, and sent it up by Bull. Busy after I came home, thawing the small pump. It was a long and troublesome job. After dinner there was a little snow. When it was over, I went to the Stilwells pond found no one there, so skated by myself till nearly dark. Met Mrs Becher and Aimie and her brother at the gate, who came in and sat a little while. Weather milder, snow between 8 and 9. At 9 Therm. 35.

Saturday 6. No frost last night. A most lovely day, sun quite warm. M and I to Church at 10.30. At 12.15, I went to the pond and skated till 1.15. Major Waring there. The surface of the ice quite soft from last nights warmth and the sun's heat. Ice much spoiled by last nights snow. At 3.30 I went again and had a good skate. Aimie Becher, Edie Tringham, Miss Forman and the Warings and Stilwells there. The Masons and Mr Sumner go to the lake at the College. Mrs Becher and Aimie came back to tea and I walked home with them.

Sunday 7. The coldest night we have yet had. My Ther. 18, Mr Stilwells 11. During the day it clouded over and got warmer. I to S. School as usual M. came to Service at 11, and we stayed to H Communion as did Elizabeth also. We both went to 3.30 Service at Sandhurst and heard a short but excellent sermon on Rom. xv,4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." The chief subject was patience. As we came out spoke to Mrs Scott. Heard from her that Mrs Dumbleton had been very ill again, and as we walked home we met Coll. D. who had been to see us. He walked back with us as far as the Royal Oak, and then I went back with him to the bridge. He told us that his mother is so terribly distressed at the death of a grandson, a young doctor, who went out to India 9 months ago, and died in October at the foot of the Shutergurdan pass. The truth is he shot himself, but she has not been told this. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea and we all went to Church together. Mr Sumner preached upon quite a novel text, 1 Cor. xvj,22, Maran-atha which he told us, is not as commonly supposed merely an intensification of the preceding word, Anathema, but means The Lord cometh. The temp higher, only just freezing.

Monday 8. Quite a warm night, and thawing slightly all day till 4 p.m. At 11.30 I went to the pond, and had some pleasant skating. Did not go again in the afternoon, but M and I went to Church at 4 p.m. Heard from Lester that he is going to Winchester today, so wrote to ask him to come to us on his way home.

Tuesday 9. Very cold night again. To Church at 10.30, and then I walked across the fields to Sandhurst. First called on the 2 Curates, and found them both at home. Then on to the Dumbletons, to call on Coll. D. Saw him and the old lady, and Miss D. Mrs D. looks terribly shaken. Yesterday she was very poorly again, with constant drowsiness, but today was better, and seemed quite pleased to see me. Miss D. is far from well. After dinner I went to the Stilwells and had some skating. No one there but Miss Forman, Major and Mrs Waring and their children. All the rest had gone to the College. A very thick fog came on about 4. At 6, M. and I with Rose, went to

Church, to Mr Sumners second instruction on Holy Communion. The subject was, Preparation and Self examination.

Wednesday 10. A mild night and slow thaw this morning. At 10.30, got a telegram from Lester to say that he would be at Farnboro (SW), at about 1. I had sent the pony yesterday to have her winter shoes on, but could not get them done, Davis was so very busy. At 12, started hoping that as it was thawing I might get along without roughing. Got on as far as the top of the dip at Hawley, where I met a carter, who told me the road was dreadfully bad near Farnboro', so I turned down the lane to Davis', and got some nails put in. It was 12.35 when I started again, so I had to push on. I reached the station at 1. exactly, the train being due at 1.1. It did not arrive till 1.20. Lester was in it and we were at home before 2. It was very pleasant driving, no wind, and quite mild. About 4, began to get much colder. At 7, M and Elizabeth went to Sandhurst Church. Lester and I played at Chess, 5 games, he 3, I 2. They had been busy all day putting down the new carpet in our bedroom. Judy pigged, 11 pigs, but the night proved so intensely cold, that there was very little chance of saving them. Rackley was there till 11 p.m. He took 2 or 3 of the pigs to his cottage to try and rear them.

Thursday 11. Very hard frost again. Lester could not stay, so as I had to take him to Farnboro, and the nails put in yesterday were quite worn down, I had to send Nancy again to be properly roughed. At 11, M. went to the first of a set of lectures to the ambulance class. At 12.15 Lester and I started and got to Farnboro at 12.45. I was back at home by 1.20. The road was very bad from Farnboro Grange to the station. At 3.30 I went to skate. Ice very bad, as a lot of [them] had cut it up while thawing, and then it had frozen hard again. At 7.30, M and I to Church. Revd [Durst] vicar of Alton, preached a very fine sermon from 1 Cor.xi,31 "For if we would judge ourselves we should not be judged , referring especially to preparation for Holy Communion and our Lord's second coming.

Friday 12. Very little frost. At 10.20, Mrs Stilwell called for Maggie, and took her to Mrs Gibsons for her second lesson from Naftel. She walked home, and did not get back till past 2, Mr N. having worked with them till 1.30. About noon, our new curtain poles arrived from Maples, and I was busy all the rest of the afternoon putting them up. Mrs Becher and Aimie came to tea and supper. The amusements consisted of practising music, bandaging and Bezique.

Saturday 13. Another warm night, little if any frost and continued thawing most of the day. After dinner M. and Elizabeth drove into York Town and got back in time for us to go to Church at 4. After tea finished the dining room curtains. Of the 11 pigs born on Wednesday night only 5 have lived.

Sunday 14. No frost, a regular thaw all day. M and I to early Celebration, I to Vicarage and School. M. came to Matins In the evening we went to Sandhurst. heard a very fine sermon from Mr Randall on 1 Cor.iv,1 "Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. He was much disturbed by some people behaving badly, and at one time stopped so long that I thought he was going to speak to them. The behaviour of the young men and boys outside the church (but in the churchyard) is very bad.

Monday 15. Found the house pump out of order again (it was so three days ago. Busy from breakfast time to dinner, setting it right. Had Rackley at work most of the day thoroughly cleaning the lawn mower. Mr Stilwell sent over for me to go and skate but I declined, having a lot of work to do, and feeling sure that it would be very wet. M and I to Church at 4 p.m., before which M. went for 1/2 an hour to Miss Mason to give her instruction in bandaging. A very thick fog when we came home.

Tuesday 16. To Church by myself at 10.30. When I came back set to work with Robert and took the pump entirely to pieces. It was a difficult job but I thought I had got it all right. At noon it began freezing again, and by 3.15, when M. drove with Elizabeth into York Town, there was a thick white frost on the grass. After this a dense fog set in like last night. Maggie sent a box of butter and some garden produce to Lady [Sumner]. At 8, M and I and Rose went to Church. Mr Sumner continued his instruction on Holy Communion. The subject was "Reception", and he really was very good indeed.

Wednesday 17. Dense white frost which lasted all day. Pump wrong again so I sent off Robert to Street at York Town, hoping to get him up, but it did not, so after dinner just set it going again, without doing much, only just lifted the stuffing box and put some water in, which was enough to make it draw. Rackley busy at the hedges. I made preparations for taking chrysanthemum cuttings, and at 3.15, went across and had some skating. Thick fog again.

Thursday 18. Cold in the early part of the night, but towards morning thawed. M. went to her class, Ambulance at 11. I worked in the greenhouse till 12.30, and then went and saw Major Becher, Mrs B. having written and asked me to do so. Sent a message to Street but hearing from Bull that he was not likely to be able to come, after dinner we were just starting to go and look for someone at Sandhurst, when he arrived. On examining the pump, found that it was drawing sand, which gets under the lower valve and prevents it from closing. At 7.30, M, I and Elizabeth to Church. Mr Sturgess, Rector of Wokingham preached an excellent sermon. Acts, 1, 11 "This same Jesus, which is taken up into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Mr S's delivery is very remarkable. He pronounces most of his ths like d. This, and his general mode of locomotion give the idea of a person who suffers from slight paralysis. Last evening M and I went to Sandhurst, but did not hear Mr Randall. Mr Coplestone was alone.

Friday 19. Thawing. Pump right this morning. I went to Church at 10.30, then to S.S. teachers meeting at Vicarage to decide about School Treat. Then worked in the greenhouse taking cuttings of chrysanthemums. At 2.30, went to Chittys about his bill. Then called and saw Lucy Parker who is very decidedly weaker. M and Elizabeth drove into York Town. They had not returned when I got home. I went and had 3/4 hours skating, then went up to see Major Becher. While there Mr and Mrs Stilwell {and} two girls came in on "bandaging bent", and I did not get home to tea till 5.45. In the mean time M. had got so frightened that she sent the two girls out to the pond to look whether anyone was still there.

Saturday 20. Pump gone wrong again. I had several little jobs to do. Set both pumps and also pull up of W.C. to rights. Gave a lot of chrysanthemum cuttings to Stilwells gardener, and after worked at them for self. Continued after dinner, but was disturbed

by Mrs and Miss Dumbleton calling. Got all but two finished, and also got in 6 roots of early rhubarb received from Sutton. At 4 M and I to Church.

Sunday 21. Frost again, but not very hard. To S. School as usual, the last for the year, as there will be none next Sunday, so many teachers being away. M to Matins and we stayed to Holy Communion. Mrs Becher came at 3, and she and M. went to Sandhurst. At 6, M and I to Church. Very foggy.

Clapham

Monday 22. Wet and thawing till 1 p.m. Very busy packing &c. At 11 M. to ambulance lecture. At 2 we started and drove to Camberley. At this time the weather was beautiful, warm and bright like summer. This was our first time of trying the new S. Western route. Directly after leaving Woking, we ran into dense fog, and when we reached London it was still foggy, but not very. On getting to Clapham found Lucy was out and not likely to be in till 6.30, so having had a cup of tea, we went out and got a lot of Xmas cards at Edwards'. By the time we came back, the fog had become so thick that we could not see across the road and we were very glad to find that Lucy was out with William. It was 6.40 before they returned. This morning M. brought back with her from the class the sad news that the dear old Bishop of Guildford died yesterday in the Parish Church at Ryde, immediately after reading the prayer for the Church Militant. What a glorious change for him, but a terrible blow for poor Mrs Utterton, who was present, and it will make it a very sad Christmas to the Sumners and many others. I wrote a few lines to Mr Sumner before starting.

Tuesday 23. A dense fog when we got up. From our window we could not see into the road. Soon after breakfast we went to the Coop. By the time we got there fog was much lighter. Did a lot of work. Met Mrs Johnstone (Ealing). Had our lunch at Stores, then went to Goringes and thence cabbied to Regents Circus. Walked up Oxford St getting some things at Phillips and Rowney. Then back to Victoria by bus and so home. After dinner toothache which had been threatening for some time became very bad.

Wednesday 24. Fog again thick in morning, clearing after. Last evening Mr and Mrs Hynes dined with us. He is terribly changed, his face is all swollen and seamed, like the pictures I remember of a rare skin disease, that was called I think Lion face. He attributes it to his general health. He had had dysentery in Bombay, which terminated in ulceration of the rectum, which was long undetected, and from this he is still suffering. I can hardly think that that is the only cause of the state of his face. My tooth gave me a good deal of pain last night but is better this morning. Lucy and ourselves were busy putting up our Xmas cards all the morning. I went out twice to get fresh supplies. After lunch we went by train to Bishopsgate St, and then to a great wholesale toyshop at the corner of Houndsditch, where we bought a great lot of things, in most cases being obliged to take dozens. I left Lucy and M. at Bgate Station and went to the Poultry, calling at Douglas' office for a minute to see him. At Mappin and Webb I got a present for William then back to Moorgate St and so home.

Thursday 25, Christmas Day. Face very bad again last night and very tender this morning. Thought at one time that I should not be able to go to Church. Fog worse than ever and so it continued all day. We all went to Church, and the Service was

nicer than I have ever known it at S. Johns. We stayed to Holy Communion. After lunch Maggie, William and I went by rail to Gower Street, and thence to 24 Gordon Square. When we got out from the station, altho' it was only 4.15, it was as dark as midnight, from a black fog. We found all pretty well at Elizabeths. Mary has not been at all well this winter, suffering so much from Neuralgia, not in the old spot, but in her bad hip. Found Alice home from Geneva not as good looking as she promised to be, but still a fine girl. Bessie is thinking of going with 2 other young ladies on an art visit to Rome. Got home soon after 6. Dined alone. Face very bad again after dinner till we went to bed.

Friday 26. Not so much fog. At 11.30 to Victoria, and at 12.9 from the Brighton Station to Harrow. We cabbed to the Briars, found Col, Mrs, and 2 Misses Holroyd. The whole party seemed to be busy with India letters. We lunched at about 3.15. M and I left and walked to Kittys, saw her for a few minutes, (both the boys were out skating). Then to the station and met Lucy and W, who had come down in the bus. Got a Brighton Vic. train at Willesden. Face very bad again at and after dinner.

Yateley

Saturday 27. Face feeling almost well. Directly after breakfast, I went by train to Snow Hill. Got a Max and Min thermometer at Cox's Newgate St, then walked to Gilbert and Fields, and selected a dozen S. School prizes, which I took back with me. Got to Clapham by 2, did all our packing, and at 4.30 said goodbye, after a pleasant little visit which had only been spoiled somewhat by my face ache. Cabbed to London Bridge, (got some oysters), and had a very comfortable journey home, which we reached at 7.45. Elizabeth had not received M's letter telling of our coming, and was almost in despair. Found that Tim had been hurt. On examining, it seemed that he must have cut himself while running after the cats, for in the lower part of his neck we found a cut 3 1/2 or 4 ins long, just through the skin, and as clean as if done with a scalpel. This we sewed up.

Sunday 28. Had no return of faceache last night, so I hope I have got rid of it. This morning a rapid thaw with light rain and S.W. gale. Mr Sumner being away there was not early Celebration, and all the Masons being absent, Sunday School was closed. We went to Service at 11. Mr Ditchfield officiated. There was not a sermon, but late Celebration at which only Florie Shute, ourselves and Hilton stayed. In the afternoon I went to Mrs Bechers to see the Major. Found him much as when I saw him before. Urged him to go and put himself under Fayner. In the evening M and I to Church. One of the Gibsons performed the Service - very well - and preached a good sermon. Blowing very hard.

Monday 29. Thaw continuing, fine day till the evening. At 11, M. to ambulance class. Brought home Aimie Becher and Miss Forman to lunch. Very good news from Cabul The Affghans entirely defeated and dispersed, but most terrible news from Scotland. During the gale last night 3 arches of the great Tay Bridge were blown down and a train with 150 to 200 people went into the chasm. We were able today to get a good deal of the manure spread, and I pruned several apple and pear trees. Mrs Becher called in the afternoon. They all go to London tomorrow.

Tuesday 30. A little white frost. Fine morning but after constant storms of hail and sleet with high wind. About noon thunder during a violent hailstorm. Busy in the greenhouse all day. M called on Mrs Addison about 4.30, and while she was out Mrs Stilwell called, and stayed till she came in and to tea and did some bandaging. It seems that the loss of life in the Tay Bridge accident was not so great as at first reported, probably not 100 in all. It seems quite clear now that the high level portion of the bridge fell, while the train was in it. About 3000 feet of the middle of the bridge have fallen. There was a little snow in the evening. When we went to bed bright starlight and looking like frost.

Wednesday 31. No frost, glass fell to 33 1/2 in early part of the night, but afterwards rose, Bar. falling. Very high wind and rain more or less all day. At 10.30. I went to Church, expecting to see Mr Sumner, as he was to have come home yesterday, but the Eversley curate read the Service - to Hettie Shute, Miss Forman, myself the clerk and his boy. Mr Sumner had to go to Winchester and is expected back this afternoon. M. drawing from our bedroom window, but the weather terribly against her. I worked in the greenhouse and got three dozen roots of seakale potted. Looked at my bulbs, found them only just beginning to shoot, so left them alone. Up to yesterday afternoon the only part of the train at the Tay Bridge that has been found is the one first class carriage, in which it is known that there was no passenger. Only one body has been washed ashore. It seems as if they must all be held in the debris of the iron girders &c.

January 1880

Yateley

Thursday 1, New Years Day. M and I to early Celebration. Only present Miss Shute, ourselves, Mr Padwick and Hilton. Spoke to Mr Sumner for a few minutes after Service. Busy in the greenhouse during the day, getting in road scrapings with Nancy and the cart. At 4.15, M went out and called at the Goldings - out, then on to see Mrs Rush. As she had not come in by 5.15 and it was dark I walked as far as the Masons and met her.

Friday 2. There was no Service. I should have gone to Sandhurst, but had to take M to her drawing lesson at 10.30, then on to York Town and home. At 1 returned to Mrs Gibsons and as the lesson was not over, sat there for some time. Mr Naftel is the most liberal of teachers, he did not stop till nearly 1.45. We brought Mrs Stilwell home. At 4 Miss Forman came and soon after Mrs Stilwell to do some bandaging. I walked home with Miss F. as it was dark when she left.

Saturday 3. A little white frost, followed by a beautiful day. Got in the rest of our road scrapings, but had a fresh lot scraped up, which we could not move. Got all the gooseberries netted over, to keep off the bullfinches, as it was very soon after this time last year that we had so {much} mischief done. After dinner M. drove with Elizabeth into York Town.

Sunday 4. Very light white frost, after fine all day. No S. School. M and I to Church and H Communion at 11. After this I did not go out again, having hurt my foot and it being very painful. M. went to afternoon Service at Sandhurst, and then we both stayed at home in the evening.

Monday 5. Fine but dull. Had a man, sent by Shilling, pruning apple and pear trees. Took the old vine down from kitchen wall and made ready to put in other trees. Busy most of the day in the greenhouse. M. went to her ambulance class. About 4.30, Mrs Becher came in and very soon after Major Becher, who had just returned from London. They stayed to tea and supper. Foot so painful that I went about in slipper and golosh all day.

Tuesday 6, The Epiphany. Managed to put a boot on and M and I went to early Celebration. This is the first time Mr Sumner has had it on the feast of the Epiphany. Only present, Mrs Sumner, Emmie Mason, ourselves and Hilton. Busy in the greenhouse, and after dinner made a new border for gooseberry bushes and put in 10 plants.

Wednesday 7. M and I to Church at 10.30. Busy in greenhouse. Got in road scrapings with Nancy in cart. Mrs and Major Becher called. Particularly dull raw weather.

Thursday 8. After dinner Mrs Rumann came in to do some bandaging, and after M. walked part of the way home with her. I was doing some carpentering.

Friday 9. I went to Church at 10.30. Afterwards carpentering. M. drove into York Town with Elizabeth after dinner. At 6, to Mrs Bechers to tea.

Saturday 10. Same dull weather and cold continues. Busy all day in my workshop, and by evening finished a drawing board for M. About 3, Mr Sumner called. At 4 M. went to Mrs Stilwell where several of the ambulance class met for some practice, preparatory to the examination on Monday.

Sunday 11. M and I to early Communion. I to Vicarage and Sunday School after a recess of 2 Sundays without any. Both of us to Church at 11, and again at 6. Dennise Mason came to tea, and walked to Church with us. No sunshine but day not quite so dull as of late.

Monday 12. More frost today, than any time since Christmas. Turned out quite a bright fine day. M. at 11 to her Ambulance examination. Returned at 1.45, bringing Mrs Rumann to dinner with her. Received two peach, a pear and a plum tree from Shilling and put them in at once.

Tuesday 13. Did a great job of potting off young fuchsias. After 11 there was snow and sleet all the rest of the day. Weather continues very evenly cold, a little frost at night, and hardly rising all day. Wrote to Suttons for seeds.

Wednesday 14. M and I to Church at 10.30. Did nothing in the greenhouse, but various little jobs in the yard &c. Weather as before, Therm hardly rose above freezing all day.

Thursday 15. I went to Church at 10.30, and then went on to the School, where Mr and Mrs Sumner, the three Miss Masons and self worked till 1 p.m. at the tree for this evening, and left it finished and looking very handsome. There was a little snow about 11, but after fine. At 6, M and I went to the Vicarage where all the children had tea. Then we went to the School. We had the tree in the infants room, placed on a table, a great improvement. When lighted it was the best tree I have ever seen, and every{thing} went smooth to the end, no catching fire. After it was stripped, the prizes were given away, and then games were played till nearly 9.30. We got home at 9.50.

Friday 16. Rain all day. At 10.30, I took M. to Mrs Gibsons for her drawing lesson, then went on to Wests and Fergusons, then home. At 1.30, went for her. It was still raining hard. In spite of the rain got two jobs done, viz, paving the new pig sty and also repairing the floor of the coal house. Moved all the bulbs from the potting shed into the porch. They are very backward this year, from the great cold in November and December.

Saturday 17. Got cold towards morning. Fine all day and cold. Busy in the greenhouse at pelargoniums. Miss Shute called in the afternoon and M walked back with her and called at the Masons and Warings.

Sunday 18. Last night the Bar. was falling and Ther. rising and looking like rain, so I was very much surprised this morning to find a very hard frost, the hardest that there had been for just a month. I had a cold and sore throat but wrapped up rather more

than usual, and went to School and Church. It turned out a beautiful day. I did not go out again after coming home, but M and all the servants went to the 3.30 Service at Sandhurst.

Monday 19. Today we took Emma Hilton into the house, Elizabeth occupying the little room by herself. Sharp frost with a lovely day. I was at work in the greenhouse before dinner. After walked as far as the Vicarage and after with M. to Mrs [Spicers]. Emmie and B. Mason called. Blossom calved in the morning.

Tuesday 20. A very hard frost, followed by beautiful day. Bright sunshine but no thaw in the shade. At 12, I went to see whether the ice on the Stilwells pond would bear. Found no one there. Tried the ice for a short time. Safe for one, but not for a number. Will be all right tomorrow if the frosts continue. While I was there General Addison came to look at it. When I got home found Mr Sumner. At 4, M and I drove to Blackwater, called at Chittys about carting coal. Went to both the Gasworks to try and get coke but without success. I had sent Robert down with Nancy in the morning, but could not get any then Met Bessie and Charlie Johnstone by the 4.38 train.

Wednesday 21. Another very cold night, 1/2 a degree more than Monday night. At 10.30, to Church with Bessie and Charlie. At 12, Charlie and I went to the Stilwells and had some skating. Met there Miss Halliwell and General Addison. When we got back we found Mr Coplestone, who dined with us and then we, Bessie Charlie Mr C and self went and skated. Found there Mr Sumner, B. Mason, Miss Forman, Captn and Mrs Golding and Miss Bryans. We stayed till 4.15. Milder this afternoon, but freezing sharp again in the evening.

Thursday 22. Hard frost continues. While we were at breakfast Mr Sumner came in to say that he and Captn Golding were making up a party to go to Fleet pond to skate. Would we join? It being to{o} fatiguing for Bessie I determined not to go, but it was agreed that Charlie should go. Directly after breakfast had the carriage and Charlie and I drove into York Town, first about coal, then to [Hams], then Coll. Hall, and got home by 11.25. Took Charlie to the Goldings and left him there. After dinner Bessie and I went to the pond. Only found B. Mason there.

Friday 23. Hardly any frost, thawing during the day. I went to Church at 10.30. Took Charlie to the train at 12. Bessie went with us. After dinner Bessie and I to the pond, hardly expecting to skate, but found Major Waring there, so we stayed. Ice very soft and we cut it up a good deal. There had been snow in the morning at 5.30. Emmie and B. Mason and Miss Forman came to spend the evening. We played Vingt Un and had great fun.

Saturday 24. Very slight frost, but did not thaw as yesterday Busy before dinner making a box to send the cuckoo clock to London in. At 3.10, Bessie and I to the pond, where we found a very large party, all the Stilwells, Warings, 4 Goldings, Kirchoffer and 3 pupils, M and B. Mason. We skated till past 5. It was rather rough but much better than yesterday.

Sunday 25. A raw cold morning, though not much frost. Still it did not thaw all day and froze sharper at night. We all went to early Celebration, and Bessie had breakfast

with the Sumners and went with me to S. School where she took Aimies class. All of us to Church at 11 and again at 6. Lent Arthur Templer Captn Willies skates, there being another party for Fleet pond making up for tomorrow.

Monday 26. Very hard frost again. Got in another truck of coals today. Sent cuckoo clock to the A&N Coop to be cleaned. Bessie and I were asked to go with a large party to Fleet pond, but declined. At 3.15, went to the Stilwells pond. Found there only a lot of Mr Kirchhoffers lads, every one else had gone to Fleet. We skated for 1 1/2 hours.

Tuesday 27. After dinner Bessie and I skated. There were very few there. All the Stilwells had gone to Sandhurst.

Wednesday 28. I went to Church at 10.30, then with Mr Sumner to the School and waited till 12, when there was a meeting to elect two representatives for the parish, to attend a meeting of the Rural Deanery to elect two members for the Diocesan Conference. These are elected every three years. Mr Stilwell and I were chosen. Then I walked home with Mr Stilwell. In the meanwhile M. had taken Bessie to the 12.36 train and got back before me. After dinner went for a short time to the pond. Only found Miss Forman and two of Kirchhoffers lads. All else had gone to Fleet. For the last three days there have been dense fogs, which freezing on trees &c. every thing looks as if covered with snow, but more beautiful. Both yesterday and this evening I thought a thaw was coming.

Thursday 29. A little milder today, not quite so much fog till about 5 p.m., when a regular black fog came for a short time and then cleared. Busy in the greenhouse before dinner. After I went to the pond where there was a very large party skating but none of the Stilwells. Just as we had done breakfast Mr Sumner came in to say that Mrs Sumner had got a little girl.

Friday 30. A delightful change in the weather, milder, fog all gone. Bright sunshine and quite warm. At 10.30, took M to Mrs Gibsons, then home, and did a lot of work. At 1, back for M. After dinner we walked to the Village, called to enquire for Mrs Sumner and Mrs Rush, called at the Masons - all out - then home. M. went to the Addisons and I went to the pond. Only stayed about 10 or 15 minutes. M. Mason and Miss Forman there. Then I went to the Addisons, found M. there and came back with her. A large party at Fleet again. At the Stilwells pond, there was a good deal of water.

Saturday 31. A little frost followed by another lovely day. Working in the greenhouse the greater part of the day. Ground still too hard to do anything in the garden. Did not go to the pond at all, though I dare say that people were skating. Miss Padwick, who has been so long ill, died today.

February 1880

Yateley

Sunday 1. Sharp frost and fog. After very fine. School at 10. M. to Service and we stayed to H. Communion At 3.30, to Service at Sandhurst. Mr Randall preached, 1Pet.2,21."Leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps". We went to our own Church in the evening.

Monday 2. Less frost, not so much sunshine during the day, but more decided thaw. M and I to Church at 10.30, it being the feast of the Purification of the B.V.M. Then I went to the Vicarage and to see Hilton the clerk, who is ill from having fallen into the stoke hole in the church. At 4 p.m., M and I went into the district. I went to Mrs Spicers, Mrs Goddard, and to see Lucy Parker, who is getting much weaker. After I met M. at farmer Thrifts and we came home together.

Tuesday 3. The first morning without frost for more than a fortnight. Busy in greenhouse a.m., nailing Morello cherry trees p.m. Rackley got all the currant trees pruned. Got rid of Blossoms calf.

Wednesday 4. The weather promising fairly well, we started by the 8.40 train, and got on all right as far as Redhill. There the fog became thick and from Penge our progress was very slow, fog signals going off all the way, but the worst was from Cannon St to Charing X, where we arrived nearly an hour late. Fog not quite so bad in the Strand. Went to the old Water Colour Gallery. Light very bad. I did not think much of the exhibition. About 1 the light got so bad that it was no use staying. Walked up the Haymarket Fog so thick it was painful to eyes and throat. Had lunch at the Criterion. When we came out found it rather better, so walked up Regent St, along Oxford St, by bus up Tottenham Court Road and thence to Gordon Sqe. Found the fog was very bad there. Mary was down for the first time for some days, suffering very much from neuralgia. Heard that Douglas is engaged to be married to Miss Gertrude Lofts, but it is not to come off for eighteen months. Found Emmie there. Stayed till 1/4 to 5, then cabbied to Charing X. Fog very thick again, took nearly an hour from C.X to Cannon Street and went very slowly all the way to Croydon. Reached home at 9 p.m. instead of 7.35. Found that it had been fine here all the middle of the day, but the fog was so thick when we came home, that the cabman came along with greatest caution.

Thursday 5. A very foggy morning, but cleared off before noon, and in afternoon came on thick with some fine rain about 5.30. At 10.30, Stilwell came in to see me on some Church business. After dinner I went to Miss Padwick's funeral and then to the Stilwell's pond, where the ice was very fair and we had a brisk time. A good many people present, apparently for the last time, as it looks like a regular thaw.

Friday 6. M and I to Church at 10.30. Thaw continues, but ground still very hard. Finished nailing cherries. We are in a great fix with our well. The sand has got into it so that it puts both the pumps and the water closet cistern quite out of order. So yesterday I had the well opened, ready for Bunch's people to clean it out. Was surprised to find that the ground over the well is not in the slightest degree frozen.

About 5, we were just going out to see the Bechers, when they came in. (They returned yesterday.) They stayed to tea, and I walked home with them. M. has had a very bad cold in the head, since our visit to London.

Saturday 7. Had people at work today at the well, but after working till 11.30, and taking out quantities of sand, we had to leave off, for we found that the sand came in from the outside quite as fast as we could take it out. We seem to have got into a vein of running sand and I am afraid that we shall have to shorten the pipe, so as not to dip so deep into it. At evening milking time found that Beauty had one quarter inflamed so I myself bathed it with scalding water and rubbed in lard. Ms cold rather better.

Sunday 8. Blew and rained very hard in the early part of the night. This morning fine, glass rising. M and I to early Celebration. I breakfasted with Mr Sumner. Their baby better, and the news of Charles S. better. To Sunday School, where for the first time for several Sundays, we had our full complement of teachers. M. came to Service at 11. Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon on the death of Miss Padwick. Did not go to Sandhurst but the servants went and brought back a list of the Lenten Services. Mr Randall is going to give Meditations on Tuesday afternoon as last year, but the sermons on Wednesday evening will not be by him. I went to Church alone in the evening. Mr Sumner preached I think the best sermon I have ever heard from him and his delivery of it was particularly good. S.John,v,40. Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. Mrs Becher and Aimie came home and supped with us.

Monday 9. Great changes came over the weather in the night. Glass fell again much, and at day light it was blowing hard and raining. Upon opening the well this morning we found that the removal of the sand on Saturday had so disturbed the brickwork of the well, that it appeared quite unsafe to send anyone down it. I immediately sent for Henry Bunch, and he thinking that nothing could be done to it, I asked him to make out an estimate for a new well. We closed up the old one to take its chance. Had Goddard at work opening gripes in the lower meadows. I potted off 60 geraniums. I think that Beautys udder is better.

Tuesday 10. Blew very hard till past midnight, but in the morning fine, and a lovely day. Did a lot of work potting, about 160. In the garden, got ready to sow peas, moved a peach tree, planted twelve Autumn fruiting raspberries. P.m., M. drove into York Town, taking Elizabeth with her.

Wednesday 11, Ash. A dull morning, getting finer afterwards. M and I to Church at 10.30. After I paid my books and then walked across the fields with Mrs Becher and Aimie, the latter not looking at all well. After dinner I did a lot more potting M. drawing. Today sowed peas, beans and spinach, also pulled our first rhubarb. At 7.30 to Church. Sermon preached by Revd M. Standon, Psalm,iv,4-5. Good enough in matter, but manner very unattractive. M. went home in the Stilwells carriage.

Thursday 12. A dull morning. There had been 60 of frost in the early part of the night, followed by a little rain. We went to Church at 10.30. Mrs Rush very ill. Busy potting pelargoniums and lying them out. It turned out a lovely day.

Friday 13. A lovely day, white frost to begin with. At 10.30, took M. to Mrs Gibsons for the last of her 6 lessons. Then on to York Town as far as Lunns and back to Davis and had Nancy shod. Then to Mrs Gibsons and put the mare into the stable and sat with Miss G. till the lesson was over. After dinner, got our new drain from the scullery finished, also got in two loads of sods for repairing the garden bank. Mrs and Miss Becher came in in the evening and had a cup of tea. At 7.20, M. had Rose and Emma in the kitchen, for instruction on Holy Communion and I had Robert in the dining room for the same purpose. Taught them for about 3/4 of an hour.

Saturday 14. A great change from yesterday, rain and wind all day, but at work at various jobs in the greenhouse and shop. At 4 went to Church, but as the Service was not till 4.30, we went to enquire for Mrs Rush and saw Miss Forman and her father. After to Church.

Sunday 15. Glass falling, wind backed to S.E. threatening. As I went out to S. School met Mr Stilwell on the hill, so he turned back and walked with me as far as the White Lion. Told me that the Conservatives had gained a great victory in Southwark on Friday. M and I stayed to H Communion after 11. Service At 3.30 to Church at Sandhurst where Mr Randall preached from Gen.xxii,8. God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering". Showed how throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelations, there is always present the idea of the Cross of Christ. The Bible is the foreshowing the history and the application of the Cross of Christ. As in Nature the shadow is faintest and least distinct the further it is from the object that casts it, so the shadow of the Cross faintest in Genesis, getting stronger as it approaches to our Lords coming. In Genesis we have, the Tree of Life, the sacrifices of Cain and Abel, the death of Abel, Isaac and Jacob, and strangest type of all, Joseph. One point to be especially noted, and too frequently forgotten, is the Fathers part. Abraham suffered more than Isaac, and twice is repeated, Thou hast not withheld thy son, thy only son. Isaac suffered when obliged to send away Jacob. Jacob mourned with a life long sorrow for Joseph, until he heard of his being alive and well in Egypt. All foreshadowing the intense love of the Father. In some of the old pictures of the Crucifixion, especially of the Byzantine School, represent God the Father supporting our Lord on the Cross. From this we learn how great Gods love to us, how much we should love Him, and how for His sake, we should love one another. At morning Service Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon from Gal.iii,4. Have ye suffered so many things in vain, if it be yet in vain. M and I went to evening Service. A stranger, I think Mr Kirby, who used to be at Berkhamstead, but is now at Newbury, preached. If it be he, he is greatly improved in look, manner and matter from what he was, when he preached here about 3 years ago. His text was, S.Luke,ix,23 If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. When we came out of Church it was rain{ing} very hard indeed, and the roads were a sea of mud. Mrs Becher and Aimie walked with us to the end of the lane.

Monday 16. Much rain and wind in the night, the wind continuing all day, the rain till noon. Had Rackley cleaning out the greenhouse. Did a lot of potting. There was Service at 10 a.m., but the rain was coming down in such torrents that I did not go. Maggie had her two maids for instruction, but I am only taking Robert once a week.

Tuesday 17. Heavy rain again at night, but fine day except from 1 to 2 p.m. Water being much out in Sandhurst Lane. Sent Robert twice to see how it was. He reported

we could not pass even in the carriage. Being very anxious to go to Mr Randalls Meditation, we had the carriage ready, but it rained till it was too late to go round by Blackwater. I walked by myself, going by Tylers and the fields. Found it very wet. I do not think Maggie could have got there without being very wet. There were a good many people there. Hetty Shute had managed to get across by the mill. The subject of the Meditation, after a short introduction on the state of preparedness for such exercises, was Self Knowledge. At 7.30, M and I, with Rose went to Church, where Mr Sumner gave the last of his instructions on Holy Communion which he had to omit on the last Sunday in Advent on account of the death of Bishop Utterton. There were a good many poor people there, but Florie Shute was the only one of the gentry besides ourselves.

Wednesday 18. Had a man yesterday and today from Shillings at Hartley Row pruning and nailing the peach trees. M and I to Church at 10.30. Frequent showers in the day. I busy potting. Mrs Becher and Aimie came in about 5 and had tea. Left soon after.

Thursday 19. More rain and very high wind. Busy at my potting. This morning heard from some lawyers in London that the price of the little cottage that the Hiltons are living in would be £60. In the evening wrote again asking whether that would include cost of transfer. At 7.30, M, Elizabeth and self to Church, where Mr Randall preached. A very fine sermon 1Tim.vi,12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life. Like all his sermons, bold outspoken denunciation of sin, and full of deep knowledge of human nature. A fair congregation.

Friday 20. Directly after breakfast to see Mr Stilwell, then to see Aimie, who is far from well. Across the fields to Church, where M. met me. Still busy at my potting, the job seems endless. I must have nearly 300 bedding geraniums. After dinner M. drove with Elizabeth into York Town. Had very heavy rain soon after starting. Frequent showers during the day. After tea, M. had her two maids, and I had Robert for instruction.

Saturday 21. Another showery day, with fine intervals. To Church at 10.30. After M and I went up to Mrs Bechers. Only found Aimie at home. In the afternoon finished all my geraniums. Rackley has been making a great clearance of the filberts, yew tree &c. at the corner of the kitchen garden, so as to let in light by the mulberries.

Sunday 22. A thick white frost. To early Celebration. M. went with me to Mr Sumners to breakfast and after took Aimies class at the S. School. Then to Church. Mr Sumner preached from S. Matt.xi,27.{28} Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden. At 3.30, M. and I to Sandhurst. Mr Randall continued his course. His text was, Heb.ix,22 "Without shedding of blood there is no remission. The Cross of Christ as seen in the Law, throughout the sacrifices, but to go into them there was not time. Types or figures of the Cross - Aarons rod, the smitten rock, brazen serpent, and which he said was the chief of all, Moses hands stretched out, during the fight with Amalek. In the evening both of us to Church, where Mr Sumner Preached the concluding sermon of his short course on life after death. His text, if it could be so called, was the last clause of the Apostles Creed, Life Everlasting, and it was on the life in Heaven, and was the most striking of them all. In the morning he announced

that for the future on the 4th Sunday in the month, there would be both early and mid day Celebration.

Monday 23. Cold raw easterly wind in the morning, backing to NW with drizzling rain in evening. At 11, to Sandhurst Church where I met Mr Randall, who was most kind, encouraging and strengthening. Went with him for a few minutes to his house where he lent me two books. Then I went across the fields (a very wet and dirty walk) to Yateley School, and met Mr Sumner and Mr Mason on Committee to pass the accounts and sign Rolls prior to the annual examination which takes place on Wednesday, in the afternoon at 4.30. M and I to Church, and then to the Bechers for a short time.

{Marginal note: 15/3.79}

Tuesday 24. No morning Service, Mr Sumner being absent at a Confirmation at Basingstoke, so Maggie and I set to work about 10 and by 1/4 past 12 had bottled and stowed away a cask of [Carlowitz]. At 3 p.m., we walked to Sandhurst. Mr Randall continued his Meditations - subject Contrition. Very practical. At 7.30, M and I with the two young maids to Church. Mr Sumner gave a discourse on the life of Abraham. Not much in it.

Wednesday 25. 60 of frost, thick white frost. I went to Church at 10.30. When I got home M. cut my hair. Had the bricklayer and paved the calf shed that we built some time ago. It will make a capital one. Yesterday I had old Jennings making hot bed. After dinner we drove out, first to Stilwells, then Russells, Blakeley, Turnour (at home), Dumbleton. Then sent Robert back and drove on to York Town. Called at Mrs Gibsons on our way home. Sent Mrs Gibson my notes of Mr Randall's last years Meditations.

Thursday 26. After breakfast sent mare to be singed. Busy in the garden, painting frames &c. In the evening we went to Church. Mr Ditchfield preached.

Friday 27. Very slight frost. M and I to Church at 10.30. After dinner went to Eversley. Called on the Heynes - Mrs out. Stopped at Marshalls as we came back, then to Mrs Heynes sisters, Miss Meers, two of them with four nieces, two Miss Meers and two Miss Annesleys are living at a cottage at one corner of Eversley Green, opposite Miss Stobbarts. They have been for some time very regular attendants at our Church. Then we called on Mrs Murray (at home). M. has rather a bad eye, right. I think she has been working it too hard, sitting so long at her painting, so today she has rested it.

Saturday 28. Got a letter from the lawyers about Hiltons cottage, accepting my offer of £55, so as we thought it necessary to have legal advice, and were obliged to give an answer by Monday, we drove over to Wokingham and consulted Mr Cooke, and put the matter in his hands to settle. Had a delightful drive and were home by 1 o'clock. At 4.30 to Service and walked across the fields with the Bechers, but did not go home with them. M' eye better.

Sunday 29. M and I to early Communion. Then I to the Vicarage. Mrs Sumner came to Church yesterday afternoon for the first time since her confinement. To Sunday School Had my whole class, 15, a great deal too many. At 3.30, to Sandhurst. Mr

Randall continued his course. Hebrews x,5. Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me." The Cross of Christ not so evidently shown in the Psalms, but still there - 22, 63, 69 &c. and the point that is most distinctly marked out is the suffering of the body of Christ, and looking at it in this view we should be led to feel how very heinous sin is to have required such dreadful sufferings to atone for it. M. did not go to Church in the evening. I went. Mr Sumner preached a very good sermon from S. Luke,x,26. How readest thou. Tomorrow Mr Stilwell and I were to have gone to the Ruridecanal meeting at Sherborne S. John, but he cannot possibly go, which is unfortunate, as I must go alone, unless the weather is very bad.

March 1880

Yateley

Monday 1. Up early. At 7, such very heavy rain, that I thought I could not possibly go, but it cleared off, and starting at 8.10, got in good time to Farnboro' Station. Saw Nancy put up. By train to Basingstoke, then had a pleasant walk to Sherborne St John 2 1/4 miles. Went direct to the Vicarage, where I was very kindly received by Mr Chute. At 11, about a dozen 1/2 clergy 1/2 laity met in the Church and partook of Holy Communion, then adjourned to the School, w{h}ere about 20 or 22 assembled. First business was electing clerical and lay representatives for the Diocesan Conference. The latter were, Mr Raynbird of Basing, Mr Martineau of Heckfield, Coll. Townley of Mattingley and myself. I then opened the discussion upon the "Young Mens Friendly Society" with a short paper, upon which followed a long discussion, ending in a Committee being appointed to enquire into the subject and draw up a report for the next Ruridecanal meeting. The members are Murray, Mr Tubb (Sherfield) Mr Tompson, Revds Chattaway, Sumner, Basing, Chute. We then had a lively discussion on the proposed Sunday School Centenary, and at 2 adjourned to lunch at the Inn of the place. After lunch a few of us went back to the Rectory, and had tea and back. Mrs Chute is a particularly nice person, clever, active. They have a very nice house and garden, with very pretty views from the windows. At 3.45, Mr Chute drove Mr Sumner and myself back to Basingstoke just in time for a train at 4.17. We reached Farnboro' at 4.40. No sooner had we got into the carriage than it began to rain, which turned to the heaviest hail storm I ever remember being out in, and which lasted till we got to Minley Hill. I came that way in order to take Mr Sumner to the Vicarage. I got home by 5.30, after a pleasant and successful day.

Tuesday 2. Did not go to Church at 10.30, being rather out of sorts. Blowing very hard with some rain. At 2.40 went to Sandhurst. On our way Mrs Gibson overtook us and gave us a lift. Mr Randall continued his course the subject being "Self Surrender". Very excellent. After Mrs Becher and Aimie came in and had tea with us. A very rough night, blowing a hard gale. We did not go to Church.

Wednesday 3. Still blowing very hard. M and I to Church at 10.30. At 2.30, a coachbuilder came from Guildford to see the carriage. We had written to Mr Payne, who built it and it seems that he has retired and sold his business to this young man. At 4, M and I went into the district. I took several of the magazines, and saw Lucy Parker. She is a little better than when I last saw her. Mrs Becher has been called away to London to her sister, so Aimie has come to stay with us.

Thursday 4. After dinner, M and Aimie drove into York Town. In the evening we all went to Church. Mr Ingelby, Mr Wyatts curate, read the Service and preached a very good sermon. Judges, xvi, 21. But the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass, and he did grind in the prison house." He compared Samson with the soul under the power of sin.

Friday 5. We all went to Church at 10.30. Got door put up to new Calf's shed and put Violet into it for the first time. Doing a lot of work in the garden. Sowed different kinds of seeds. In the evening had Robert for 3/4 of an hour.

Saturday 6. Bothered a great deal with the valve of the upstairs cistern. Twice had to get up and put it to rights. Hope that Bunch will get new well dug next week. We all went to Church at 4.30. Unless the weather is very bad, on Monday I am to take the carriage to North Camp Station, for it to go to Guildford to be done up.