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THE DIARY OF
HELENA MARSHALL
1869-1874

Transcribed by
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with an introduction by
Jane McDermid



THE EUROPEAN
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RESEARCH CENTRE

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PREFACE

Helena Marshall aged 18 began her diary in 1869 while attending the School of Arts in Edinburgh. She continued it during her career as a governess in Russia, in Wales, and while accompanying a family on a holiday to Switzerland. She returned to Russia in 1873, where she had numerous relatives among the ex-patriate community of St Petersburg.

Helena appears to have started the diary as an academic exercise, chiefly to record the lectures she attended and other educational activities, such as a geology field trip to Newhaven. Indeed, after a few months, her carefully written entries became little more than revision notes and this trend continued until she decided to designate a certain section of the book for such use. After that, and especially once she left education and assumed the role of governess, she used the diary for more personal commentary. Her handwriting also became more erratic.

Although Helena mainly reported on domestic and mundane matters, she reveals herself as a shrewd and sometimes caustic observer of those around her. Her observations on the courtship of her sister Mary by Mr Crabbe are less than complimentary and her opinion of her employer in Wales and Switzerland is made plain although understated.

The life of a female student in Edinburgh in the early days of tertiary education for women is revealed as quite intellectually rigorous and Helena was interested in art, botany, debating, and literature, especially poetry. These interests continued in her life as a governess and she was a voracious reader of novels, especially in Russia, and often gave her opinion of them in terse single sentences.

One feels that she found her life as a governess less than stimulating and at times there is a note of desperation for some sort of intellectual conversation, especially among her mother's Goodlet relations in St Petersburg. One conversation with her Uncle John concerned the arguments for and against the wearing of school uniforms. A Mr Jones in Wales seems to have provided joy and they corresponded frequently when she lived in Russia.

Comments on her life in mainland Europe and Russia are brief but they often refer to the countryside, where she seems to have enjoyed walking and sketching. In Russia she watched the marriage procession of Prince Alfred and the Tsar's daughter in 1874 and noted other royal events in St Petersburg but generally, current events are not dealt with. She also enjoyed ice-hilling one winter.

Helena seldom provided reasons for why she undertook the various changes of direction although her family seems to have had a strong influence, as when she only spent a few days in Edinburgh on returning from Switzerland, before sailing for Russia to join her mother. The diary ends with her return to Edinburgh with her mother in October 1874.

Margaret Shand
September 2021

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The EERC is grateful to the University of Edinburgh for permission to reproduce a copy of Helena Marshall's diary, and to its Centre for Research Collections for providing them with a digital copy. Thanks are also due to Dr Jane McDermid, University of Southampton, for contributing the introduction. The images have been sourced from the British Museum, the Llandudno Museum and Gallery, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Galleries of Scotland, and the Royal Collections Trust. For full image credits, see pages 109-110.

EDITING

The diary of Helena Marshall is contained within a single volume. It is a complex document, stopping and starting several times, with gaps of up to eight months between entries. When Helena restarted the diary in March 1871, moreover, she turned the book upside down and began writing at what was originally the back page. In addition to the diary entries, there are thirty-three pages of revision notes on electricity. These notes have not been transcribed.

Helena was not always accurate when dating her entries and there are several times when the date and the day do not match. This is particularly the case in the first section (where some of the entries appear to have been written some days later) and in the sections recording her time in Russia (where she was working to both the Gregorian and the Julian calendar). These inconsistencies have been left unedited and the dates in general transcribed as they appear in the original. To make the diary more navigable, however, the year has been added to the page header.

The original spelling has been retained. *Sic* has been used to indicate misspellings, omissions or idiosyncrasies that might otherwise be mistaken for an error in the transcription, but only on their first appearance in the text. Words that are unclear in the original text and have been transcribed tentatively are given as [?word]. Abbreviated words (including ampersands) have been silently expanded. Other editorial comments have been inserted in [].

At some point, Helena read over the diary entries relating to her studies and pencilled in various corrections and additions. They have been represented in the transcript in a grey font.

INTRODUCTION

Relatively few diaries kept by governesses survive and even fewer have been published, so that the manuscript diary of Helena Marshall, deposited in Edinburgh University Special Collections, is potentially a significant historical source. It encompasses a period of only five years, there are gaps, some entries are undated, and the coverage for 1872 is particularly brief. Nevertheless, as will be seen, it provides information on new educational opportunities for young middle-class women like the diarist; and when supported by other primary sources, it offers insights into middle-class family life. Moreover, the fact that Helena Marshall went on to spend time as a governess in Russia, interrupted by a post in Switzerland, adds to the evidence that some middle-class British women seeking employment in a narrowly circumscribed job market were prepared to travel widely, often, like Helena Marshall, unaccompanied, in order to secure a position.¹ Before examining the diary, this introduction will consider first the genre of diaries as a historical source, and then, given the relative paucity of personal papers, the types of sources used to investigate the profession of governess. These studies tend to focus on the period from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries, with a particular interest in the English Victorian governess.²

Diaries as a historical source

Diaries are regarded by historians as primary sources which vary significantly in what they tell us about both the diarist and the wider context at the time of writing. They may appear straightforward, but key questions (which are not always answerable) have to be addressed when using them, such as why the diary was kept; whether the intention was to keep it for the diarist's eyes only or to compose it with a particular audience in mind, for instance family and friends, or for eventual publication; and whether the last was edited by someone else and perhaps abridged or censored in some way. Common assumptions are that a diary is kept regularly (daily or when circumstances allow), that it has a sense of immediacy, and that it contains some degree of self-examination. Sometimes referred to as journals, though the latter tend to be more introspective and less of a chronicle of the writer's daily activities, diaries have changed over time. Content also differs: diarists may be reflecting on any number of issues which interest them (such as politics or culture), or a specific pursuit or pastime (for example, fossil-hunting, sport) rather than focusing on their intimate, psychological or spiritual life. Indeed, Helena Marshall's early diary entries for 1869-1870 record detail on subjects she was taught in classes, in which the opinions seem to be those of the tutors. Still, the entry of 1 March 1871 reveals the diarist's exhilaration caused by an 'electrical experiment in the dark', while the entry for 10 March shows her anxiety about participating in the debating society.

Diaries are sometimes mistrusted by scholars, seen more as a literary device than a historical record, while they have also been dismissed as having little literary merit, being too subjective and domestic, especially if written by women.³ At the same time, some diarists have added considerably to knowledge and understanding of particular historical events and circumstances. A famous example is Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) who kept a diary for almost a decade (the 1660s).⁴ It has been seen as 'a paradigmatic example of the genre in the early modern period'.⁵ He provides detailed observations on his personal life as well as comments on the wider social and political context, especially related to his employment.⁶ Thus, he wrote on what his daily life consisted of, covering, for example, his routine from rising to retiring, his diet, his health, his clothes, his books (sometimes bought because he liked the bindings), his cat, and the weather. He also presents vivid eye-witness accounts of London's experiences of the Great Plague (1665), the Great Fire (1666), and the defeat of the English navy in the Anglo-Dutch War (1667).

Whereas Pepys wrote about his personal life – his marriage, his extra-marital affairs, friendships and difficult relationships – with what appears to be great candour, it is from the eighteenth century that diarists are generally considered to have become more intimate, self-reflexive and individualistic. An example is the ‘frank and confessional’ journals of James Boswell (1740–1795), which he began as a young man newly arrived in London from Edinburgh and continued for the rest of his life.⁷ More ‘mundane’ is the joint diary of literary sisters Emily (1818–1848) and Anne Brontë (1820–1849), which they kept for a short time as teenagers (16 and 14 respectively) and which focused on their family life at home in Haworth, West Yorkshire.⁸ Anne’s fictional heroine Agnes Grey expressed what might be seen as a rather naïve view in declaring ‘how delightful it would be to be a governess!’, a path to finding her own way in life by her own efforts, though she might also be seen as trying to reassure her parents that it was a means by which she could respectably contribute to their very limited income.⁹ The sisters faced similar financial pressures to the fictional Agnes: Anne was a governess between 1840 and 1845, while Emily was briefly a schoolmistress before her health deteriorated in 1839.

Most diarists were from the middle and upper-classes, though there were some, predominantly male, from the working class.¹⁰ Whereas these diarists wrote for mainly personal reasons, in the later 1930s, ordinary people were encouraged to keep diaries which would form part of the historical record. Thus, in 1939, Mass Observation, which had been set up two years earlier, received around 480 responses to their call for people to record and reflect on their experiences of the war.¹¹

In contrast, it was dangerous for people in Nazi Germany and occupied Europe to keep diaries, which could be used as evidence against them. Yet some individuals did. Based in Dresden, the scholar Victor Klemperer (1881–1960), whose parents were Jewish but whose wife was classified as ‘Aryan’, which protected him to a certain extent, consciously kept a diary to serve as eye-witness to everyday tyranny. He also recorded the horrors of the city’s firebombing by the British on 13 and 14 February 1945, which remains controversial but which inadvertently allowed him to escape deportation to a concentration camp.¹² Klemperer’s diaries show that he knew about the existence of the death camps at Auschwitz as early as March 1942, but perhaps the most famous diary of the Holocaust is that of Anne Frank (1929–1945), which she kept for two years while in hiding from the Nazis, from her thirteenth birthday in 1942 until she and her family were captured. This started as a personal diary, reflecting on relationships with family, friends, and potential boyfriends; but listening to a clandestine radio in early 1944 she heard a Dutch politician calling on people to testify to their suffering under the Nazis. In response, Anne rewrote and expanded some entries.¹³

As will be discussed below, Helena Marshall’s diary does not record such momentous events as any of the above celebrated examples. Since hers is one of relatively few diaries of governesses in Britain known to survive, histories of governesses tend to rely on a variety of sources which are mostly written about, rather than by them.¹⁴ An often-cited exception is Ellen (Nelly) Weeton (1776–1849), whose letters and journal entries were not published until the twentieth century.¹⁵ She was typical of governesses in that straitened circumstances lay behind her initial decision to take such a position, while her life as a whole reveals the limitations and injustices under which women lived in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As Ruth Symes points out, hers was a life that was ‘ordinary yet remarkable’. She records that Miss Weeton copied her letters painstakingly into her journals, reflecting her authorial aspirations – she also wrote essays, reviews and poems – and a desire for her writings to survive her.¹⁶

Governess studies

Pamela Horn’s article on governesses in England, published in 1989, does not refer to diaries. Her sources are predominantly indirect: the census, articles and advertisements in newspapers and periodicals, and, in particular, the reports of the Governesses’ Benevolent Institution (GBI). Established in London in 1841, the GBI assisted governesses across the United Kingdom, in

continental Europe and in a few cases further afield.¹⁷ The annual reports provide useful information on the women who applied for help, mostly the elderly or ill who were unable to work.¹⁸

The GBI was evidence of the concern which had been growing since the late eighteenth century about the ‘governess question’: her insecure standing in society, her poor education, low pay (which did not rise over the course of the nineteenth century) and lack of savings for old age, her precarious position in the house of her employer, often portrayed as a sort of isolating limbo, hovering between the former and the servants.¹⁹ Ruth Brandon observed in her 2008 study that governesses ‘certainly wrote letters; many doubtless kept journals. But the direct sources – journals and letters – that would tell us about these lives from the inside are oddly lacking’, forcing a reliance on ‘second-hand’ accounts. To compensate for this, Brandon devoted a chapter to Nelly Weeton.²⁰ Her other key sources are letters and memoirs of employers and pupils which she admitted give at most glimpses of them. She pointed out that governesses are often portrayed in novels, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jayne Eyre* (1847), published in the same year as *Agnes Grey*, among the most well-known, though not all depict such sympathetic heroines.²¹

Much of the journalistic as well as the fictional accounts of governesses was sensationalised, despite the fact that they made up a small proportion of employed women in the Victorian period.²² Kathryn Hughes acknowledged the drawbacks to fictional representations but argued that ‘while they may not exactly reproduce reality, they do something just as important, by providing us with an insight into the imaginative impact of the governess upon her contemporaries’.²³ In the novels of the period, and in some histories, the usual picture is of a middle-class and occasionally upper-class young woman being suddenly forced by family circumstances (for instance, desertion by, death or bankruptcy of, a father) to seek paid employment but severely limited by social convention to the ‘respectable’ profession of governess or class teacher in private schools for girls, for which they were generally unprepared.²⁴ Besides fiction, Hughes used a broad range of sources in her 1993 reconstruction of the life of ‘the Victorian governess’. She admitted that it had ‘not been easy’: ‘while a historian of female education or employment can rely on the reports of the proceedings of various institutions, commissions and societies, little material of this type pertains to the governess.’ Like Horn, whom she does not cite, Hughes consulted the annual reports of the GBI (in her case, from its early period 1843–1853), as well as etiquette manuals advising the governess and her employer on how to conduct their relationship, journalistic reports, and commentaries in newspapers and periodicals about the ‘plight’ of the governess.

Like Brandon, Hughes used autobiographies of both teachers and pupils. The latter were published in the inter-war years of the twentieth century and are another indirect source, one relying on reminiscences of a few women from rather privileged backgrounds.²⁵ In fact, the majority of governesses in the Victorian period were employed by the middle classes. Regarding the published autobiographical material by former governesses, Hughes acknowledges that these tended to be written by ‘remarkable women – poets, religious writers, missionaries – who started their working life as governesses and whose subsequent experiences were considered sufficiently significant to find their way into print’. Whereas their lives after teaching were not representative, Hughes points out that the material circumstances which prompted them to take up a governess position were.²⁶ More typical of the working life of a governess were the three unpublished documents she examined. She makes less use of Miss Weeton’s published diaries than Brandon: Weeton’s time as governess was more in the Regency period than the Victorian.²⁷ Like Hughes, Christine de Bellaigue presents a more nuanced, less negative view of private school mistresses and governesses than depicted in the contemporary sources or in some historical accounts. For her 2001 article, Bellaigue consulted letters, memoirs and biographies of eighty-three subjects which revealed that many had been deliberately educated to become governesses, indicating that this was not a fate to be feared, at least not by everyone. She detected an increasing interest in educational theory and practice among these women. Indeed, some

governesses published advice on teaching methods, curriculum and time-tabling, based on their own experiences.²⁸ Since training was considered suitable only for lower-class women who would teach in elementary schools, the would-be governess looked to improve her skills in a variety of un-certificated ways: self-study, attendance at public lectures, working in Sunday schools, studying and teaching abroad. After the 1846 reforms to the training of elementary school teachers, a few lower middle-class girls even became pupil teachers, though this was still less socially acceptable than volunteering for charity schools.²⁹

To improve the education and status of governesses, the GBI was one of the sponsors of Queen's College, Harley Street in London, a Church of England establishment which opened to girls over the age of twelve in the spring of 1848, and which Horn sees as a response to those efforts of the Committee of Council on Education two years earlier to regulate the training and certification of elementary teachers.³⁰ This private venture was also to meet the growing competition of foreign governesses: Horn records that in 1861 around 1,500 governesses at work in England and Wales had been born on the Continent, two-fifths from German states, and one-third from France.³¹ However, Queen's College was out of the financial reach of most governesses, especially outside of London, who generally did not receive a formal training. In any case, even this college denied that it was to train governesses and discontinued the classes on pedagogy in 1852, though it still offered free lectures to governesses in the evenings.³² Hughes highlights Mary Porter's school for middle-class girls in Tiverton, Devon, which offered 'the art of teaching' as an additional course of study in the 1860s, but points out that it was unusual. Even those who championed reform of middle-class girls' education suspected that institutions dedicated to training would undermine their status as ladies, and provide a chance for the less well-bred lower middle-class woman to climb the social ladder.³³

The focus of Bellaigue's 2007 study is France as well as England; in contrast to the latter, schoolmistresses in France had been examined and certificated since 1810.³⁴ The Scottish case study of Jane Hay Brown (later Hamilton, 1827-1898) supports many of her findings for the working life of the governess in England. The eldest daughter of a poorly remunerated presbyterian minister, Jane was expected to contribute to the family income. She was educated at home in Cumnock, Ayrshire, with a view to teaching, including subjects such as music and foreign languages, often dismissed as purely decorative 'accomplishments' of young ladies.³⁵ She ran a small private school in Cumnock until just after her father's death in 1847, when she became a day governess in Glasgow. To increase her prospects in a competitive labour market, she took language lessons from a German governess with whose help she went to Lower Saxony in 1857, becoming a 'parlour' mistress in an establishment for young ladies, and using her earnings to pay her employer for language lessons.³⁶ She was offered a post as governess in Hanover in 1859 but went instead to the British colony of Victoria to help her sister who was gravely ill with tuberculosis. The sister died soon after her arrival, and the man Jane then married was so ill with the same disease by 1867 that she found it necessary to open a small school to support her family. On his death in 1869, she returned to Scotland with their two children, taking a post as lady superintendent at Dowanhill Institute for Young Ladies in Glasgow, where her mother still lived. On the latter's death in 1873, Jane moved back to Ayrshire, to the better-off town of Largs where she ran a small private school for young ladies in her family home until 1885. Like many of Bellaigue's subjects, Jane took her job as teacher seriously; indeed, she always regretted not having had a formal training.³⁷

Jane Hamilton's long professional life as a governess and private schoolmistress is known in such detail because of a rich archive of family letters, notably from her years in Germany and Australia.³⁸ Helena Marshall's diary contains much less detail than Jane Hamilton's letters but, as the next section shows, it can still be mined for information and insight into the life of a middle-class Victorian woman who became a governess, one which, like Jane Hamilton's, confirms some of the findings of Christine de Bellaigue's collective biographical study of English governesses, while it modifies others.

Helena Marshall's diary

In contrast to the celebrated examples discussed in the first section which deal with momentous events, the diary of Helena Marshall covers only a few years and focuses closely on her life as an adult daughter, student, and governess. One simple but noteworthy fact is that the diarist is a Scottish woman when the main focus of governess studies is the middle-class English woman, or one who has been assumed to be English as in the case of Catherine Davies (1773–after 1841), the Welsh woman who worked abroad for a foreign royal family.³⁹

The entries in the Marshall diary do not give the impression of writing for an audience apart from herself, or of responding to significant external affairs. Helena Marshall recorded her name and home address in each entry from the start of the diary on 15 June 1869 until mid-1870 when she seems to take a break – the last two entries for that year are not dated, with each simply headed ‘Tuesday’; the previous one was for Thursday 29 June. These entries contain no personal information, but are brief notes from lessons she attended, though she does not describe where the teaching took place. When the diary resumes, the first entry is for 1 March 1871. No explanation is given for the gap in the intervening months. The diary now mentions family relationships (parents, older brother and sister), but is sparing on detail, even on names, often using the first initial, including in places for her sister Mary. The census returns for 1871 show the Marshall family living near the Water of Leith at 5 Upper Dean Terrace, Edinburgh. The immediate family comprised: father William (aged 57), a coal merchant; mother Elizabeth (64); son James (20), a law apprentice; daughters Mary (21), a governess, and ‘Helen’ (18), identified as a ‘scholar’. Also present in the Marshall home at the time of the census were an aunt, Mary Goodlet (50), and her husband William (48), as well as a general domestic servant, Agnes (16).⁴⁰ For the first eighteen months to two years of the diary, entries are on Tuesdays and are mainly devoted to the subjects she studied, suggesting they were made after a class. The curriculum is broad – sciences, arts, languages and literature – and the entries seem like a summary of the main points made by the teachers. Occasionally censorious, they provide some insight into the assumptions and prejudices of the time: see for example the undated entry after the one for [2]4 October 1869, on the immorality of the fifteenth-century Florentine artist Filippo Lippi which, it is stated, undermined the value of his work. There is nevertheless a sense that by 1871, Helena and her female peers were entering a new stage in their education, even if it is not clear what level the teaching was at, though it seems certain to be above what was then the equivalent of a secondary school curriculum. Nor does she state what she aimed to achieve by continuing to study, but given the narrow employment options for young middle-class women, she might be following in her sister’s footsteps.

Besides recording her studies, a prompt to begin the diary may have been the recent efforts to get women admitted to the Watt Institution and School of Arts. Founded in 1821, Edinburgh’s School of Arts was the first Mechanics’ Institute in Britain.⁴¹ It initially offered a narrow curriculum (scientific and technical subjects) in the hope of appealing to respectable male workers who wanted to improve their education and skills. Gradually the subjects were increased to include the humanities. Reliant on donations, the School of Arts responded to a mid-century drop in these by setting up a subscription fund in the name of the engineer James Watt (1736–1819), whose inventions were seen as inspirational.⁴² The success of this Fund was reflected in a change of name in 1852 to the Watt Institution and School of Arts.⁴³

Since Mechanics’ Institutes were established by middle-class male philanthropists for working-class men, some political radicals were suspicious of the education on offer, which they referred to as ‘so many traps to catch the people’ set by the rich and powerful.⁴⁴ At the same time, these were overwhelmingly male institutions, and indeed it was common for women to be barred. Moreover, if any of the institutes recognised a need for women of the same social class to be educated, it was not to expand their employment opportunities but rather to improve their domestic skills.⁴⁵ However, in Edinburgh at the time of the commencement of this diary,

Miss Mary Burton (1819-1909) successfully campaigned for women to be allowed to study alongside the men at the Watt Institution.⁴⁶

It is interesting that Helena Marshall's diary entries begin in the summer of that year, perhaps suggesting that the campaign had made headway before the decision to enrol women was formally announced. Men who taught in these institutions often also gave lessons to middle-class women. Newspaper accounts of the annual meetings of the board of directors show they were timetabled at the end of each year. Thus, according to the *Scotsman*, 30 October 1869, Miss Burton formally submitted her request for the entry of women to lectures by letter to the board of directors. As part of her case, she pointed to the precedent of London, where branches of the Mechanics' Institute were already permitting men and women to study together. The matter was speedily dealt with: it was referred to a sub-committee whose recommendation to consent to her petition was unanimously accepted by the board, as reported in the *Scotsman* only a few days later, on 2 November. Helena Marshall was typical of the women who first enrolled at the Mechanics' Institutes; working-class women's schooling was too basic to benefit from such a curriculum, while the emphasis on improving their education still focused on their domestic skills.⁴⁷ Interestingly, Mary Burton stood apart from most feminists on this issue, arguing that under the school boards set up by the Education (Scotland) Act of 1873, boys as well as girls should be taught to sew, knit and cook.⁴⁸

Helena Marshall does not mention the Institution by name until 22 March 1871 when she recorded that she missed a lecture to go for a walk with Mr Booth, one of the students, who was going to England the following day. When she returned by way of the School of Arts she saw 'Forrest' coming out of the lecture: the first time she identified any of her fellow students was when she sat with 'Mr Forrest and Miss J' on 1 March 1871, on the occasion, previously mentioned, of the exciting experiment in electricity. This reflects the success of Miss Burton's campaign to have women accepted as students on the same basis as men, and to be taught alongside them. Two days later, the entry refers to the debating society, which was the Watt Literary and Debating Association.⁴⁹ As recorded above, attending classes, public lectures, and debating and literary societies were among the ways that middle-class women such as Helena Marshall sought to improve their education; tutors were usually men sympathetic to efforts to improve the position of women. While she does not explicitly proclaim her support for women's rights, in the entry of 10 March 1871 Helena expressed approval of the male speaker who put the case 'nobly' for 'spinsters and widows' to have the vote; however, she acknowledged that the case for the opposition, also presented by a man, was delivered 'as enthusiastically'. She did not expand on any of the arguments, nor say why married women were not included in the motion. In this period, extending the franchise to women was only one of a number of issues and was not a priority.⁵⁰

A week later, the entry of 16 March records: 'Miss J. was trying to get signatures for a paper saying that Female Doctors were wanted', but again she does not explicitly express her opinion on the issue nor confirm that she signed the petition. There is also no record in the diary that a debate on the topic followed. Still, that she mentioned it at all reflects the growing attention paid to the question of whether women should be given entry to medical faculties. This campaign came to a head in Edinburgh in the same year as the push for entry into the Watt Institution and School of Arts, and was spear-headed by another feminist, Sophia Jex-Blake (1840-1912). However, the latter's success in gaining the entry of five women in 1869, joined by two more the following year, was partial and had been reversed by 1873: the male medical students and many of the professors were vehemently hostile to the entry of women, refused to accept them in the same classes as men, and prevented any woman from graduating.⁵¹

The diary shows that whereas there was no such hostility from men at the Watt Institution and School of Arts, where both teachers and students seem to have been generally welcoming and supportive, at least some of the women were anxious about participating, lacking in confidence and worrying that the men might judge them harshly. The example referred to

above of Helena initially refusing to critique another (female) student's paper reflects this: she states in the entry for 10 March 1871 that a male student told her she had turned 'deathly white' at the original invitation. When she later agreed to take on that role, she admitted in the entry for 14 April to feeling 'uncommonly' nervous and was relieved when her presentation was praised by the men in the debating society. She may have taken heart from the reception of an essay on 'A Visit to the House of Commons as seen from the Lady's Gallery' by a Miss Burton, which Helena praised as 'very humorous and strongly appreciated' (see the entry for 6 March 1871). She met Miss Burton socially with other female students, for example on the 14 and 21 March 1871, and again at an examination centre on 20 April, when she was taking French and Miss Burton English. This Miss Burton may have been Ella, the niece of Mary Burton; Ella was among the first women to enrol at the Watt Institution.⁵²

On 16 May 1871, however, Miss Burton presented an essay on German poetry which Helena faulted, at least in her diary, for spending too much time on extracts which were not the 'most characteristic' of the chosen poets. She was quoting a Mr King: it is not clear that she knew German, at least well enough to make such a detailed critique, though an entry for 24 July 1871 shows that she studied German when in Russia. More generally, while the curriculum on offer was broad, the female students seemed to put an emphasis on foreign languages, notably French, German and Italian. As noted above, Miss Weeton saw proficiency in at least one foreign language as essential for anyone seeking a governess position among the wealthier classes: in her case at the start of the century, it was French above all, whereas by mid-century as the example of Jane Hay Brown shows, additional languages were needed to appeal to employers, and she chose German. Not that the study of foreign languages precluded men. Helena sat a written examination in French on 13 April 1871 and found out a week later that she had got a second-class certificate, scoring six marks below first-class; two days later, at a Sunday service in French, she sat beside a man who, she learned, had got the first prize in that examination. He saw her home, and she judged that he was 'altogether unique'. Whether that was meant as a compliment is uncertain: he was not mentioned again, and indeed, she did not name him.

The students at the Watt Institution and the debating society are portrayed in the diary as very sociable, going to art exhibitions, dioramas and concerts, and making excursions, notably to the city's Botanic Gardens, sometimes to sketch (14 May 1870), and further afield to surrounding coastal towns (3 June 1871). In the evenings, there were mixed gatherings with singing and dancing (2 May 1871). Sometimes she stated that when returning home, she was chaperoned by one or more of the men – for example on Sunday 4 March 1871 Mr Nicol 'brought us home' after church, the next evening after viewing the dioramas at Hamilton's Excursions it was Shearer, and on the Wednesday after class it was Lumsden – but the role of 'chaperone' may be part of the sociability the students enjoyed rather than a formal arrangement. Indeed, the term seems to refer to a young man: in the entry for 17 March 1871, she noted that she 'came home with papa alone'. Occasionally the male chaperone accompanied her only part of the way (7 March 1871). She was also accompanied by female friends – for example, Miss Rosa walked her to 'the very door' after drawing school on 5 June 1871, while the previous day Miss Johnson had walked with her part of the way. She noted when she returned home alone (23 May 1871). Indeed, like Miss Weeton, she took long walks on her own, recording in the entry for 26 September 1869 that it was such a fine evening, she set out on a walk to Granton in the north of the city, to stroll along the waterfront; by the time she reached there, it was 'quite dark', which she felt enhanced the beauty of the scenery. Very occasionally, she alluded to the dangers of walking alone at night: thus, she stated in the entry for 26 May 1871 that she 'nearly had my watch purloined'.

She may not have been as prodigious a walker as Miss Weeton, but she seemed to agree with her on the benefits of physical exercise, seeing long walks in the fresh air as building up her strength to pursue her studies.⁵³ This might be an unspoken or unconscious determination

to counter the argument of opponents of women's entry into higher education that it would undermine their health, and even 'un-sex' them.⁵⁴

As noted above, diaries were generally more introspective by the nineteenth century. Yet whereas Miss Weeton's journal and letters reveal a great deal of her emotional life, Helena Marshall's diary is not so forthcoming. She clearly enjoyed the company of the young men with whom she studied, debated and socialised, but only occasionally is there a hint that she might have wanted a more romantic attachment: see for example the entry for 3 May 1871, where she found herself 'in a quandary all day at Nicol's strange behaviour'. She provides considerable detail on her sister Mary's rejection of a suitor's proposal of marriage, an episode which Helena found amusing (18 April 1871). Helena recorded his frequent visits to their home, his continuing courtship of Mary, and his presenting her with an 'engaging ring' (6 June 1871). Nevertheless, two years later when she received a letter from her sister and mother in which she was told that Mary was getting married in August, she wrote that she was stunned – she had earlier been informed that the engagement with 'Crab' had been broken off (20 March 1873 and 30 July 1871).

Yet she passed over the separation of her parents, which seems to have occurred soon after the census: the entry for 17 May 1871 simply states that she went with 'M' to see their new home. The diary shows that Helena kept in touch with her father, visiting him in his office (24 May 1871), while he participated in the literary and debating society (6 June 1871) and sometimes saw her home. Financial difficulties may have contributed to the collapse of the marriage: William was reported in the *Edinburgh Evening News* of 3 October 1873 as boarding in South Charlotte Street, and taking a customer to the small debt court for alleged non-payment of a bill; six years later William himself was in the bankruptcy court.⁵⁵

The census for 1881 records her mother Elizabeth, still described as 'married', as the head of the household, which was now based in 21 Buccleuch Place (Newington), with the three siblings listed as staying with her. No live-in servant is recorded, suggesting a drop in income. Though residing with her mother, Mary was now registered as married: her surname 'Crab' is one of the spellings Helena used for the man whose proposal was initially rejected. Another diary spelling is 'Crabbe', which was recorded as Mary's surname in the 1891 census and again in 1901. In 1881, 1891 and 1901 Mary is listed as being a teacher, whereas in 1871 she was a governess. This change reflected the employment experience of Jane Hay Brown who became a day governess when she moved to Glasgow in the late 1840s – cities had more opportunities for governesses than small towns – whereas later, she worked in private schools. The 1891 census shows that Helena (again named as Helen, now aged 38, unmarried and an 'educationist') was living at 15 Buccleuch Place with Mary (aged 41), married, a teacher of English and the head of the household; they were still sharing a home at the next census, but the positions were reversed, with Helen Marshall as head of household and the principal of a private school, and Mary Crabbe, a teacher of English literature. A resident servant was not listed in either 1891 or 1901.

When Helena met Miss Burton at the examination centre (20 April 1871), the latter bemoaned the former leaving Edinburgh for St Petersburg 'for the loss it would be to the society'. Helena had not written about this possibility in the diary but it may have been assumed she would visit Russia at some point since the 1871 census reveals that not only had she and her siblings been born in Russia, but so had her mother, while all were listed as British citizens. A report on the father's bankruptcy in the *Scotsman* on 26 October 1879 noted that before setting up his coal business in Edinburgh in 1856, William had built and managed ironworks in Russia. In the diary entry for 24 May 1871, Helena wrote that she received a letter from her aunt Ann Jane inviting her to stay with the family in St Petersburg. She decided to accept after discussing the invitation with her father, who booked her place on the steamer *Sultan*, which was to sail from Hull (24 May and 17 June 1871), while her mother helped her shop and pack for the trip

(16 and 18 June). She reported that the steamer did not sail until 22 June and that she suffered from seasickness (see entries on the voyage from 22 June).

Arriving in Russia on 29 June, she was met by uncle William, possibly Goodlet, who took her to a village near Petersburg where another uncle, John, lived. At first, this seems like a holiday, walking in the woods, picking mushrooms, picnicking and sketching; but she was also practising the piano and studying languages: see the entry for 24 June, when she had started recording the date in both the Gregorian and Russian/Julian calendar, the latter then twelve days behind Britain (only the former will be cited here). By August, she was teaching, giving lessons to the younger children in the household, and a month later she was in lodgings in Petersburg. She took a class in Russian with one of her charges, taught by another governess, Emily Anderson, who had arrived in Petersburg after she did (17 September, 9 October and 26 October 1871) and whom she befriended. It is unclear whether Helena persevered as most of her social interactions seem to have been with English-speakers. She expressed surprise (4 March 1874) that the poetry of Robert Burns was so well known and appreciated in Russia.⁵⁶ She herself did not seem drawn to poetry, but while in Russia was an avid reader of novels in English; she also contributed to a magazine edited by Emily Anderson. This reflects the fact that Helena's social life was less busy and varied than in Edinburgh, while she disliked some Russian customs which she implied were outdated. Thus, the entry for 17 October noted that she 'was struck with the absurdity of the gentlemen separating to play cards at a party that was intended to promote sociability'. In contrast to the Edinburgh entries, there are few social interactions with young male adults outside of her extended family. Moreover, besides the governess Emily Anderson, the women she socialised with were mostly from within the business circles of her mother's relations, including the family of the Goodlet aunt and uncle who were listed at the Marshall's Edinburgh address in the 1871 census.

She also disapproved of the 'arbitrary' regulations at government schools – it is not clear what she meant by 'government schools'⁵⁷ – concerning how pupils dressed and had their hair cut. This led to an argument with her uncle John (5 March 1872): he agreed with the Russian authorities that they were necessary to instil discipline whereas she deemed them 'tyrannical'. This could be taken as indirect criticism of the autocratic regime, but she merely noted that when the Tsar visited her uncle's village in August, troops, on whom he relied to keep order, came through the day before (4 August 1871).⁵⁸ In fact, the diary shows that Helena was interested in royalty: see the entry for 23 January 1874 where she recorded seeing the Prince of Wales who visited for the marriage of his brother Alfred to the Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, daughter of the Tsar. It cemented the close bonds between the British and Russian monarchies but did not improve relations between the two states.⁵⁹

Alexander II (1818-1881) had come to power in 1855 during the Crimean War (1853-1856), which he brought to a conclusion in order to embark on reforms with a view to modernising the Empire and preventing another such defeat.⁶⁰ He began a decade before Helena Marshall arrived in Russia, starting in 1861 with the Emancipation of the Serfs; she recorded a holiday celebrating the anniversary on 3 March 1874. He also made changes in education, local administration and the law; but there were limits to reform to ensure the continuation of autocratic rule.⁶¹

There was another break in the diary between late December 1871 and March 1872. On resuming, she recorded a decision, which seems related to her teaching, to keep a weekly journal 'comparing scientific and literary subjects as well as lighter reading' (4 March 1872), while she continued daily diary entries and recommenced giving the dates by both calendars. There are hints of dissatisfaction with the life of a governess: she made some complaints about the bad behaviour of her charges (for example, 10 October 1872, 24 July and 21 September 1873), and indeed of her employers (for example, 30 July 1872 for Switzerland, and 28 February and 11 May 1874 for Russia). She also worried about her health: she was plagued by toothache (21 November 1872, 23 September and 9 December 1873). She wrote that she suffered from

cholera symptoms during one ‘wretched night’ (1 October 1871): the fourth pandemic since the 1820s reached Russia that year, but she wrote no more about it.⁶²

She now spent a lot of time sewing, especially mending and altering clothes, which suggests a frugality she had not demonstrated while at the Watt Institution. She rarely mentions her salary, but the entry for 15 October 1873 in which she states she was given £25, confirms the point made earlier about the rate being virtually static across the century: according to Horn, the GBI estimated the average annual remuneration at between £25 and £80, but accepted that ‘very many’ received between £25 and £30.⁶³ There is an unexplained gap of a year in entries from June 1872, during which time she left Russia. A year later she travelled from Edinburgh to Wales for another position, accompanying children to continental Europe and a base in Switzerland. There is a suggestion that before she left Wales, she had a flirtation with a Mr Jones (23 June 1873). He clearly made an impression as she added him to her correspondents and eagerly received his letters when in Russia.

The entry for 30 July 1873 when she was suddenly told her services would no longer be required confirms how precarious the position of governess was. In fact, while the threat was dropped, she resolved to return to Russia as her mother had decided to do (13 August). Before then, Helena travelled a lot with this family, eventually returning to Edinburgh mid-October where she was welcomed by her father (17 October). Within a week, she was back in Russia and had met her mother; indeed, at the start of 1874, her sister Mary had also taken a governess post there.

Helena, however, remained dissatisfied with her situation; she found it difficult to spend so much time with pupils outside of lessons, declaring in the entry for 28 February 1874 that ‘playing with a child is hateful’. There had also been tensions with her extended family, including more unpleasantness with uncle John (17 December 1873). Without a full-time position, she made, or perhaps scraped, an income by being in the service of more than one family as a day governess for particular lessons. Not being the only governess employed by a family did not ease her social situation: the only Russian family she worked for also hired a French governess whom Helena found ‘formidable’ (31 March 1874). She unsuccessfully sought a position in Moscow (31 January 1874), and finally left Russia with her mother on 8 October 1874. They arrived in Leith a week later. The entries for this second period as a governess in Russia are very brief, and the diary ends with a hint that Helena was seeking a post in a private school: the last entry, for 23 August, records that she had received the syllabus for a school in Berwick.

Conclusion

Based on her writings, Miss Weeton’s life was described above as ‘ordinary yet remarkable’; Helena Marshall’s diary appears to show a more commonplace life. In this she resembled the majority of single women of her class whose options for supporting themselves in a respectable way without sacrificing their social status were very limited. By the time Helena began her diary, becoming a governess was still one of the very few professions – if not the only one – that allowed them to do so. Governess studies reveal that these women recognised the need to improve their own education continually. However, unlike some of the women considered by Christina de Bellaigue or, indeed, the Scottish governess Jane Hay Brown, discussed above, Helena Marshall’s diary does not reveal much interest in educational theory and practice, at least not while she was studying in Edinburgh. Even when, on resuming her diary in Russia in early March 1872, she resolved to keep a journal on the scientific and literary material she studied, the diary makes no further mention of the journal and is mostly concerned with her ‘lighter’ reading. Indeed, there is only one specific reference to a text on method and, interestingly, it is for language teaching: the entry for 25 October 1871 records that she had begun a book ‘on Hamilton’s system of learning French’.⁶⁴

She does not mention many other governesses, apart from Emily Anderson, her sister Mary and the unnamed formidable French woman who would have undercut her ability to teach that language so that perhaps taking up German was an attempt to widen her appeal to employers, as Jane Hay Brown had done in the 1850s.⁶⁵ Harvey Pitcher's study of English governesses in Russia shows that since the early nineteenth century there had been a 'surprisingly large number', likely to be in the thousands, of them. He is referring more precisely to English-speaking governesses, pointing out that women from Scotland and Ireland were prominent among them.⁶⁶ Those who worked for Russian families tended to be employed by the upper class, whose main language was French. Helena Marshall, on the other hand, worked for modest-income families in the resident British business community, including her extended family, while the one Russian family which employed her as a day governess was not aristocratic – Helena addressed the mother as 'Madame' Smirnoff – though affluent enough to invite her to accompany them to the countryside for a summer (she refused: see the entry for 2 May 1874). Helena worked as both a live-in and a day governess and while the salary for the former seems to have been at the lower end of the scale noted by the GBI, payment for the latter was by the lesson so that more than one position was necessary to cover living expenses. In this, Helena was repeating the earlier career of Jane Hay Brown who was employed by two families in Glasgow in the later 1840s. Working as a day governess seems to have been more common in Scotland than in England, at least until the end of the century.⁶⁷ Moreover, into the 1870s, middle-class families in Scotland would also hire a university-educated man to teach their daughters specialist subjects, either in their own home or with other girls in the home or school of the master.⁶⁸

Compared to the entries when she studied in Edinburgh, Helena Marshall did very little shopping in Russia. Indeed, her diary shows her to be a skilled seamstress who made and refashioned her own clothes. Whereas she did not explicitly complain in the diary about the constraints on her finances, the Russian entries show that she spent many hours sewing, including for her extended family. Her two spells in Russia confirm how far some governesses went for work, but also suggest an underlying dissatisfaction with the employment she found. She hints strongly at the tensions generated by such a personal relationship in which the governess was not an equal, even if of the same, or indeed higher, social class.

At the same time, the diary shows how much pleasure she got from travelling, whatever its discomforts. Like Miss Weeton, Helena Marshall enjoyed walking around the places she found herself in; but whereas Miss Weeton, who was a solo traveller, portrayed the governess as a lonely, solitary person, Helena Marshall's diary paints her as very gregarious: even in Russia, where her social options were more constrained than in Edinburgh, she looked for life beyond work and duty, taking pleasure in social occasions and excursions. The diary, however, does not give many descriptions of places or observations of people in Russia, perhaps because the time she could, or was prepared to, devote to chronicling her activities was limited. What is shown is that even as she took walks around the city, she spent most of her time within the British community, implying that it was rather inward looking.⁶⁹ Pitcher records that the British 'colony' was large enough by the 1840s to have its own church and boarding school for girls in St Petersburg: indeed, in the archives of the GBI, he found letters related to the appointment of a new governess to this school at an annual salary of £50.⁷⁰

Helena Marshall does not mention it, but once back in Scotland she appears to have decided on a future as a schoolmistress rather than governess: as noted above, the census of 1901 shows that she was the headmistress of a private school in Edinburgh. It was likely to have been a small one, however. As Lindy Moore has pointed out, in contrast to England where the development of secondary education for middle-class girls was led by headmistresses, in Scotland university-educated men continued to dominate secondary education, of girls as well as boys, in both the private and public sectors.⁷¹ Yet while in Britain as a whole, secondary education for middle and upper-class girls developed and higher education opened up to them in the later

nineteenth century, this did not make the governess ‘obsolete’.⁷² What former governess Helena Marshall, and indeed her sister Mary Crabbe, had shown was that by the turn of the century there were alternative ways for middle-class women to earn a respectable living, albeit still hedged round by notions of femininity and social class.

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Notes

- ¹ For Russia, see Cross, A G. Early Miss Emmies: English nannies, governesses, and companions in pre-Emancipation Russia, *New Zealand Slavonic Journal*, 1 (1981), 1-20; and Pitcher, H. *When Miss Emmie was in Russia: English Governesses before, during and after the October Revolution*, London, 1977. See also Lentz, U. ‘The representation of Western European governesses and tutors on the Russian country estate in historical documents and literary texts’, PhD thesis, University of Surrey, 2008, available [here](#).
- ² See Kathryn Hughes’s illustrated overview ‘The figure of the governess’, British Library [website](#). Her book *The Victorian Governess*, London, 1993, will be discussed in the second section.
- ³ See for example Langford, R and West, R, eds. *Marginal Voices, Marginal Forms: Diaries in European Literature and History*, Amsterdam, 1999.
- ⁴ For selections, see Loveman, K, ed. *Samuel Pepys: the Diaries*, London, 2018.
- ⁵ Paperno, I. What can be done with diaries?, *Russian Review*, 63.4 (2004), 561-573, at 566. See also Healey, D. The diary as source in Russian history. In Gilbert, G, ed. *Reading Russian Sources: a Student’s Guide to Text and Visual Sources From Russian History*, London, 2020, 196-211.
- ⁶ He has been described as ‘the father of the modern navy’ (Royal Museum Greenwich [website](#)).
- ⁷ See for example Harris, M, ed. *The Heart of Boswell: Six Journals in One Volume*, New York, 1981.
- ⁸ See ‘The discovery of the Brontë diary papers’, Anne Brontë [website](#).
- ⁹ See Regaignon, D R. Instructive sufficiency: re-reading the governess through *Agnes Grey*, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 29.1 (2001), 85-108.
- ¹⁰ See for example *The Diary of John Sturrock, Millwright, Dundee, 1864-1865*, ed. C A Whatley, available at the Regional Ethnology of Scotland [website](#). See also Creaton, H. Unpublished London diaries, *London Records Society*, 37 (2003), 22-46, for a list of unpublished diaries by Londoners which includes some from the working-class. It also gives advice on how to search for diaries in archives. It is available at British History Online [website](#).
- ¹¹ The Mass Observation Archive is based at the University of Sussex: for details, see the archive [website](#). Some of the wartime diaries were published, including *Nella Last’s War: the Second*

World War Diaries of 'Housewife 49', eds R Broad and S Fleming, London, 2006, and Sheridan, D, ed. *Wartime Women: a Mass Observation Anthology*, London, 2000.

- ¹² His diaries were first published in German only in 1995. See Klemperer, V. *I Shall Bear Witness: the Diaries of Victor Klemperer 1933-1941* and *To the Bitter End: the Diaries of Victor Klemperer 1942-1945*, both volumes translated by Martin Chalmers, London, 1998. For diaries in Russian history see Healey, D. The diary as source in Russian and Soviet history. In Gilbert, G, ed. *Reading Russian Sources: a Student's Guide to Text and Visual Sources from Russian History*, London, 2020, 197-211.
- ¹³ An abridged and censored edition of her diary was first published in Dutch in 1947 and in English in 1952. See *The Diary of Anne Frank: the Revised Critical Edition*, New York, 2003; and *Anne Frank: the Collected Works*, London, 2019, which contains all official versions of the diary as well as images, documents and background essays. See also Loewy, H. Saving the child: the 'Universalization' of Anne Frank. In Langford and West, 1999, 147-155.
- ¹⁴ See Howe, B. *A Galaxy of Governesses*, London, 1954.
- ¹⁵ See Hall, E, ed. *Miss Weeton: Journal of a Governess, volume 1, 1807-1811, Volume 2, 1811-1825*, London, 1936; and Bagley, J J, ed. *Miss Weeton's Journal of a Governess*, London, 1969. Other autobiographical writings, along with her letters and journal entries, have since been presented in a single volume, with additional factual information: Roby, A, ed. *Miss Weeton: Governess and Traveller*, Leigh, 2016.
- ¹⁶ Symes, R A. Introduction. In Roby, 2016, xi-xix.
- ¹⁷ For example, in the Australian colonies: see Clarke, P. *The Governesses: Letters from the Colonies, 1862-1882*, London, 1985.
- ¹⁸ Horn. P. The Victorian governess, *History of Education*, 18.4 (1989), 333-344. Horn includes an appendix that lists case studies of governesses awarded annuities by the GBI in 1901.
- ¹⁹ See for example Peterson, M J. The Victorian governess: status incongruence in family and society. In Vicinus, M, ed. *Suffer and Be Still: Women in the Victorian Age*, Bloomington, 1972, 3-19.
- ²⁰ Brandon, R. *Other People's Daughters: the Life and Times of the Governess*, London, 2008, 148-184.
- ²¹ Brandon, 2008, 1-2. For unsympathetic portrayals of a governess see, for example, the devious Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair* (1847-48) by William Makepeace Thackeray, and the even more villainous Lydia Gwilt in Wilkie Collins' sensational novel *Armadale* (1866). For extracts see Broughton, T and Symes, R, eds. *The Governess: an Anthology*, Stroud, 1997, 72-75 (for Sharp) and 192-196 (for Gwilt). For an examination of the often lurid fears of the governess in this period, see Daily, R R. 'The Victorian governess as spectacle of pain: a cultural history of the British governess as withered invalid, bloody victim and sadistic birching madam, from 1840 to 1920', MA dissertation, University of Vermont, 2014, available [here](#).
- ²² In 1861 the census recorded just under 25,000 governesses, in contrast to over a million domestic servants, most of them female: see Horn, 1989, 333.

- ²³ Hughes, 1993, xiii.
- ²⁴ See Renton, A. *Tyrant or Victim: a History of the British Governess*, London, 1997. For the importance of respectability see Bennett, G B. *The Christian Governess: a Memoir and a Selection of the Correspondence of Miss Sarah Bennett, Late of Melton Mowbray*, London, 1862.
- ²⁵ Hughes, 1993, xiv.
- ²⁶ Hughes, 1993, xiv.
- ²⁷ Hughes, 1993, 94, 141.
- ²⁸ See for example Thornley, M. *The True End of Education, and the Means Adapted to It; in a Series of Familiar Letters to a Lady Entering on the Duties of Her Profession as Private Governess*, Edinburgh, 1846; and Anon. *A Word to a Young Governess from an Old One*, Bath, 1860.
- ²⁹ de Bellaigue, C. The development of teaching as a profession for women before 1870, *The Historical Journal*, 44.4 (2001), 963–988, at 966–970.
- ³⁰ Horn, 1989, 339. See also Gordon, S C. Studies at Queen’s College, Harley Street, 1848–1868, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 3.2 (1955), 144–154. The Harley Street Queen’s College should be distinguished from the Queen’s College, Bedford Square (later Bedford College), established in 1849 to provide a higher education for young ladies: see Ashton, R. *Victorian Bloomsbury*, New Haven, 2012, chapter 8 ‘Educating Women’, 215–248.
- ³¹ Horn, 1989, 339. See also, from 22 October 2018, Budde, G. Travelling teachers in Europe: gouvernanten, governesses, and gouvernantes, *European History Online* [website](#).
- ³² Hughes, 1993, 186–188.
- ³³ Hughes, 1993, 38.
- ³⁴ de Bellaigue, C. *Educating Women: Schooling and Identity in England and France 1800–1867*, Oxford, 2007.
- ³⁵ For an interesting discussion related to the Georgian period, see Vickery, A. The theory and practice of female accomplishments. In Laird, M and Weisberg–Roberts, A, eds. *Mrs Delaney & Her Circle*, New Haven, 2009, 94–109. For a review of debates on the place of the ‘accomplishments’ in the education of young ladies in the Victorian period, see Jordan, E. ‘Making good wives and mothers?’ The transformation of middle-class girls’ education in nineteenth-century Britain, *History of Education Quarterly*, 31.4 (1990), 439–462.
- ³⁶ She already knew French which earlier in the century Miss Weeton had regretted not having been taught since such an accomplishment would have opened up more opportunities higher up the social (and pay) scale: see Roby, 2016, 196.
- ³⁷ McDermid, J. Home and away: a schoolmistress in Lowland Scotland and Colonial Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century, *History of Education Quarterly*, 51.1 (2001), 28–48.

- ³⁸ National Library of Scotland, Acc.12100, Correspondence of Rev. Robert Brown, Cumnock, Ayrshire, and the Brown Family (1820–1899).
- ³⁹ Davies, C. *Eleven Years' Residence in the Family of Murat, King of Naples*, London, 1841. More famous and more controversial was the governess to the King of Siam who has also been described as 'English' but who claimed to be Welsh when she had been born in India: see 'Anna and the King: the unbreakable bonds of class', in Brandon, 2008, 185–207. See also Morgan, S. *Bombay Anna: the Real Story and Remarkable Adventures of the King and I Governess*, Berkeley, 2008. For Ireland, see Raftery, D. Home education in nineteenth-century Ireland: the role and status of the governess, *Irish Educational Studies*, 19.1 (2000), 308–317.
- ⁴⁰ The Goodlet couple are listed as 'in-laws' who were British citizens, born in Russia, who may have been visiting from there. Other members of that family are mentioned in the diary when Helena was in Russia in 1871: George, described as 'quite a foreigner' on 17 August, Aunt Jessy on 15 September and Helen on 29 November.
- ⁴¹ The first use of the term 'Mechanics' Institute' in Scotland was in Glasgow in 1823, which was a split from the even earlier Anderson's Institution, set up in 1795. See Kelly, T. The origin of Mechanics Institutes, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 1.1 (1952), 17–27; and Walker, M. *The Development of the Mechanics Institute in Britain and Beyond*, London, 2016.
- ⁴² See for example 'James Watt (1736–1819)', Science Hall of Fame, National Library of Scotland [website](#).
- ⁴³ By 1885, there was additional funding from the George Heriot Trust and a further change of name to the Heriot-Watt College. For a timeline of the development of the institution see 'The Story of Heriot-Watt', Heriot-Watt University [website](#).
- ⁴⁴ Chase, M. *Chartism: a New History*, Manchester, 2007, 144. See also Kelly, T. *A History of Adult Education in Great Britain from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century*, Liverpool, 1992, 128, 153–157.
- ⁴⁵ Purvis, J. *Hard Lessons: the Lives and Education of Working-Class Women in Nineteenth-Century England*, Cambridge, 1989, 99–160, at 234.
- ⁴⁶ Mary Burton became the first woman director in 1874 and was made a life governor of the renamed Heriot-Watt College in 1885: see the entry in *The New Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women*, eds E Ewan *et al.*, Edinburgh, 2018, 64–65.
- ⁴⁷ Moore, L. Educating for the 'Woman's Sphere': domestic training versus intellectual discipline. In Breitenbach, E and Gordon, E, eds. *Women in Scottish Society 1800–1945*, Edinburgh, 1992, 10–41.
- ⁴⁸ Ewan *et al.*, 2018, 65. Miss Burton served four terms on the Edinburgh School Board (1885–1897): see McDermid, J. School board women and active citizenship in Scotland, 1873–1919, *History of Education*, 38.3 (2009), 333–347.
- ⁴⁹ A sixty-page pamphlet was published on the Society's diamond jubilee: Moir, D G. *A History of the Heriot-Watt College Literary Society, 1868–1928: formerly Watt Literary and Debating Association*, Edinburgh, 1929.

- ⁵⁰ See for example Leneman, L. *A Guid Cause: the Women's Suffrage Movement in Scotland*, Aberdeen, 1991, 11-31; and Pedersen, S. *The Scottish Suffragettes and the Press*, London, 2017, 21-43.
- ⁵¹ See the entry on Jex-Blake in Ewan *et al.*, 2018, 218-219. Jex-Blake gained a medical degree at the University of Berne, Switzerland, in 1877, returned to practise in Edinburgh and founded the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women in 1886.
- ⁵² Ewan *et al.*, 2018, 64.
- ⁵³ See the entry for Monday April (undated) 1870.
- ⁵⁴ See for example Romanes, G J. Mental differences between men and women (1887). In Spender, D, ed. *The Education Papers: Women's Quest for Equality in Britain 1850-1912*, London, 1987, 10-31.
- ⁵⁵ *Edinburgh Gazette*, 5 October 1879; *Scotsman*, 26 October 1879. The 1881 census shows that William still lodged in South Charlotte Street, in the home of Eliza McKenzie, who ran a domestic registry.
- ⁵⁶ For Burns and Russia, see Vid, N K. The reception of Robert Burns in Russia. In Pittock, M, ed. *The Reception of Robert Burns in Europe*, London, 2014, 155-178.
- ⁵⁷ For education in Russia see Alston, P L. *Education and the State in Tsarist Russia*, Stanford CA, 1969; Eklof, B, ed. *School and Society in Tsarist and Soviet Russia*, New York, 1993.
- ⁵⁸ The Russian Empire was in fact under-policed, while studies tend to overlook the regular police, focusing instead on the secret police. See for example Daly, J. *Autocracy under Siege: Security Police and Opposition in Russia, 1866-1905*, DeKalb, Ill., 1998.
- ⁵⁹ Carter, M. *The Three Emperors: Three Cousins, Three Empires and the Road to World War One*, London, 2009, 44.
- ⁶⁰ See Perrie, M. *Alexander II: Emancipation and Reform in Russia 1855-1881*, London, 1989.
- ⁶¹ For an overview of the reforms, see Westwood, J N. *Endurance and Endeavour: Russian History 1812-2001*, Oxford, 2002, chapter 3 'Tsar Emancipator', 65-79.
- ⁶² See Davis, J P. *Russia in the Time of Cholera: Disease under the Romanovs and Soviets*, London, 2018.
- ⁶³ Horn, 1989, 338.
- ⁶⁴ She is probably referring to the Irish language teacher James Hamilton (1769-1829): see 'Hamilton, James', Rutgers Database of Classical Scholars [website](#).
- ⁶⁵ For Germans in Russia see Koch, F C. *The Volga Germans in Russia and the Americas from 1763 to the Present*, University Park, PA, 1977. By 1871, over 100,000 Germans had migrated to Russia, especially from the reign of Catherine the Great (1762-1796), who offered them incentives. Alexander II, however, took away their privileges and numbers began to fall from the early 1870s.

- ⁶⁶ Pitcher, 1977, xiii. He records (51-53) that the four daughters of the last tsar, Nicholas II, and his wife Alexandra had an Irish nurse and governess, Miss Margaretta Eagar (1863-1936), who left in 1904 and published *Six Years at the Russian Court*, London, 1906.
- ⁶⁷ Hughes, 1993, 200-201, notes that while statistics are not available for the 1890s, the impression was of a dwindling number of home governesses, with some families looking for visiting governess.
- ⁶⁸ Moore, L. 'Young Ladies' institutions: the development of secondary schools for girls in Scotland, 1833-c.1870, *History of Education*, 32.3 (2003), 249-272, at 249-250.
- ⁶⁹ A minority of the British community did integrate, but most kept ties with Britain, and established their own institutions in Petersburg: see Cross, A. *St Petersburg and the British: the City through the Eyes of British Visitors and Residents*, London, 2008.
- ⁷⁰ Pitcher, 1977, 9-12. Pitcher also wrote about the retail partnership of brothers-in-law Andrew Muir (1817-1899) and Archibald Mirrielees (1797-1877) who opened what became a famous department store in Petersburg in 1857, moving to Moscow in the 1880s: see Pitcher, H. *Muir and Mirrielees: the Scottish Partnership that Became a Household Name in Russia*, Cromer, 1994. Helena recorded visiting a shopping arcade in St Petersburg (8 September 1871) but did not mention Muir and Mirrielees by name.
- ⁷¹ Moore, 2003, 267.
- ⁷² Hughes, 1993, 192.

THE DIARY OF
HELENA MARSHALL
1869-1874

1869

June 15th 1869

Saturday

We had agreed to go this morning to Newhaven,^[1] but if we had not been Saints, or, at least, had the patience of them, we would never have arrived there. For, not knowing that we had mistaken the time of the omnibuss [*sic*] by ½ an hour, we stood waiting at the corner of Henderson Row, imagining every vehicle that we saw to be the truant omnibuss, but it was all in vain, till its own time came. And when the 'Buss did come, we all jumped in, hardly believing our senses that we were in the 'Buss, and by the time that we had realised that portentous [*i.e.* portentous] fact, we had reached Newhaven, and were in consequence obliged to jump out again. We walked along the beech [*i.e.* beach], and at length found some ship ballast, amongst which we were fortunate enough to pick up some granite, mica, and various other rocks. I must confess that I enjoyed our walk much better, in consequence of the delay of the omnibuss.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace
June 14th 1869^[2]

Tuesday

Ascertained from our geology, that in the coal measures, we pass from the animal to the vegetable kingdom, as this formation has been the result of enormous submerged forests, and we have in the strata, the remains of a gigantic flora in the form of pines, tree ferns, enormous reeds, Equisetums, and clubmosses, which have their analogues, only in forms much smaller, in the swamps and jungles of tropical regions. Likewise, in the coal measures, the Trilobite [*sic*] disappears, and the King crab (*Limulus*) takes its place. We read in the Odyssey, today, that Ulysses makes himself known to his son, who can scarcely believe that he is really his father, but thinks that he is some god, from the beauty and majesty of his appearance, but ~~when~~ at length, when he is fully convinced that he is really Ulysses, he receives him with open arms. Thereupon Ulysses and Telemachus concoct schemes to frustrate Penelope's enamoured suitors.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace
June 22nd 1869

Tuesday

We ascertained from our botany today, that stomates, or breathing processes, are most abundant on the underside of leaves. But in floating plants on the contrary, they are only to be found on the upperside, whilst the under surface is utterly deprived of them. In this case of the stomates, Nature has well provided for itself, for, as it is the air that we have breathed, that is vital to the plant, so, when the air [*interlined*: de]ascends, the stomates open their little mouths and absorb it. Fishes, as everybody knows, are cold-blooded animals, yet this is not always the case, for Dr Davy tells a curious fact, that in the Mediterranean, a fish called the 'Banito' [*i.e.* Bonito], has been known to be as warm-blooded as man, having 98° temperature.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace
June 27th 1869

¹ Newhaven was a fishing village on the Firth of Forth, a couple of miles north of Edinburgh. See Figure 1.

² 14 June 1869 was a Monday, not a Saturday.



Figure 1. The fishing village of Newhaven, c.1880. Helena found some interesting rock specimens among the ship ballast here on 14 June 1869.
(From *Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh*)

Tuesday June 29th

We learned from our botany, today, that the skeleton of a leaf is composed of cellular tissue, called Parenchyma, and also of fibrous tissue called Prosenchyma. The parenchyma constitutes the soft parts of the leaf, whilst the prosenchyma is much firmer than the other, and gives great elasticity to the veins of the leaf. Outside of this fibro-cellular skeleton is the epidermis which wholly envelopes the leaf.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Thursday

Today for the first time we botanized one of the Filices. The fern that we specially took up, was the Felix-foemina, or Lady Fern. This is one of the most graceful and elegant of our native ferns. The frond is bipinnate and the pinnae are again pinnate. The sori are oblong and covered by an indusium. Botanical Formula of the Lady Fern

Div. Cryptogams
Cl. Acrogens
Sub. Cl. Aetheogams
Gen. Athyrium
Spec Felix-foemina
Nat. Ord. Filices

Helena Marshall
July 13th 1869

Tuesday July 16th

We ascertained from our grammar, today, that a number of Greek and Latin words have been introduced into our language by [*interlined:* at] various means [*interlined:* times]. By Julius Caesar, when he invaded Britain in B.C. 55. A number of Greek and Latin words were also introduced into the English language by the Latin Ecclesiastics [*sic*], who came over to Britain to convert the native Angles. Most of the words thus brought into our language were necessarily of a religious character; whereas, those words imported by Julius Caesar and his soldiers, were those most likely to be used in war.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday July 23rd

We ascertained from our botany, today, that in the generality of leaves we are able to distinguish two cellular layers^[3] – a superior and an inferior one. Although in both these layers, the cells are filled with granules of a greenish colour; yet the cells of the under surface are neither of the same form, nor do they perform the same functions as the upper. For in the superior surface, the utricles are of an oblong form, pressed close together, whereas the under surface is composed of irregular utricles, leaving between them numerous lacunae.

[the first section of the diary ends here]

³ This part of the sentence has been amended in pencil to read 'two cellular layers may be distinguished'.

1869

Journal from October 1869

Monday

Everyone has some idea, faint though it may be, of what night is, but few I daresay know that it is really only a conic shadow, projected by our sphere, the earth.

Sunday September 26th 1869

This evening being fine, I determined to take a walk to Granton.^[4] By the time that I reached my destination, it had become quite dark, but the darkness only aided to enhance the beauty and romance, (yes! romance is the word,) of the scenery. Raising my eyes I beheld an Italian sky, studded by a thousand stars, apparently all of them vieing [*sic*] to eclipse each other in brilliancy. Casting my eyes down again I beheld a troubled sea, dashing up against rocks and reminding one of an imprisoned madman trying to burst his bonds asunder. O the scene was enchanting! I felt as if rooted to the spot, but at length I tore myself away, and so dispelled the vision.

Helena Marshall
October 4th 1869

Tuesday October 5th 1869

We took up today the early Italian painters, beginning with the Florentine artist, Cimabue, who flourished in the 13th century. It is to him that we are indebted for the revival of painting, hence he has received the flattering appellation [*sic*] of the Restorer of True Art. His taste inclined rather to the grand and terrible than to the gentle and graceful, and consequently, he gave to his Madonnas a largeness of form, quite unrivalled by any previous artist. The works of Cimabue are in the cathedral of Santa Maria Novelli in Florence.

The subject that we are at present engaged upon in our botany is the form and veination of leaves. A leaf is composed of parenchyme and prosenchyme, or cellular and fibrous tissue. The latter constitutes the veins and petiole of the leaf, whereas the soft parts of the leaf are composed of cellular tissue.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace
October 11th 1869

Thursday October 14th

The painter whom we took up today was Giotto, the pupil of Cimabue. To Cimabue, for three centuries, has been attributed the honour of being the 'Father of Modern Painting', and yet he does not ~~merit~~ owe this flattering appellation to his own merit as an artist, but only so far as he was the means of bringing to light the talent of the lowly 'Shepherd Boy'. Hence the truth of the following lines from Dante's 'Purgatoria',

“_____ Cimabue thought
To lord it over painting's field; and now
The cry is Giotto's, and his name eclipsed.”

⁴ Granton lay a couple of miles north of Edinburgh, on the Firth of Forth. It was the site of a large harbour. See Figure 2.

Giotto was the first painter, who “held as it were the mirror up to nature,” whilst the artists who preceded him, worked on in the trammels of Byzantine Art. All writers who treat of the ancient glories of Florence, place Giotto in the roll of her most distinguished men.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday October 19th

We have ascertained from our botany today, that various names have been assigned to the different cuttings of leaves, according as they are near, or distant from the mid-rib; and also according to the shape of these cuttings. The leaves of the Horsechestnut [*sic*] and Primrose are termed Dentate, from their edges being tooth-shaped. Serrate comes from the Latin ‘Serra’ (a saw), and is applied to leaves, [*interlined*: the calyces of] which, like the nettle, resemble a saw.

When the leaves are composed of a longer and shorter serrature, as the elm, the leaf is said to be Inciso-serrate.

Crenate is derived from the Latin ‘Crenus’ (notched). The leaves of the Ranunculous bulbosus, are frequently notched.

By Lobed, we mean leaves having divisions, or lobes. All the geraniums and also the beautiful Alchemilla vulgaris, belong to this class. When the incisions are very deep, as in the Crowfoot tribe, the leaves are said to be Cut.

The Ranunculaceae, and all the leaves where the parts penetrate to the mid-rib, are termed Partite.

In the Ivy-leaved Speedwell, the parts spring from the nerve itself, and the leaf is therefore said to be divided into segments.

Sinuated is derived from the Latin ‘Sinus’ signifying a bay. It is applied to leaves, which, like the oak bend in and out.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Thursday October [?November] 4th 1869

We have seen from our botany today, that the only difference between a simple and compound leaf is, that in the compound leaf, the secondary bundle continues to the petiole and then divides into the new leaf.

In the 15th century, Florence produced the immortal Lorenzo Ghiberti. He was descended from a good family, and, at the early age of twenty-three, commenced those famous Gates, which were to become no less the wonder, than the admiration of after ages. Michael Angelo in his enthusiastic praise, pronounces these gates “worthy to be the Gates of Paradise!” Lorenzo Ghiberti died about the year 1455, at the age of seventy-seven.

Amongst the many disciples of Lorenzo Ghiberti, Masaccio stands preeminent. He received the nickname of Masaccio, which means dirty or slovenly Tom, in consequence of his negligent dress and manners. His real name was Tommaso Guido. Little is known of the events of his life, and that little is uncertain. He probably was born in 1417, and died in 1448, at the age of 26.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

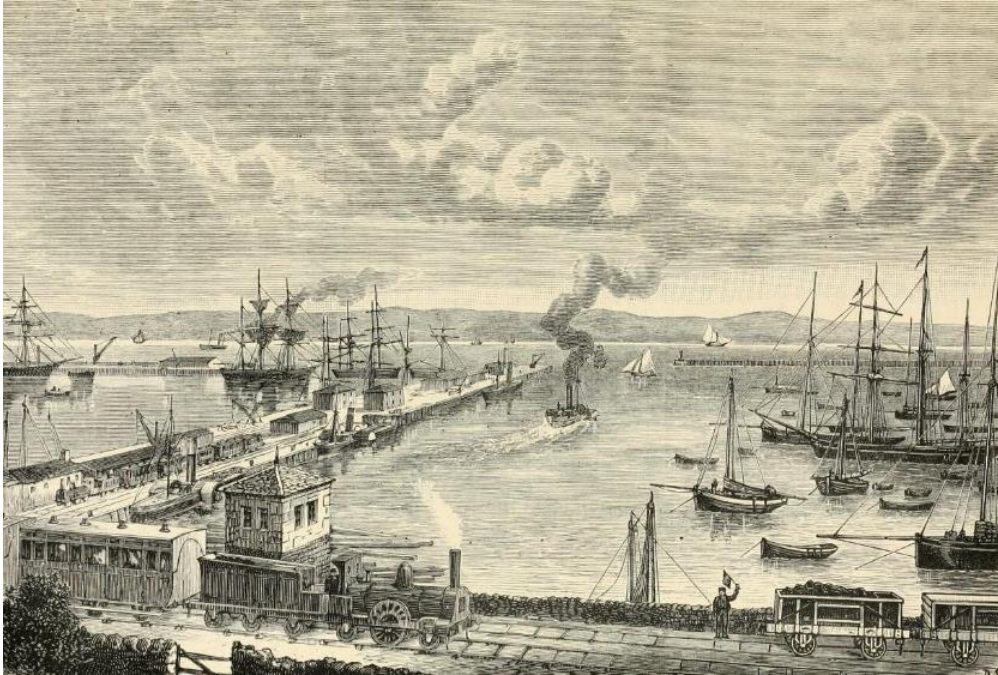


Figure 2. The harbour at Granton, c.1880. Helena found the sea and night sky here so enchanting that she felt ‘as if rooted to the spot’ (26 September 1869).
(From *Cassell’s Old and New Edinburgh*)

Tuesday

Contemporary with Masaccio lived the painter Filippo Lippi. This extraordinary man was endowed with surpassing genius, which, however, was unhappily [*sic*] marred by his immorality. He was early driven to seek refuge at a convent, on account of his extreme poverty; and through necessity rather than inclination, [*interlined: he*] took the habit. The time, however, that should have been passed in religious offices, he spent studying the frescoes of Masaccio, with which the convent was adorned. At length, however, he found it impossible to endure the convent restraints and escaped to Ancona. The remainder of his life is a mere romance. It is related that while at sea, he was taken prisoner by pirates, and sold as a slave, and that his master, upon discovering a portrait that Filippa [*sic*] had made of him, was so pleased with it, that he not only [*interlined: did he give*] gave him his liberty, but [*interlined: even*] loaded him with presents. He then returned to Italy, where he painted a number of admirable pictures. He died at the age of sixty-nine; it is generally believed from the effects of poison. Undoubtedly the value of Lippi as an artist, would have been immensely enhanced, if it had not been for his immorality, which degraded both his taste and talent.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

Donatello, the painter so famous for his colour, was born at Florence, in 1383. He travelled over a great part of Italy, and received his first lessons from Bicci. Amongst the many works which Donatello executed, perhaps the greatest was a figure of St George. He died in 1466, at the age of seventy-three.

H. Marshall
November 22nd 1869

Tuesday

We took for our painter today, Lionardo [*sic*] da Vinci, one of the greatest men of the 15th century. He was born at Vinci, near Florence, in 1452. His father sent him to study painting, under Andrea Verrochio [*sic*], who soon after commenced to paint a picture of the Baptism of the Saviour. He employed Lionardo to execute one of the angels, which he did with such softness and grace as far to surpass the rest of the painting. After this Lionardo soon attained great eminence in his art, under his patron Lodovico, Duke of Milan. Lionardo da Vinci was the discoverer of Chiaroscuro, that branch of art for which Rembrandt became so famous.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

In our botany today, we took up the Stipules of leaves. We may describe stipules as little foliaceous organs, situated upon both sides of the base of leaves. They may be either caulinary [*sic*], or petiolate: they are the former, when ~~they are~~ seated, as it were, upon the stem; and the latter when they have a petiole, or distinct stem.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Luini, who comes next on our list of Italian painters was born at Luino. He was a pupil of Lionardi [*sic*] da Vinci, but far excelled his master in painting. Luini was most celebrated for his fresco painting.

December 8th 1869

Tuesday

We took for our painter, today, Ghirlandajo, one of the greatest men of the fifteenth [*sic*] century. He was born at Florence, and followed the profession of a goldsmith, but displaying a talent for drawing, he quitted that profession, and became a painter, at the age of twenty-four. From that time till his death at the early age of forty-four, he worked with never-flagging zeal, so that the pictures he left behind him were most numerous.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

In Michael Angelo was combined the most various talents. He was at once a painter, sculptor, poet, and architect, ~~and~~ He was born at Settignano, near Florence in 1474. He early showed an inclination for painting, but his father, who held the fine arts in contempt, endeavoured to dissuade him from pursuing it, but to no purpose. Lorenzo de' Medici having discovered his talents, offered to undertake the entire care of his education, and, on his father's consenting, he removed to the palace of de' Medici, where he remained till he had reached the age of eighteen, when he lost his generous patron. He died at Rome, in the eighty-ninth year of his age. Of the many works executed by Michael Angelo, only one remains which is the genuine production of his hand, the rest being merely copies from his models and designs.

Helena Marshall
5 Dean Terrace

Tuesday

We are just now occupied in our botany with the leaves of Monocotyledons, and we find that their venation is not reticulated, as that of the Dicotyledons, but is parallel to the mid-rib; and in this case the leaf frequently takes the form of a ribbon, so that it is difficult to distinguish the petiole from the limb. There are a few monocotyledonous families, whose venation is reticulated, and so form an exception to the preceding rule.

Helena Marshall
January 10th 1870

Andrea Del Sarto.

Andrea Del Sarto, the celebrated Florentine painter, was surnamed "The Faultless," because of the great excellence he attained to in painting. He made an unfortunate marriage, and to the detestable temper of his wife, his crimes, as well as his misfortunes, may be attributed. In order to escape a wretched existence, he accepted an invitation from Francis I, to Paris, but on his wife, summoning him to return, he obtained leave to depart, and was also entrusted by Francis with a large sum of money to be spent on specified objects, which under the influence of his wife he was weak and wicked enough to embezzle. But from this time he never knew a happy moment, and, at length, death put an end to his sufferings, in the year 1530. Andrea, however, continued to paint to the last, and improved both in style and colour.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

We are just now engaged in our geology upon the lower coal-measures. The Carboniferous system is to be found lying immediately above the Old Red Sandstone. The most striking feature of its strata is the abundance of fossil vegetation, which forms thick seams of coal. The Carboniferous System has been divided into three groups – The Lower Coal-Measures or Carboniferous Slates, the mountain or Carboniferous Limestone, and the Upper or True Coal Measures.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Ludovico Cardo da Cigoli.

Ludovico Cardo da Cigoli was born in Florence, but went, when young, to Rome where he spent the remainder of his life. He was one of the greatest reformers of the Florentine school, and has executed many works, the greatest of which is an oil painting, representing 'St Peter healing the Lame.'

Francesco Vanni.

Francesco Vanni was a celebrated Italian painter of the 16th century. He died at Sienna [*sic*] at the age of forty-four.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Dolci Carlo.^[5]

Carlo Dolci, a painter of great merit, was born at Florence. He lost his father at an early age, and his mother placed him with Jacopo Vignali, with whom he painted for four years. Carlo was of a pious turn of mind: his pictures are ~~most~~ numerous, but they consisted solely of sacred subjects.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

We are just now occupied upon that portion of Tennyson describing the cause and manner of the death of the Lady of Shalott. When Sir Lancelot came disguised as an ordinary knight to the house of Helen's [*interlined: Claire*] father, notwithstanding his many scars, notwithstanding his first youthful years being past, still he was the noblest-looking man of all the 'Table Round', and "Elaine lifted up her eyes and loved him."

Thursday

The Italian painter that we took today was Batoni, one of the most distinguished painters of the 18th century. He was born at Lucca in 1708. Most of his works which are chiefly scriptural, [*interlined: are to be found*] at Petersburg and Germany.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Pietro da Cartona.

Pietro da Cartona, ~~was~~ so called from his being a native of Cartona, was a celebrated Italian painter. He was invited to Florence, in 1640, to ornament the Pitti palace. This work, on which he spent so many years, is considered to be his finest.

Mantegna.

Mantegna, the celebrated Italian painter, was a pupil of Squarcione, and was born in 1431. In spite of humble parentage, Jacopo Bellini did not consider him unworthy of his daughter, whom he gave him in marriage. From this time Mantegna followed the school of painting of which his father-in-law was the head, thereby exciting the anger of his old master, for Squarcione and Bellini were deadly enemies. To such a degree was Squarcione incensed against him, that the next picture Mantegna produced he mercilessly criticised. Although this would have been the death-blow to mediocrity, yet it only acted as a spur to true genius, and Mantegna worked on with ever increasing success. His greatest work is the 'Triumph of Julius Caesar. Mantegna died at Mantua, at the age of 74.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

⁵ Someone has written '1' over Carlo and '2' over Dolci to indicate the correct order.

Pietro Perugino and Raphael.

Pietro Perugino is only worthy of note in having been the teacher of Raphael. The ruling passion of Perugino's life was the love of gold. He worked with enormous rapidity, but all his pictures were made for the same end i.e. that of amassing gold. His later pictures are considered inferior to his first.

Raphael Sanzio d'Urbino was, as his name implies, born at Urbino, in 1483. He was a rival an[d] co-temporary of Michael Angelo, who held him in feigned contempt, not liking that the handsome stripling should supplant him in the minds of the people. Raphael died in 1520. The last picture he

Thursday

Today in our botany we were occupied upon the ramification of plants.

When the gemmule of the embryo has reached its utmost state of development, then the stem with its leaves ceases to grow, and a bud is produced on its summit. After winter has passed the bud begins to be developed, but is stopped in its turn, in order to prepare a bud for the following year. Thus we may see the number of ligneous layers gradually diminish on viewing a tree from the foot to to [*sic*] top.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Thursday

We have seen from our botany, that the underground stems, during winter, instead of remaining stationary, continue to spread. In this case the stem generally produces adventitious [*i.e.* adventitious] roots, which, shooting below ground, become laden with radical prolongations and fibrils, and thus present all the appearance of a root. They are then named rhizome.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

We have now entered in our geology upon the oolitic system (Gr oon an egg, lithos a stone), so called because it resembles the roe of a fish. The Oolitic system, as developed in England, consists of three well-marked groups – The Lias, The Oolite, and the Wealden. The Oolite has been aptly termed “The Age of Reptiles,” because it is here that we first come upon the large forms of the Ichthyosaurus, or fish lizard, the Plesiosaurus, or swan lizard, and the Pterodactylus, or flying lizard, all of which become extinct in after formations.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

Today, in our botany we were engaged upon The Creeping Stems of plants; or those stems which, instead of rising vertically, shoot along in a horizontal direction, and emit adventitious roots from their underside. The veronicas are good examples of this.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

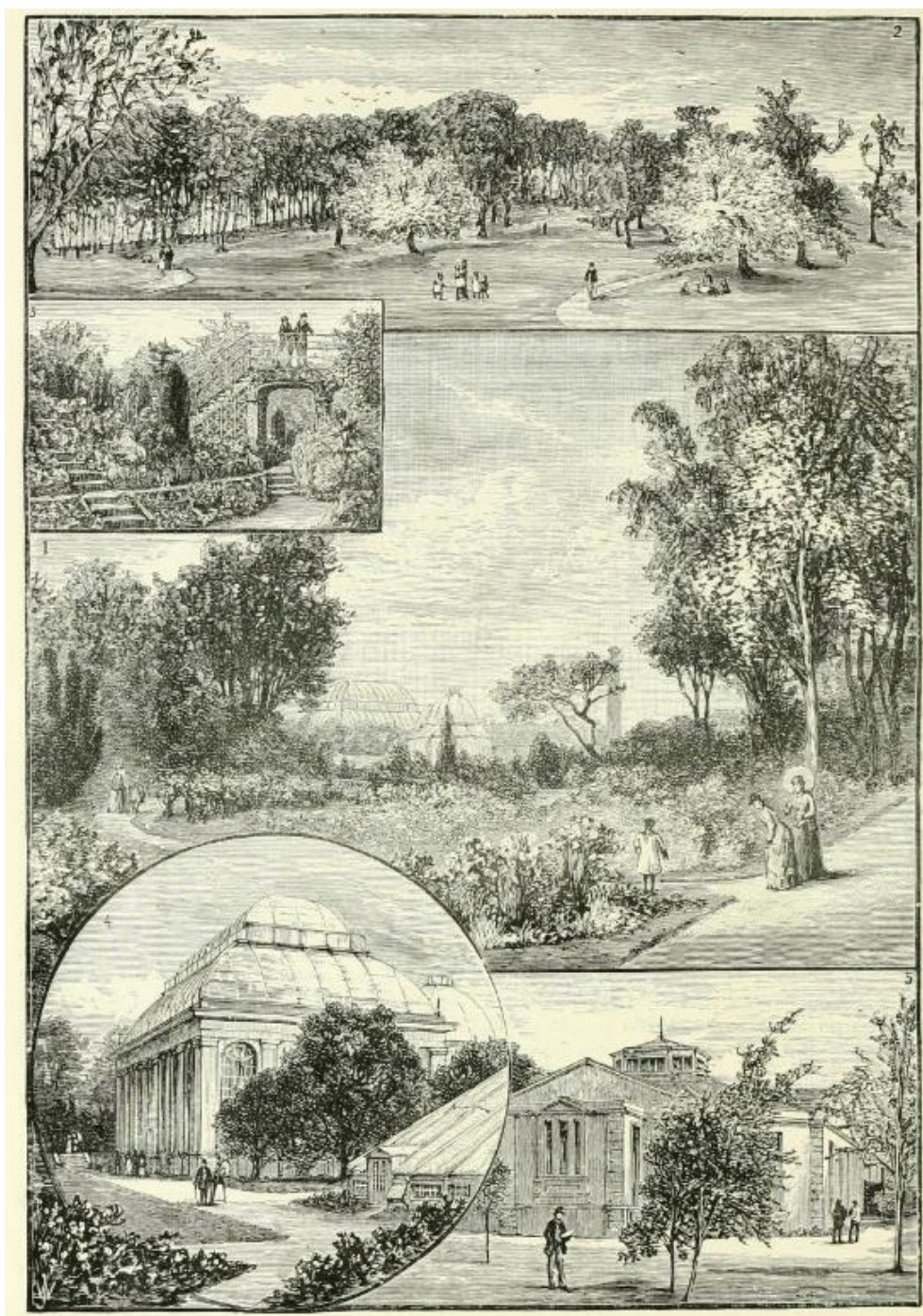


Figure 3. Scenes from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, c.1880.
 Helena had 'a delightful walk' here on 14 May 1870.
 (From *Cassell's Edinburgh Old and New*)

Tuesday

We botanized today the Snowdrop – first herald of Spring. The French have a beautifully descriptive name for this flower – viz that of Perce-neige, because it pierces through the snow.

Saturday

Went a walk to the Botanical Gardens, and visited the hot-houses, which are radiant with the beauty of endogenous plants.

Monday. April

This day witnesses the termination of the Fast Holidays,^[6] which I have agreeably spent in rambling along the shores of Fife, and in taking little excursions within the immediate neighbourhood of Edinburgh. And I hope by this means to have laid in, ~~by this means~~ a sufficient stock of strength to enable me to pursue my studies profitably to the close of the session, when the Midsummer holidays will again invite me to repose.

H. Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

Today, in our zoology, we read about the third family of the Mammalia, called the Carnivora. The Carnivora live more exclusively on flesh, their large pointed canine or eye-teeth, being well adapted for holding and tearing their prey. It is to a sub-order of the Carnivora, called Digitigrade, or those that walk on their toes, that our domestic cat, as well as man's faithful friend, the dog, belong.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace
2nd May 1870

Tuesday

In zoology, today, we were engaged upon the Cetacea, or all those animals which belong to the whale tribe. These are sometimes mistaken for fishes, although widely differing from them. One important distinction is, that they have the tail-fin horizontal instead of vertical; they have warm blood; breathe by lungs; bring forth their young alive, and suckle them. Thus proving them to be true mammals.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace
May 9th 1870

Saturday May 14th

We went today a delightful walk to the Botanical Gardens, which are looking beautiful, having reassumed their summer garb. We found some of the Cuckoo Flower, (Cardamine Pratensis) the petals of which take the form of the Maltese cross, thereby proving it to be a true Cruciferae. Having brought our drawing materials we took a sketch of an old shed, and when this was

⁶ i.e. the bi-annual Presbyterian communion season, which started on a Friday and finished the following Monday.

completed, we found there was only time [*interlined*: before leaving] to gather a small bunch of Vernal-grass, scientifically called Anthoxanthum odoratum.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Saturday May 19th

We experienced a great treat today, having been favoured with a photographic view of Lionardo da Vinci's 'Last Supper'. But our pleasure was greatly enhanced by reading an article in the 'Speculation Journal', which, from its clear description, enabled us to appreciate many of the beauties which would otherwise have passed unnoticed. Lionardrdo's [*sic*] picture represents the moment when Christ has made the startling announcement that one who is sitting at the same table with him was to betray him. The genius of Lionardo has thus ample scope in delineating the various emotions that were likely to agitate the countenances of the Apostles at such a moment.

Thursday June 9th

We botanized today, the Wood Scorpion-grass, which botanists call myosotis sylvatica, myosotis being derived from Greek words signifying rat's ear, because the downy leaves so much resemble the ears of mice or rats. The flower is the same [*interlined*: similar] as the popular Forget-me-not, but smaller.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Saturday June 18th

Went a trip this afternoon to Aberdour.^[7] Fortunately the sea was very calm, so that to most the sail was enjoyable, although I only found it tolerable. We spent the afternoon in sketching and in walking along the seashore.

Thursday June 23rd

Today we were introduced to an entirely new order of plants, botanically called Euphorbiaceae. The Euphorbiums, the type of this natural order, contain a milky poisonous juice, which stains everything that comes into contact with it. The Manchineel is a tree of America belonging to this order, and if accounts are to be trusted, it is certain death for anyone to sleep underneath its shade.

H. Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Thursday June 29th

In our geology today we had the conclusion of the Tertiary System. Its organic remains are all of recent or Cainozoic type, and it has been subdivided into four groups, according to the number of recent fossils its strata contain. The oldest group has received the name of Eocene, a name signifying the dawn of the recent species. The next class is the Miocene with more recent

⁷ The Fife town was a popular destination for pleasure steamers sailing across the Firth of Forth from Leith.

fossils. The Pliocene comes next with a majority of existing species. And lastly the Pleistocene containing mostly the remains of existing species.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

The Medusa group, or Sea-nettles are so called from their stinging properties. The Sea-anemones belong to the Polypi, and have their name from the flower-like form of the expanded tentacula, and their brilliant colours.

Helena Marshall
5 Upper Dean Terrace

Tuesday

In our Italian Literature for today we read an account of the life of Petrarch, the faithful lover but conceited man. Petrarch's attachment to Laura was not affected by time, for when age had dimmed her beauty, he loved her as devotedly as in the days of her greatest loveliness. Petrarch's reputation does not rest so much on his 'Sonnets,' fine as they may be, as on his having been the 'Reviver of Classical Learning. Petrarch attained to the greatest [*interlined*: honour] to which he ever hoped to aspire when the Wreath of Laurel was placed upon his brow.

[the second section of the diary ends here]

1871

March 1871

March 1st 1871

Wednesday [*sic*]

Sat with Mr. Forrest and Miss J. Saw electrical experiments in the dark which caused great excitement. Gave in exercises on magnetism.

Thursday 2nd

After French had a talk with A. Schneider.^[8]

Friday 3rd

Heard a lecture on Charles Lamb and in consequence of Mr Carmichael's death the debate was adjourned to Monday.^[9]

Saturday 4th

Very warm weather. Went out with Ina and bought dresses. 5 Met M. coming out of the Exhibition^[10] with Crab and Shearer, who both accompanied us home. 7 Went to Hamilton's Excursion,^[11] and enjoyed it amazingly. Coming out of Hall met King. W. Shearer saw us home.

Sunday 5th

7 Went to Church. Nicol brought us home.

Monday 6th

After French took a walk with Miss J. Lumsden etc. till it was nearly time for the Debating Society, then went into the apparatus room where we had a talk till our time was up. Took the front seat. Miss Walker did'nt ~~rea~~ give her essay as she had promised "out of respect to Mr Carmichael's funeral day." After sundry signs of indignation from the meeting Miss Burton read a description of 'A visit to the House of Commons as seen from the lady's Gallery', a very humorous paper and thoroughly appreciated. Came home with Miss J. and Shearer.

Tuesday 7th

By mistake went an hour late to school of Arts so missed the German – sat behind at chemistry – came hom [*sic*] with Miss J., Shearer, and Fraser a part of the way.

⁸ Albert Schneider (b. 1848) was the son of Charles Henri Schneider (b. 1817), the French master at the Watt Institution and School of Arts. He too taught French and was his father's assistant at the High School. He appears also to have stood in for him at the Watt Institution.

⁹ It was reported in the *Scotsman* the next day: 'Watt Literary and Debating Association – At a numerously attended meeting of the Association, held last night – Mr David Pryde, MA, presiding – a minute was adopted, on the motion of Mr John Young (the president), expressive of the deep sorrow felt by the members of the Association at the death of Mr John Carmichael, MA, one of their honorary presidents'.

¹⁰ The Royal Scottish Academy's 45th Annual Exhibition of the Works of Living Artists, 15 February-13 May 1871. The admission price was 1 shilling. A season ticket cost 5 shillings. See Figure 4.

¹¹ Hamilton's Excursions, which featured a series of dioramas of 'Scenes at Home and Abroad', was being held at the Operetta House, Waterloo Place. It included depictions of Berlin, Paris and other cities and battles from the recent Franco-Prussian War, each one accompanied by appropriate music and song. Tickets cost 3 shillings for a seat in the stalls or 2 shillings for one at the front.



Figure 4. The Royal Scottish Academy, c. 1870. Helena visited the Academy several times in March and April 1870 to view its annual exhibition.
(National Galleries of Scotland)

Wednesday 8th

Sat with Miss J. behind Mr Forrest. Saw a book [*word overwritten to read*: boy] electrified on a glass stool. Mr Lumsden saw me home.

Thursday 9th

Went to french but got none, Schneider having a sore throat. Walked down with Miss Heron, Miss J. and Messrs Millar.

Friday 10th

7 Went to Miss J's and helped to write an answer to the Play. 8½ Heard Pryde^[12] on Professor Wilson, not so interesting as usual. An adjourned debate was continued of 'Ought Spinsters and Widows to have a Vote.' Mr. Forrest spoke nobly on the affirmative side of the question, and Mr. Frazer as enthusiastically on the opposite side. After lecture gave the letter to Frazer who looked as if he wasn't quite comfortable. Mr. Marr asked me if I wouldn't criticise Miss Walker's essay on '~~Temperance~~' [*interlined*: 'Courage'], and on my declining exhorted me to reconsider the matter. Saw Miss Bur. and Mr King on the stair. The latter ~~of whom~~ asked me why I had'nt profited by my chance (I was asked to speak at the meeting) and said I turned deadly white at the mention of my name. [*interlined*: With] Mr Burden also I had a talk, ~~with~~ and then I went away expecting to make up to pa. or Shearer but ran all the road home alone and reached the house at 11½ ~~minus at ½ hour~~.

¹² David Pryde (b. 1835) was lecturer in English literature at the Watt Institution and School of Arts.

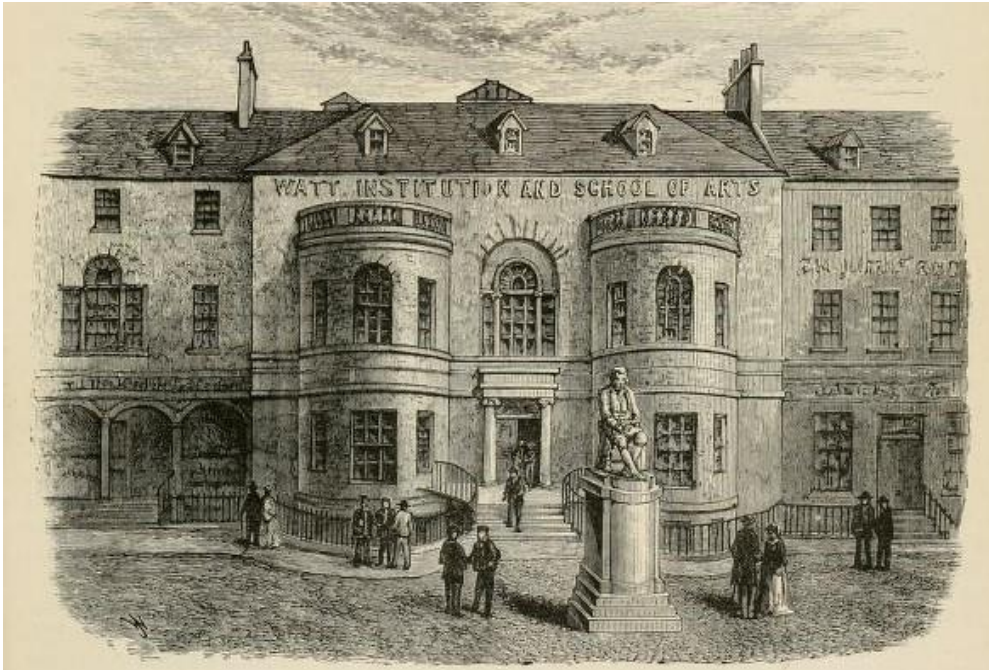


Figure 5. The Watt Institution and School of Arts, where Helena attended a variety of classes. The statue of James Watt that she and her classmates were asked to describe on 26 May 1871 can be seen in front of the building.
(*Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh*)

Saturday 11th
Wet.

Sunday 12th
After a long and serious conversation on the advisability of going to Church in bad weather put my fate to the test. Heard a sermon on the Darwinian Theory. After coming very slowly out of Church saw Nicol who brought me home (M. was not there). I today most assuredly experienced the truth of the proverb "two's company but 3's none."

Monday 13th
Miss J. and I took a preliminary examination all impromptu for French. Came home alone.

Tuesday 14th
Went to chemistry with Miss J., met Miss Bur. Accepted the ~~entire~~ office of critic for Miss Walker's on "Courage", came home alone with Miss J.

Wednesday 15th
Met Mr Vernon and Mr Monteith when going ~~to~~ with Miss J. to physics talked till ~~late for~~ past 8½. Sat in front of Mr Forrest. Mr Forrest came home with Miss J. and Mr Frazer with me.

Thursday 16th
Young Schneider. Had a long talk with him whilst Miss J. was trying to get signatures for a paper saying that Female Doctors were wanted.

Friday 17th

Going up to class alone met Mr Lawson in character of a volunteer, edifying conversation. Saw Pryde at School of Arts door, and received a low salame. The Lecture was on Robert Hall. Mr Forrest gave his essay on Holyrood. Remarkably good. The poetic vein ran through the whole of it. Came home with papa alone.

Saturday 18th

Went to the University Games^[13] with Miss J., Mr Vernon and his two sisters. Would have found it intolerably dull if we had not met in with Mr. Booth, who is wofully [*sic*] changed.

Sunday 19th

Went to Hall with M. Nicol accompanied us home as usual. On reaching our house found Pa. waiting at the gate for me to post a letter, so Nicol had rather a long walk this evening.

Monday 20th

Young Schneider instead of old. The class very unruly. Went to Professor's [*sic*] Oakeley^[14] on music lecture, delivered in a very dry manner. Saw no one.

Tuesday 21st

Princess Louise's marriage day.^[15] 6 Went with ~~Miss~~ M. to Miss Johnson's met there 3 young ladies (no shakes) and Miss Burton. Amused ourselves most of the evening with dancing and singing. Miss B. and M. dovetailed. After slight refreshment went out to see the illumination, very little of it.^[16] Mr J. brought us home.

Wednesday 22nd

Going to lecture met Mr Booth had a talk and after much persuasion went with him to the general post office; and after still more entreaty, aided by the fact that he was going to England next day, did'nt go to lecture but took a walk instead. Had a seat in the meadows. Mr B. in his most sparkling mood. Miss J. rather inclined to the sentimental. Returned by the School of Arts and met Forrest coming from lecture. Said goodbye to Mr B. at our door.

Thursday 23rd

Sat up till near 1 practising and listening to W. and pa. reading poetry.

¹³ This was the inaugural Scottish Inter-University Sports, held at the Academical Club's grounds at Raeburn Place. It featured various athletic contests including running, jumping and putting a cannon ball.

¹⁴ Herbert Oakeley was the professor of music at the University of Edinburgh. See Figure 6.

¹⁵ Princess Louise, sixth child of Queen Victoria, married John Campbell, marquess of Lorne. Helena might have had a particular interest in Princess Louise due to her support for feminist causes including women's suffrage and allowing women into the medical profession.

¹⁶ It was the custom throughout Britain to hold illuminations, or light displays, to mark notable occasions. The *Scotsman* agreed with Helena's assessment of the Edinburgh event, describing it as a 'meagre affair'. It nevertheless attracted large crowds, with Princes Street and the Bridges 'impassable' for much of the evening. For a full description of the event, see 'Rejoicings in Scotland', *Scotsman*, 22 March 1871.



Figure 6. Sir Herbert Oakeley, professor of music at the University of Edinburgh, whose lecture on 20 March 1871 Helena thought was delivered in 'a very dry manner'. (National Galleries of Scotland)

Friday 24th

Heard a lecture on Dickens. Saw Mr Forrest at the lecture although he did not remain to the Debate. Whilst airing myself outside before going in to the Debating Society saw Mr Pryde, from whom I had a sweet smile and bow.

Saturday 25th

Went to Exhibition with M. and saw Mr Crabb, Mr Lowson and his adored there. Crabb after seeing us home remained till past 10. Feeling sleepy went to bed at an early part of the evening.

Sunday 26th

Went with Mary to Hall came out soon so did't see Nicol. Tiresome.

Monday 27th

~~Came home minus Forrest~~

French.

Tuesday 28th

Chemistry.

Wednesday 29th

M's birthday. Came home minus Forrest. Finished group of flowers.

Thursday 30th

French.

Friday 31st

Finished ‘The Abstract of Lord Neaves’ Lecture’ at 8¼.^[17] Rushing up to lecture met Milly and Laura. Heard a very interesting account of Thackeray along with a perfect reading of the the [sic] description of a piece of music entitled “Going up Stairs”. Gave in the essay. Before beginning the subject of debate tonight (Ought there to be a State Church) Mr Hay bitterly complained of Mr Forrest’s calling him ignorant on a previous night. After a great deal of difficulty the matter was outwardly hushed up. Mr King sat beside me so it was impossible to keep my gravity for many minutes together during the Debate, which, by the way, was between Frazer and papa, a continuation of last Friday’s. King told me that the choir had had there [sic] soiree last Wednesday and it had turned out a failure.

April

Saturday April 1st

Crabb was a fixture all evening.

Sunday 2nd

Went to Page’s alone – came out very soon and consequently did’nt see Niccol [sic].

Monday 3rd

Began model-drawing for examination – was told that Miss Ashworth wanted to see me. Went down at the end of the hour and received the present of an exhibition ticket. After French made a run up to exhibition.

Tuesday 4th

Spring came unexpectedly to tea this evening. Crabbe also came in the same amusing manner to ask M. and me to go to the country with him on Good Friday. Went for a short time to Exhibition before going to lecture.

Wednesday 5th

Went to Exhibition before lecture. Saw Forrest coming in at outter [sic] Hall door – shook hands but did’nt sit together. Stayed till ten revising electricity.

Thursday 6th

Whilst at tea Mr Crabbe came to settle finally about tomorrow, stayed his usual time.

Friday 7th

The three of us went on the top of the bus’ to the amusement of morning loungers. Enjoyed the drive very much when we got into the country. When it was time for us to alight I came down with cat-like agility, but Mary had a terrible battle to fight with a giddy head, stiff knees, and crinoline; but at length nerving all her strength for a last effort she conquered through sheer desperation. We walked about Rosslyn and drew after which we took dinner at the inn and again commenced stravaiging^[18] but, finally settled down to draw the castle. It was here, in this

¹⁷ Lord Neaves was the president of the Watt Institution and School of Arts.

¹⁸ To roam idly or aimlessly (more commonly, ‘stravaiging’).



Figure 7. A late nineteenth-century postcard showing Roslin Castle, which Helena sketched during a visit to the glen on 7 April 1871.
(National Galleries of Scotland)

spot, all unsuspecting of the [?bliss] that fortune had in store for us, that Mr King started up – no one knew whither he came – no one knew whither he went – like a star he appeared on our path – like a star he vanished from it. Mr C. and I again honoured the top of the bus, M. desecrated the inside.

Went to ~~lecture~~ Pryde's last lecture of English Literature on Macaulay and Carlyle. Heard an essay by Mr Young on Tennyson.^[19] Came home with Shearer.

Saturday 8th

I called on Miss J. with a paper, found her busy getting up chemistry – went to exhibition and studied the pictures well till Crabbe came after which looked at them cursorily and superficially and finally settled ourselves in a seat from which we only moved to go home. Had a little bantering going home. Crabbe stayed all evening.

Sunday 9th

Went to Church but did'nt see Niccol.

Monday 10th

Met Mr King pleasant talk. Young Schneider.

Tuesday 11th

Crabbe came. Sat up till 2½ preparing for the examination of the following day.

¹⁹ Probably John Young, the president of the Watt Literary and Debating Association.

Wednesday 12th

Had examination in magnetism and electricity. Questions unprecedentedly difficult. Mr Lumsden saw me home. [*interlined*: Got a note from Mr King asking me to criticise a paper on Duffus.]

Thursday 13th

Written examination in French nothing terrible. Mr Wilson accompanied me home. [*interlined*: Wrote back an answer to King accepting the office of critic.]

Friday 14th

Got a letter from King ~~expecting~~ expressing his gratitude for my taking the office of critic. Finished criticising the essay which M. wrote out to save my time. 8 Went to Pryde's examination and finished at 9½ instead of 10 the hour to which we were allowed. Went downstairs and was assigned the essayist's seat and to my astonishment heard it announced that I was to read the essay. But eventually Mr King read it, not however without immense opposition from some refractory members who however were silenced. After the essay I criticised it feeling uncommonly nervous. Mr Forrest was the first to speak running down the essay and praising the criticism. His noble example was followed by Fraser, Raeburn, and Mr [*blank*] and Mr Marr. King criticised the essay and afterwards answered for it to the intense disgust of some malcontents. Had a long talk with Burden who congratulated me on my success, and gave me the hint that it was most likely King who wrote the essay. I accordingly charged him with it, however he gave me no satisfactory answers only promising to introduce me to the essayist when I could ~~do so~~ face him.

Saturday 15th

Wet so didn't go to Exhibition. Crabbe came notwithstanding at 4½ and remained till 11. In a very impudent mood. Had a tiff with Aunt M.^[20]

Sunday 16th

A sore-throat so did'nt go to Hall.

Monday 17th

Oral examination in French. For want of time practised whilst Crabbe was in.

Tuesday 18th

7 Went to the Exhibition where I saw Ramsay and M. Ewan. He was decidedly rather ashamed of himself for not having called and several times apologised. After looking at the pictures with him for a ¼ of an hour I left for Voysey's lecture.^[21] Sat behind Mr Sinclair, who seemed in mighty good humour bowing at two different epochs altho heretofore we had never taken any notice of each other. After a very interesting lecture I saw Burden and King in a very jocular humour and who intended to take me home however I managed to defeat that intention knowing what a grotesque company our happy trio would have made. I also saw the 3 graces

²⁰ Helena's aunt, Mary Goodlet, lived with the family at Upper Dean Terrace.

²¹ Reverend Charles Voysey delivered a lecture in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, on 18 April 1871, on 'Twenty-five years in the Church of England'. It received a mixed reception from the audience, some applauding, others hissing.



Figure 8. The Marshalls' house in Dean Terrace, Edinburgh. (Photograph by Fergus Veitch)

with papa plotting against poor Mr Voysey's peaceful return home so many guarding the front door so many the back and so many the side.

On returning home heard news that I never expected to hear in a douce and quiet house like ours. Crabbe had proposed for Mary and had not met with the favourable answer he had evidently expected and was therefore in a ripe state for committing suicide without being allowed the indulgence of a natural vent. Was seldom in a more ludicrous position, sighs and groans from M. and woe-be-gone appearance of Crab [*sic*]. Now and then a spasmodic burst of laughter broke from me which I but ill concealed in a cough. 12 o'clock put an end to this ludicrous scene by the departure of Mr C.

What heightened the ridiculousness of the scene was the railing [*sic*] of James in another room of the madlike conduct of Crab after all his (James) warnings of the ridiculously prominent bump of family affections. At least he would wash his hand of the matter and comfort himself that at least he had waned [*i.e.* warned] if the warning did prove unavailing.

Wednesday 19th

Being wet and having a cold did'nt go to lecture. Expected Crabbe all evening but he did'nt come.

Thursday 20th

Papa announced the news that I had passed in physics. Went to a government examination of French. Altho' it lasted 3 hours I had not answered all the questions. Saw Miss Burton there, she was taking an English examination. Bemoaned my going to Petersburg for the loss it would be to the society. Saw Mr. C. when I returned home.

Friday 21st

¼ to 8 Went with Miss J. to hear the result of the French examination. I will get a 2nd class certificate. I had 6 ~~too~~ marks too few for a first one.

Sat with Miss J. during Pryde's lecture of 'What Use ought to be made of Books'. After this there was a distribution of prizes. Miss Walker gained the first prize for the essay, and also a prize for the literature examination. Mr Pryde read a list of some of the best papers in the examination altho not prize ones, amongst which I was glad to recognise my own name. After coming out of Hall I saw King and Burden with the latter of whom I had a long talk. Came home with Miss J., Frazer, and Shearer.

Saturday 22nd

Wet did'nt go out. Crab came as usual. We were all very merry by the end of the evening at last M. retired and after a long silence during which I was considering the best mode of beating a graceful retreat ~~feell~~ feeling inwardly convinced I was a Coy [*i.e.* Company] too many, Mr C. put an end alike to my breath (momentarily at least) and meditations by saying "Is'nt it time to go to bed" and on my gasping out in the affirmative said "Well then Vanish". With tottering steps I hastened out of the room and soon ma appeared and beckoned to Mary to go into the room which she accordingly did and then was presented and accepted the present of a lovely brooch. Fell asleep almost in the act of making a bon mot.

Sunday 23rd

M and I held a levee in bed till 12 o'clock. In the afternoon went to Miss M's where I swallowed an astounding amount of physic. 6½ Went to French service. Mounting the stair recognised Mr Millar with whom I exchanged a few sentences. Sat in a seat in front of him and was startled to hear my name called from a gentleman beside me who asked me how I felt after the examinations? I soon discovered that it was he who had carried off the first French prize. He was kind enough to lend me his hymn book and bible and went [*i.e.* when] the service was over naturally saw me home. Found he was passionately fond of music and in fact altogether unique.

Monday 24th

8 Went to Exhibition and saw Mr Wood and his 5 children there. Mr Crabbe in homely mood, M. threatens to call him Cornish.

Tuesday 25th

Wet. 7 Mr Crabbe came. 8 Miss Brown and Mr Shearer. The latter coming out strong. Could'nt be prevailed to remain to supper.

Wednesday 26th

Went to Physics. Sat with Miss J. Came home with Millar and Lumsden.

Thursday 27th

Fast day and Aunt M's birthday. 4½ Mr Crabbe dined with us.

Friday 28th

4 Went out for a walk with M. Left M. and called on Miss J. but found her out. Met Miss B. in King St. [*interlined*: Cousin H. came at 8 o'clock. Crabbe saw her home.]

Saturday 29th

3 Went to Exhibition saw Mr Wylie and his sister. $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 saw Mr Nicol. Took a round of the Exhibition with him. Interesting talk. Saw me home as far as George St. Mr Crabbe came at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to have a walk not finding either Mary or me at home went out to look for us. Came back at 5. 8 Went with M. to pay a visit at Swan's.

Sunday 30th

Went to Hall this evening with M. in mourning. After a long discourse came out bought a soiree ticket. Wet so waited at the door. Choir came out – so saw Mr Burden with whom I had a few minutes conversation, Mr Nicol, ~~who~~ and Mr King. Still wet so came home in a cab. Fruitful evening.

May

Monday 1st

$\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $6\frac{3}{4}$ Went to drawing examination which began punctually at $7\frac{1}{4}$. Remained to examination in model-drawing which began at $7\ 8\frac{1}{2}$. When over went to meet Miss Johnson, walked all the road to School of Arts without seeing her. Mr Crabbe was still with us when I reached home.

Tuesday 2nd

Mr Crabbe was to call for M. and me to go to Dr Page's soiree at 6 o'clock, however half-past 6 came and no sign of him so I went off alone M. still waiting. Saw Cranbrookes in the bed-room, and after about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour went in with them into the hall. Saw Mr Nicol at the door, and was conducted by him to Mrs Smith's table, at which was also Laura and Alice, and a little girl from the choir, who sat at the end of the seat. Mr Nicol when not helping second and I third. After tea spoke with Mr Burden, and during the singing sat with M. and Crabbe. During the promenade Mr Burden introduced me to that myth Mr Martin, with whom I continued the rest of the promenade Mr King joining us. We had now experiments in chemistry and more promenading. Mr Martin introduced me to a number of gentlemen almost not one of whom I shall recognise again. More music and at last the dancing.

The first quadrille I didn't dance but I engaged myself to Mr Burden for the lancers. Mr Nicol came as my vis-a-vis, and was so sweet that he reminded me greatly of the last time we danced the lancers together. When over, went with Mr B. to explore the premises for refreshments but to no purpose. Danced a polka with Mr King. Engaged myself to Mr Miles for a country dance. Could't make out Mr Nicol's meaning in not having once asked me to dance. Was sitting alone at the head of the room when I saw him advancing ~~toward him~~. Stood a long time ~~talking~~ with me but talking very little. At length we both went into a ring and then had a promenade and seat. He now asked me for the next dance but I told him I was already engaged at which he expressed great sorrow. My partner came edging his way up and told me he would be obliged to relinquish the next dance as he could't waltz. Without taking ~~the~~ time to reply much to Mr Miles amazement, with a jump minus the orthodox hop and skip I reached Mr Nicol's side and told him as I was now disengaged I could be his partner so we had the next dance together and a tremendous long affair it was too. The Haymakers I danced with Mr [blank]. When we came out ~~off~~ of the bed-room we saw Mr King, Mr Burden and Mr Nicol standing with all of whom we said goodbye and came home with Crabbe.

Wednesday 3rd

Was in a quandary all day at Nicol's strange behaviour – put me very much in mind of Lawson on a similar occasion. Went to drawing-school. 5 Went with M. to our cousin's, wonderfully cheerful – left at 8 to go to Lees' lecture.^[22] Saw very few there had a long talk with Mr B. about last night. Mr Miles sat beside him. Came home with Miss J. and Frazer both of whom, in spite of inclement weather saw me home.

Thursday 4th

8 Wet night but went to Exhibition. On reaching home saw both Mr Lawson and Crabbe – The former of whom was in splendid humour and bravely bore all the teasing [*sic*] he got about his Platonic love. left past 12.

Friday 5th

Went with M. to Miss Brown's to tea – a great deal of joking over that interesting meal. The whole evening very lively. Left at 8¼. M. went to her lecture and I to exhibition. Came home past the lecture-room door so saw M. and Crabbe who brought us home.

Saturday 6th

3 Went to Exhibition saw no acquaintance there. 5 Took tea minus Crabbe. 7 Crabbe came. 10 had a little bite – Thanks to me not a dull one.

Sunday 7th

6 called with M. for the Thomsons to go to French service. Sat in a seat behind S. Brown and her Paris friends. Saw J. Crowe, Mr Baird, Mr Millar and Mr ~~Millar~~ Wilson at the lecture. On coming out bowed to Mr ~~Thomson~~ Turnbull.

Monday 8th

Drew long white vase. Met Miss J. going to School of Arts to hear Mr Lee's Recapitulation on Magnetism and the half of electricity. Mr Frazer met Miss J. at School of Arts and took her home. Saw Sophia an [*sic*] walked as far as Cockburn St. with her. When at the Mound [*interlined: was*] pondering whether to go into the Exhibition when saw Mr Frazer, who accompanied me home.

Tuesday 9th

Usual routine. [*interlined: Saw at*] Exhibition M. [*interlined: Miss Burton*] and Crabbe [*interlined: also there. Pryde's opening address.*]

Wednesday 10th

3 Mrs John Bell came to dinner – Excessively amiable. 4½ Went for a drive round Arthur Seat. Saw our cousins with Mr Seton also driving there. 6 Salubrious tea in which we were joined by Mr Crabbe. 7½ Remainder of Mr Lees recapitulation. Got Testimonial. Talked to Mr Burden. Miss J. remained to ask Mr Lees some question. Went to the Exhibition for half-an-hour.

Thursday 11th

Took dose of Natural Philosophy. 9 paid the Exhibition a visit.

²² William Lees was the lecturer on Mechanical Philosophy at the Watt Institution and School of Arts.



Figure 9. A late nineteenth-century postcard showing Arthur's Seat.
Helena went for a drive here on 10 May 1871.
(National Galleries of Scotland)

Friday 12th

Went up to the Natural Philosophy Examination with Miss J. Began at 7. finished about 9. had a talk with Miss Walker, Mr Lumsden and Mr Burden. Went to Pryde's 'Composition Class'. Had short lecture from him on what was to be done during Summer Session. Received back Essay on L. N.'s Lecture. Came home with Shearer and Millar.

Saturday 13th

Last day of Exhibition. Went with M. and saw Miss Burton there. Crabbe did'nt come to tea. 6 Little Thomsons came with some fictitious message. C. also came to take M. to the theatre. Read Ernest Maltravers.^[23]

Sunday 14th

Going up to Hall met Mr Simpson, who entertained me with what was going on at the bed of the Nile. Sat near Mr Martin talked with him and Mr Miles for a short time at Hall Door, came home with Aunt M.

Monday 15th

M. paid. Mrs Thomson sent a gift of a golden locket, which I only hope will not prove to be brass gilt, like the enchanted money in the fairy tale which turned into withered leaves.

Went with M. to meet Crabbe to tell him not to come this evening as was going to Thomsons to hear the surprises for Mrs T's birthday. 6 Aunt Agnes and H. called. M. and I went part of the road home with A.A.

²³ *Ernest Maltravers* (1837) by Edward Bulwer-Lytton.

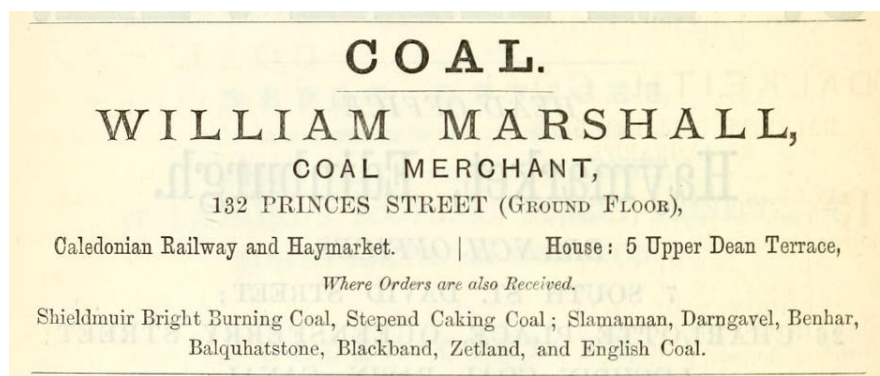


Figure 10. An advert for William Marshall's coal business printed in the *Post Office Directory for Edinburgh and Leith, 1869-1870*.

Tuesday 16th

7½ Mr Crabbe came to tea which I made, Ma and Agnes being at new house. 9½ Went to Debating Society with Mr C. and M. Held a levee at the foot of the stair till the French class came out. Mr King, Mr Burden, Mr Frazer, Mr Van Andel and Miss J. being forming the group.

Miss Burton gave an essay on German Poetry. Even more than half the essay was taken up with translations of the poems of the German poets under review. And these selections did not at all appear happily chosen, either for beauty, or, as Mr King [*interlined*: justly] said, "for being most characteristic of the authors." By following this course her limited essay time was dissipated; and consequently she had little time to give us her own thoughts on German poetry. The essay was criticised by Mr [?Conrad], Frazer, Marr, and King.

Wednesday 17th

8 Went with M. to see our new house. 9 came home by Princes St. expecting to meet Nicol but did'nt.

Thursday 18th

Went nowhere.

Friday 19th

James, M., Aunt M. and I went to Miss Swan's for tea. Miss B. and another young lady were there. 8½ Went to Mr Pryde's class. The exercise was to describe any person – I described Miss Brown. Mr Dibdin (sweet youth) sat beside me. Came home with Shearer and Millar.

Saturday 20th

Crabbe! Crabb! Crabb! Queen's Birthday?^[24] M. and C. went to see cricket match.

Sunday 21st

Went to French service sat en haut.^[25]

²⁴ Queen Victoria's birthday was 24 May.

²⁵ 'on high', perhaps indicating that she had sat in the gallery of the church.

Monday 22nd
Flitted today.

Tuesday 23rd
Went to Debating after hearing the Recital of Greyfriar's Choral Union at which were M. and Crabbe. Was introduced to Mr Young and his sister. Had a long talk with Mr Burden in the side room. The Debate was on alcoholic liquors left ½ an hour after it began and came home alone.

Wednesday 24th
Aunt Ann Jane sent a letter inviting me to stay with them in Petersburg. Went to pa's office and got it settled to go to Petersburg. Met M. returning from Thomson's, and in passing through Princes St. we met Mr King who was naturally very much surprised to hear that I was going away, and predicted a speedy rise in the price of Cambric handkerchiefs. Whilst still talking to King who should pass but Mr Martin who was also advertised of the sad news. He seemed too deeply affected to have the power of Speech. Took tea this evening with Bairdie Pleasant.

Thursday 25th
Aurora came.

Friday 26th
Called at Miss J's to see if she would go up with me to the School of Arts but found her too deep in an examination. Described today the Statue of James Watt. Shearer not there. Came home alone, and nearly had my watch purloined.

Saturday 27th
4 Called on Aunt M. and then went to McKays – found both S. and W. out so was entertained by the 2 elder branches of the family. George McKay dropped in and accompanied us home.

Sunday 28th
2 Mr Lowson came to say goodbye to James; remained till 5. 7 McKays came – merry mood.

Monday 29th
~~12¼ Met~~ 4 Went to Miss J's. Saw her in company with Miss Ros-a [*sic*], a drawing School young lady. Miss J. and I took a walk along Princes St. talking of various and interesting matters. 6½ James and I went to Devines, M. came afterwards. As it was James's farewell visit they were in splendid humour – left about 11.

Tuesday 30th
Today we had the conclusion of the debate about the spirituous liquors. Mr Forrest there, spoke a little with him. Also had a talk with Mr King at the outhur [*sic*] hall door.

Went to Aunt M's this afternoon along with James, M., and mama excellent tea, from thence went to Thomson's and acted before Mr – etc. Mrs T. particularly amiable. Acting came off splendidly.

Wednesday 31st
12¼ Met Miss J. in the burying ground pleasant chat. 4½ James left for London. 8½ Arithmetic.

1871

June

Thursday 1st
Music for M.

Friday 2nd
Acted again at Thomson's. Had on pink dress - and from thence went to School of Arts. Described the Lecture Room of the School of Arts very satisfactorily. Mr Millar came half way home.

Saturday 3rd
This is the day settled for the much wished - but long-delayed - geological expedition. At 3 o'clock we were to meet at the North British Station, but as there was a slight drizzling rain those who had gone to the Station were by no means sure whether to go on or not. Mary did not go. At length it was decided and we got into the trains. A minute before starting I saw a half-frantic figure rush wildly along the platform looking for a carriage with a vacant seat. At length he rushed into ~~the ca~~ a carriage and disappeared amidst shrieks, arising from trampled toes, corns etc. etc. This was Nicol! On reaching Winchburgh^[26] we alighted, I shook hands with Nicol and a few more whom I knew and then walked with a young lady just returned from the Continent ~~of a~~ who entertained me consequently with a description of continental scenes. The ladies and gentlemen had by this time put on second childhood and were running races, playing at hide-and-seek etc. etc. ~~To~~ In the latter amusement Mr Nicol kindly invited me to join, however I did not avail myself of his kind invitation. By this time we reached a ruinous castle which we went in to explore - however there was little but bare walls to be seen.^[27] There was some sheep being washed in the burn, which, finding an amusing sight I stood watching till all the excursionists [*sic*] had disappeared to refresh tired nature with draughts of milk etc. etc. However, Mr Watson ferreted me out, but I was not prevailed on to partake of this refreshment. When we reached the station we found that we had an hour to spare before starting so to employ the time we took a walk along the banks of the canal. Mr Nicol could hardly believe that I was going to Petersburg and expressed a desire that he was going with me. We had a stroll along the banks of the canal in company with Miss Fenton's sister, and I returned to the station with Mr Nicol and Miss Solway. On reaching home I found Crabbe reading Felix Holt^[28] to Mary.

Sunday 4th
Went to French Service, expected to see Mr Nicol there as he had expressed an intention of going when I told him that there was to be a service, however, saw no one but Miss Johnson, who came part of the road home with me.

Monday 5th
Miss Rosa accompanied me home from drawing school to the very door. Visited Aunt M. till 10.

²⁶ Winchburgh is a village in West Lothian, about ten miles west of Edinburgh.

²⁷ This was probably Duntarvie Castle, near Winchburgh.

²⁸ *Felix Holt, the Radical* (1866) by George Eliot.

Tuesday 6th

Went to Debating Society. Mr Frazer gave an essay on 'The influence of Poetry on the mind'. It, as well as the Critic's criticism ~~were~~ was dreadfully cut up. Mr King, Mr Martin and papa all spoke. Shearer accompanied me home.

This evening Uncle George, Helen, Agnes Jessy, and Mr Crabb came to tea. Mr C. and M. went out at 6½ and Mr C. presented her with her engaging ring.

Wednesday 7th

Went to Drawing school, after which Miss Rosa and I went into the Burying ground, where I saw Miss Johnson already waiting for me. After a pleasant talk we parted at ¼ to 1.

Thursday 8th

10 Went out with mama to buy necessaries for my wardrobe, left her in Leith St and coming home by Princes St met Mr King. Had a talk about Mr Frazer's essay etc. Went to meet M. coming from Thomson's.

Friday 9th

Too late for drawing school music. 4 Went with M. to Aunt Mary's left at 7. Had'nt time to call for Miss J. on my road to School of Arts. Met M. and E. Devine on the Bridges. Described the outside of a house to Mr Pryde's satisfaction. Also told him that I was going to St Petersburg so had the usual wishes of a good voyage etc. etc. Shearer and Millar accompanied me home.

Saturday 10th

Crabb.

Sunday 11th

M. went to Thomson's to say goodbye to Mrs Hertz.

Monday 12th

Went to drawing school for the last time. Saw Miss J. in the burying ground. Accepted her invitation for the next day.

Tuesday 13th

6 Went with M. to Miss J's met 2 young ladies there. Pleasant evening. 8 Went to Debating. The medical question was on the tapis. Papa supported the affirmative and Mr Frazer Jun. the negative side of the question. Mr Pryde was chairman. The debate was very spirited. Both the Miss Burtons spoke. After the debate I bade goodbye for the last time to Miss Burton, Burden, Martin, and King, in a doleful manner. Came home with Miss J., Mr Frazer and Shearer.

Wednesday 14th

~~Th~~ Sent off a note to Jeanie Brown this morning. 5 The little Thomsons came to tea in a merry mood. 7 Crabb came, and was pounced upon by the children.

Thursday 15th

8 Went to act for the last time at Thomson's before a select audience. Crabb melancholy mood, suspect I teased him too much – jealous of Ramsay.

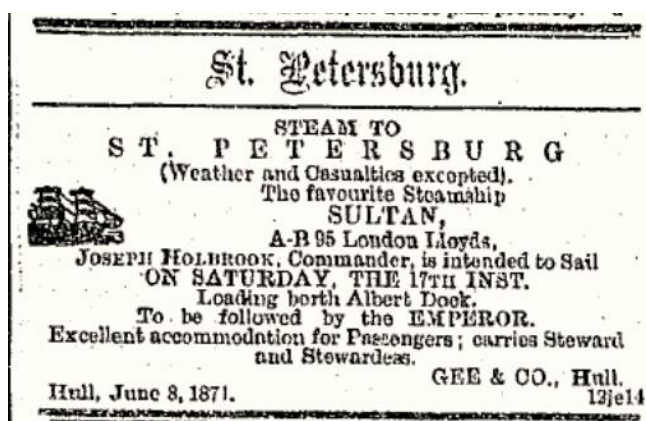


Figure 11. An advert for the voyage to St Petersburg of the steamship *Sultan*, printed in the *Liverpool Mercury*, 13 June 1871.

Friday 16th

Went out with M. to purchase little presents to send to Petersburg. Went to McKays, discovered the accident that happened to my brooch. Left very soon. Coming down the bridges met Mr E. and M. Devine. Kate's birthday getting her presents. Went to Aunt M's about 8. had tea came home past ten.

Saturday 17th

Called at the office to see if there were no news about a Petersburg Steamer. Saw a letter lying from Gee and company^[29] saying that the Sultan would start on Wednesday evening about at 6 o'clock, decided to go by it. Went to the Station to inquire after trains. Then went to the library and returned 'Poetry of the Period'.^[30] Returned home by Princes St and saw Mr Nicol with a young lady whom I guessed to be his sister; as he did not see me I passed him without recognition.

4 Went with M. to Mrs Brown's to say goodbye found everyone out but the servant. Saw Mrs Banks at her door.

After tea about 7 went to Ramsays only found Mrs R., the grandmama and Agnes at Margaret at home. Soon however the other members of the family returned. Alexander with McKenzie. So we went upstairs and passed a very pleasant hour. Ramsay took me home. Crabb was still there and changed colour when I told him that Ramsay was in his near vicinity.

Sunday 18th

Mama packed up my trunk. 6 Went to French service, called for Thomsons, storm staid [*i.e.* ? stayed] – short service saw Millar and Wilson to both of whom I said goodbye. Miss J. came home with us.

Monday 19th

Spent all day in paying calls. First went with mama to make a few necessary purchases. Then called at Swans but found them out. Met Mr Rae in jaunty mood, called on Miss B. Came

²⁹ Gee and Company were steamship brokers based in London.

³⁰ *Poetry of the Period* (1870) by Alfred Austin.

home, called on Cadell's. Christie came home with me. I gave her my bird. Called on Devines and lastly on Aunt M.

Spring called this morning to invite me for the evening. Of course I had no time to go. I also called this afternoon on Miss J. who perhaps was as sorry as anyone at my going. Crabb came to supper which consisted of pies.

Tuesday 20th

This is the day that I quitted Edinburgh. The morning I spent in putting finishing touches to the packing of my bag, and at 2 we had dinner and at 10 minutes to 3 the train started for Hull. We reached Hull at 11½ and by 12 I was asleep in the Minerva Hotel.

Wednesday 21st

I had breakfast about 9 after which I went and took out my passage. The rest of the day I spent in looking at Hull and by 6 o'clock was on board the Sultan. We did not start however that evening and I went to bed about 7 o'clock to the astonishment of my fellow passengers.

Thursday 22nd

Got up at 9. Had a few minutes turn on the deck before breakfast. Sat in the smokeroom reading. 11 The boat began to pitch and I felt sick. So went to bed utterly miserable.

Friday 23rd

Did not get up all day. Not quite so sick as yesterday. Ate nothing.

Saturday 24th

Lovely weather. Got up after breakfast, and was roasted all forenoon went to dinner for the first time. Got into a boat with Miss Southam and read Faust. Had some joking with Prince who presented me with some select passages from Coleridge. Did'nt go down to tea for fear of being sick but Miss Southam and I had some lobster brought up to us.

Sunday 25th

Continuation of fine weather. Got up to breakfast, again went with Miss Southam into a boat where we sat all day.

Miss Shuttleworth in the evening being inclined for fun pinned a piece of paper on to Prince's mantle. Prince in a fantastic mood looked like [?Weedge] when she used to be a kitten, but whereas she ran up curtains he ran up the mast.

Went to bed past 11 this was the merriest day that I had as yet spent on board the ship.

Monday 26th

Bad weather, kept bed all day and so warded off sickness slept a great deal.

Tuesday 27th

A fearful storm of thunder and lightning during the night luckily I was asleep all through it, it was succeeded by a fog.

Got up with difficulty to dinner after which sat with Miss Southam at the entrance of the smoke room it being too wet to be on deck. Paradiso and Prince were bantering each other in the smoke room so we had some fun. After tea I remained in the saloon with the gentlemen so we amused ourselves with card tricks. Went to bed early being sick.



Figure 12. Steamers and horse-drawn vehicles at the Wassili-Ostroff Quay, St Petersburg, c.1872.
 Helena would have witnessed a similar scene when she arrived
 in St Petersburg on 29 June 1871.
 (Royal Collections Trust)

Wednesday 28th

Weather slightly better than the day before. 1 Got up with difficulty and the deck being wet went to the Captain's ~~captain~~ cabin where the captain, Miss Shuttleworth and I sat very comfortably till dinnertime.

After dinner I went to the smokeroom and read a book that Mr Eggn [*sic*] lent me the siege of F____.^[31] I asked Prince for the loan of a nice book but he was too hardhearted to get me one.

After tea I again adjourned to the smokeroom where Prince also was, and I amused myself whilst he was engaged in serious conversation with pinning paper to his coat he however discovered the trick so I was obliged to desist. By this time the weather had completely changed and it was a lovely evening so I took a walk on deck in which Prince joined me. We had a long talk, the first one, I may say, with the exception of a short time in the smoke room that was not all a joke, after which we went downstairs into the saloon where the captain and Paradiso were sitting, the captain, however, was soon obliged to go upstairs, but Miss Southam having got up replaced him. After sitting with Prince until 11 I left to go to bed but, on hearing that the islands were to be seen I went on deck for ½ an hour and then went down stairs and spent some more time with Prince and eventually went to bed past 12 and did not ~~waken~~ sleep till past 3.

Thursday 29th

Woke early but only got up in time for breakfast. Packed my bag. Had a little talk with Prince and Paradiso. About 2 Went on board the steamer that was to convey us to Petersburg. Bade a tearful adieu to the captain. Sat beside Mr Eggn in going up the river. Prince treated me to

³¹ Possibly *The Siege of Florence* (1840) by Daniel McCarthy.

lemonade and orange. $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour before landing ~~went up to~~ had a last talk with Prince. On landing met Uncle William at the boat, as well as Douglas Heriot and Mr Antonoff. Saw 'P' for a few moments and was just talking to him when L. Bell came up. Went with Uncle William in a cab and drove to the English Magazine. There I had dinner and saw Mr ~~Macgre~~ Knatz after which I went in a cab with Uncle John to Mourino.^[32]

At the garden gate I saw all Uncle John's family standing, they at once guessed I had come when they saw U. William as he never comes on a week day. We had tea about 10 after which Uncle William went home and I went to bed between 11 and 12.

Friday 30th

Got up about 11. Breakfasted alone - unpacked my trunk 4 Dined. Had a walk with Mrs Anderson, Mrs Bell and Agnes and Ina. 10 Tea and went to bed about 12.

July

Saturday July 1st/19^[33]

Did'nt get up till past 12. Wrote to ~~mama~~ Mary till dinner time. Made Mr Nicolskoi's acquaintance - read 'Gertrude.'^[34]

Sunday 2nd/20

Got up at 6. Finished my letter to Mary before breakfast. 9 Met U. William and Mr Blinkhorn. After breakfast took a walk to the woods, and after dinner took another walk with Mrs Anderson, Uncle William and Mr Blinkhorn left after tea. [*interlined*: Mr Nicolskoi came to tea, as well as his children. Mrs N. came after tea.]

Monday 3rd/21

Again slept in this morning till past 12. Went out with Ethel and sketched. After tea went out with U. John and Mrs Bell a walk to Lavriky.^[35] Returning home a short distance from the house we heard someone haloo-ing we stopped for a moment but were again passing on when what was our surprise to see L. and J. Bell, D. Maxwell and Miss Maxwell along with Aunt Ann Jane making up to us. L. Bell came to say goodbye before leaving for England but had found Mrs Bell out. We again took a short walk and then returned home and had tea after which the carriage came and the party left.

³² Mourino was a village about twelve miles from St Petersburg. It was home to a colony of British residents, mostly merchants who came down from St Petersburg to spend the summer months in the country. For a description of the village, see Wishaw, F J. *Out of Doors in Tsarland: a Record of the Seeings and Doings of a Wanderer in Russia*, London, 1893, 38-43.

³³ From this point onwards, Helena regularly gives the date according not only to the Gregorian calendar, but also to the Julian calendar, which was still used in Russia.

³⁴ *Gertrude* (1846) by Elizabeth Sewell.

³⁵ *i.e.* Lavriki, a few miles to the north of Mourino.

Tuesday 4th/22

Got up about 11. Shortened my top petticoat. Went out to sketch with Ethel and Charlie. Took a walk after dinner with Mrs Anderson and Mrs Bell. Tea, read 'Gertrude' bed.

Wednesday 5th/23

Uncle John went this morning to his dejeuner got up in time for breakfast (10). Wrote up my journal till dinnertime. Being St John's Eve went to see the burning of tar barrels. Miss Nicolski was likewise there.

Thursday 6th/24

Went out for a walk with Mrs Bell and Mrs Anderson to the riverside. Sketched before tea, and began a frame.

Friday 7th/25

Went out with Robby and Edward and sketched, after which went a walk to Nova Derevna^[36] with Aunt Ann Jane, Mrs B. and the 3 boys. Finished my frame.

Saturday 8th/26

Practised. Remained ~~to~~ up to supper.

Sunday 9th/27

Got up late for breakfast. Mr Nelson came with U. William and after breakfast we went to the Woods. Came home very tired.

Monday 10th/28

Mrs B. went to town this morning to see L. B. off for England.

Tuesday 11th/29

Practised, read, ate, slept.

Wednesday 12th/30

ditto

Thursday 13th/1

ditto

Friday 14th/2nd

Aunt Ann J. received a letter this evening from U. William saying that the Knatses [*sic*] were going to have a picnic the following day and would like some of us to join them.

Saturday 15th/3

Expected Knatses all morning. Aunt Ann Jane went off to town at 8½, and returned with Mrs Bell near 11. Wrote to papa this evening.

³⁶ *i.e.* Novaya Derevnya, a village and summer resort about four miles from St Petersburg.

Sunday 16th/4

Uncle William came with Uncle Alexander's wife and brought a letter from Mary. Wrote to M. this morning and heard that Knatz's picnic was to have been on Sunday only he was not well so it would not take place. Uncle J. returned from his Duty this morning. As I was writing in Uncle J.'s study, I was startled by Mr Antonoff's making his appearance he had come with Uncle J. At 9 The Knatzs', Poteaus' and friends of theirs came, and remained to tea.

Monday 17th/5

Edward's mother went to Toxiva this morning.

Tuesday 18th/6

Mrs B. went to town in the morning and returned in the evening.

Wednesday 19th/7

Inclination to toothache.

Thursday 20th/8

Terrible face ache all morning, but thanks to Mrs B's mercury completed gone by the evening.

Friday 21st/9

Went this evening with Mrs Anderson to Nicolski's. Uncle J. came towards the end of the evening.

Saturday 22nd/10

Went a walk with U. John, Mrs Bell, and children to the woods to gather mushrooms, not very plentiful.

Sunday 23rd/11

Uncle W. came alone and brought me no letter. Felt tired so did'nt go out this morning. Did'nt send off a letter. Went to see a Russian wedding but as it was long in taking place left the church before it commenced.

Monday 24th/12

Studied German, French etc.

Wednesday 26th/14

Aunt A. Jane and Mrs Bell went to town to look for a lodging.

Thursday 27th/15

Aunt A. J. went to town today also.

Friday 28th/16

Began a letter to Mary. Aunt A. J., Uncle J. and Mrs B. went to Nicolski's read to Mrs Anderson aloud.

Saturday 29th/17

Busy with lessons. (monad)

Sunday 30th/18

Uncle William brought 2 letters from mama in which I learnt of Mary's engagement being broken off with Crab [*sic*]. Spent the morning in realizing that fact and explaining to Aunt Ann Jane and Mrs A. the state of matters that existed between and ended by convincing myself and everyone that it was the very best thing that could have been done. Wrote to ma, pa and M. [*interlined:* and Miss J.]. Uncle W. came alone.

Monday 31st/19

Went out this morning to draw and was surprised on reaching home to find letters for me from M. and pa in which I got a detailed account of Crab's affair. All in jolly mood at supper.

August

Tuesday August 1st/20

Mrs B. went to see her former pupil today. Aired my winter jackets.

Wednesday 2nd/21

Began a letter to M. this evening. [*interlined:* had a talk with Aunt A. Jane over my winter plans.]

Thursday 3rd/22

A scene with Charlie about his lesson.

Friday 4th/23

Busy with the languages and drawing.

Saturday 5th/24

Went a walk with Mrs A. and called at Nicolski's. A ball was held next door to us this evening, and we were all out looking at it except U. John and Aunt A. Jane, they went to Nicolski's.

Sunday 6th/25

Got up late, and when I went down stairs there I saw Mr and Mrs F. sitting with U. William at breakfast. After this meal Mrs F., Mrs A. and I, with the children went for a walk. Mrs F. is very amiable. One of her great aims in life is evidently to be agreeable and she seems to think that ~~one~~ the best way of being so is to express surprise at everything you say, consequently the phrase "Only think" is never out of her mouth. I daresay she is right most people are flattered by being able to astonish you. When I want to please I generally unconsciously looked surprised at what has been said. Before tea I left Mrs F. to finish my letter to M. Mrs F. left about 10 not without cordially inviting me to come and see her on her birthday [*interlined:* first Tuesday] if possible and if not any Tuesday.

Monday 7th/26

Began a letter to M. between tea and supper.

Tuesday 8th/27

Mrs Nicolski's cousin came and practised on the piano. Took a walk with Mrs Anderson.

Wednesday 9th/28

Miss N's cousin when she came to practise today asked if I would take a walk with her and Miss N's to Count Vallansoph's garden. We did so in the afternoon and I spent the evening with Nicolski's.

Thursday 10th/29

Went out this evening to sketch and read poetry.

Friday 11th/30

Went out this evening with Charlie and sketched. Remained up alone with U. J. and Aunt A. Jane to supper. Some of the soldiers have come who are going to attack Rumia.

Saturday 12th/31

Wakened up this morning by the tramp of horses. All Mourino in a state of excitement by the arrival of fresh troops. I have just heard that the Grand Duke G Constantine has just passed the window. Spent all morning in writing up my journal.

Sunday 13th/1

Saw Mr McGregor^[37] for the first time today. Quite a Scotchman. Wrote to M. all afternoon and evening. Went with Mrs Nicolski to see the blessing of the Holy Well.

Monday 14th/2

Expected that the Emperor would come to Mourino all day. Windy weather. 9½ Emperor has passed without my observing him.

Tuesday 15th/3

Eventless.

Wednesday 16th/4

ditto.

Thursday 17th/5

When at dinner today the door opened and George Goodlet entered – stayed only a few minutes. Quite a foreigner.

Friday 18th/6

9½ P.M. Mrs Bell returned today from ~~Kaursk~~ Scoffe.

Saturday 19th/7

Went to the Woods with Mrs Nicolski and our family.

Sunday 20th/8

Mr McGregor and Uncle William came. Went a walk in the afternoon to Nova Diervna. Wrote

³⁷ Possibly John McGregor, a photographic technician who ran a studio in St Petersburg with fellow-Scot William Carrick.

to Emily Anderson under very unfavourable circumstances. Also wrote to M. and Ma, but received no letters.

Monday 21st/9
Bad weather.

Tuesday 22nd/10
Bad weather continues all feel miserable.

Wednesday 23rd/11
Towards evening the weather cleared up so we all went out en masse a walk on the Lavriky road, plucked brasnicka^[38] in the wood.

Thursday 24th/12
Went out with Mrs A. and children and sketched Mourino church.

Friday 25th/13
Foul weather nevertheless went out with Charlie to finish drawing the church but was driven home by rain.

Saturday 26th/14
Mrs Anderson in bed, sat in her room and let out my steel-coloured dress. Nicolski's children to dinner.

Sunday 27th/15
Uncle J. remained in bed till evening not being well. Wet nevertheless U. William and Mr McGregor went to the woods. Received Letters from M. and the Thomson's. Uncle W. suddenly became sick after dinner and lay down but was better in the evening.

Monday 28th/16
About ten Mr Nicolski called for a few minutes with newspaper that he had brought from England.

Tuesday 29th/17
Drew from newspaper engravings.

Wednesday 30th/18
Spent all morning in drawing design for theatre.

Thursday 31st/19
Uncle J. went to town.

³⁸ Lingonberries.

September

Friday September 1st/20

Mrs Nicolski and family as they were removing to town came to luncheon.

Saturday 2nd/21

Aunt A. Jane, Uncle J. and Mrs Bell went to town in a cart. Went out with Charlie in the afternoon and sketched the river and bridge.

Sunday 3rd/22

Began to wear my blue merinos.^[39] Mr Antonoff came with U. W. and Mr McGreg. Went to the woods – poured got thoroughly drenched. received letters from papa and mama and answered them.

Monday 4th/23

Went to the 7 hills and Holy Well.

Tuesday 4th/24

Took Ina out for a walk, also went with Mrs Bell and Mrs A. through the village.

Wednesday 5th/25

Went to St Petersburg today. Pouring wet, spent evening in examining U. J.'s cabinet, remained up to supper.

Thursday 7th/26

Helped all day to unpack. Went in the evening with U. J. and Aunt A. Jane to see Mrs B's lodging, quite enchanted with it, arranged with excellent taste – took tea and then came home.

Friday 8th/27

Went out this forenoon with Aunt Ann J. and Agnes to buy boots. Bought a delightful pair of prunelles^[40] at 3 roubles and a ½. Also went to a money changers and changed a guinea for 7½ roubles. Mrs A. and Mrs B. dined with us. After dinner went out to explore Petersburg with Charlie. Found my way to the Neveski.^[41] Also visited the Gastino Dvor^[42] where I almost lost myself. As it grew very dark we almost ran home to the horror of Charlie.

Saturday 9th/28

Unpicked my brown dress in order to send to the dyers. Tried on my dresses in order to let Aunt A. Jane decide what was best to be done with them. Put pink flower in my grey straw hat. Went to see new lodging, many rooms but all on a small scale. Went with Aunt Ann J. and children to buy Ethel boots. Mrs A. and Mrs B. to tea called. Uncle William sent a letter from

³⁹ Probably shoes or slippers with merino uppers.

⁴⁰ A pair of shoes or slippers, so called because their uppers were made from prunelle twill.

⁴¹ *i.e.* the Nevsky Prospect.

⁴² *i.e.* Gostiny Dvor, a large shopping arcade in Nevsky Prospect.

M. which I received at tea time. Answered it and went to bed about 12. Aunt A. Jane went before as it is Uncle John's dejournée.

Sunday 10th/29

Continued writing to M. Mrs B. and Mrs Anderson came to dinner. Mr McGregor, Mr Nicolski and Uncle William to supper.

Monday 11th/30

Continued unpicking brown dress. Ethel in a temper.

Tuesday 12th/1

New school was opened. Went out with Agnes and Charlie a walk to the Neveski then paid Mrs Anderson a visit, and on returning home saw Aunt Jessie Norman sitting taking a little luncheon.

Wednesday 13nd/2 [*sic*]

9 Uncle W. [*interlined*: and Mr Antonoff] came imagining we had removed to the new house. Very sleepy so went to bed before supper.

14th/3

Flitted. In the evening Uncle W. and Mr Antonoff came.

Friday 15th/4

Aunt Jessy Goodlet paid us a visit ~~this~~ today. Helped to dust Uncle J's books.

Saturday 16th/5

Wrote a letter to papa.

Sunday 17th/6

Emily Anderson arrived today, like her excessively. Uncle W. and Mrs Nicolski and Mr McGregor came in the evening.

Monday 18th/7

Emily called.

Tuesday 19th/8

Bought plays 3½ roubles.

Wednesday 20th/9

Went for a walk with Robby etc.

Thursday 21st/9

Took out the little children.

Friday 22nd/10

[*blank*]



Figure 13. A view of the Nevsky Prospekt, c.1880. The Gostiny Dvor, the shopping arcade where Helena almost 'lost herself' on 8 September 1871, can be seen on the immediate left. (Royal Collections Trust)

Saturday 23rd/11
[blank]

Sunday 24th/12
Emily came about 6 likewise Mr McGregor and Uncle William, had a merry tea.

Monday 25th/13
Went with Uncle J. and Mrs Bell and Robbie to Hermitage.^[43] Finding it shut went to the Zoological Gardens.

Tuesday 26th/14
Went to Mrs Anderson's to a house warming, Mr McGregor and Uncle W. also there. Pleasant evening.

Wednesday 27th/15
Uncle J. began school. Mr Ivoechin came whilst we were at tea.

⁴³ *i.e.* the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg.

Thursday 28th/16

Emily called and asked me to come and see her in the evening. Went with Robbie, very pleasant. Lydia's birthday but no one came but Mrs A. and Mrs B.

Friday 29th/17

Wrote to M. for a while before dinner.

Saturday 30th/18

Aunt Ann J. taught me to crochet so I crocheted all day. In the evening went with Agnes to see Emily. Enjoyed myself excessively, came home in a droshka^[44] went to bed past 1.

October

Sunday 1st/19

After passing a wretched night remained in bed all day from the effects of cholera. Emily, Mrs A. and Mrs B. came to see me. Mr Harrison and his wife also Uncle W. came to supper.

Monday 2nd/20

Uncle J.'s birthday. Got up at 3. Aunt Jessy Goodlet, Emily, Mrs A. and Mrs B. came and later on Uncle W. and Mrs Antonoff. Got a letter from M. and sent back one. Sat up till 1 o'clock drinking Uncle J.'s health in champagne.

Tuesday 3rd/21

Snowstorm. Crocheted etc. received letter from Miss Johnson.

Wednesday 4th/22

Practised and cleaned brasnika all day, went to bed early.

Thursday 5th/23

Began Uncle W.'s cushion. Emily came and gave Charlie a Russian lesson, recited poetry. Read 'Lewis Arundel'.^[45]

Friday 6th/24

House in confusion getting in double windows. 10 A.M. called on Mrs Bell, Emily came just as I was leaving.

Saturday 7th/25

Mrs B. and Mrs A. came this afternoon crocheted. [*interlined*: Learnt stitch for cushion.]
~~Cushion for Uncle W.~~

⁴⁴ *i.e.* a droshky, a low, four-wheeled open carriage.

⁴⁵ *Lewis Arundel; or, The Railroad of Life* (1852) by Frank E Smedley.

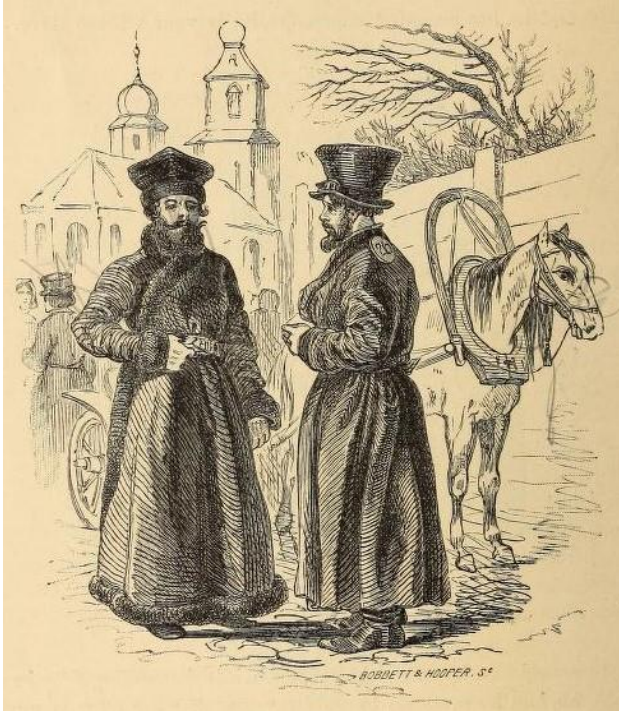


Figure 14. St Petersburg droshky drivers. Helena travelled home by droshky after visiting her friend Emily on 30 September 1871. (*The Boy Travellers in the Russian Empire*)

Sunday 8th/26

Read "Frank Fairlegh".^[46] Edward Katie and Emily came to dinner. Uncle W. brought letters from papa and Mary. Mrs Nicolski called. Mr Pavetkin and Mrs McGregor came to tea and supper.

Monday 9th/27

Began large round of U. William's cushion. Read "Frank Fairlegh". Emily came and gave Charlie and me a Russian lesson, stayed to lunch. Mrs B. also came to lunch.

Tuesday 10th/28

Crocheted all day. Charlie in the evening was obstriperous [*i.e.* obstreperous]. (Monad P.M.)

Wednesday 11th/29

9 AM Went out with Aunt Ann Jane bought black lustrine to make a costume of my checked dress.

Thursday 12th/30

Emily came and gave a lesson. At 7 went with Robbie to pay her a visit. I was dull but she was in boisterous spirits. Came home at ten.

Friday 13th/1

My birthday. Emily came whilst we were at a ten o'clock breakfast. ~~Received~~ Went out for a short walk with Agnes and Ethel. At 5 Mrs B. and Mrs A. came. Made toffee for the children

⁴⁶ *Frank Fairleigh* (1850) by Frank E Smedley.

in the midst of which Emily came. Played proverbs and various games. A little music and exit. Read aloud to Aunt Ann J. 'The Colville Family'.^[47] Uncle J. went to the Club.

Saturday 14th/2

Crocheted. Sat up late reading the 'Colville family' aloud to Aunt A. J.

Sunday 15th/3

Uncle William came at 2 o'clock. Aunt A. J. being out I entertained him. Emily and I after dinner sat in my room writing letters. Mr McGregor came.

Monday 16th/4

Busy with cushion.

Tuesday 17th/5

ditto.

Wednesday 18th/6

Uncle William's birthday. After tremendous efforts just finished my present in time. Drove with Aunt A. J. to the English Magazine and left it there then went to Mrs Morrisons where there was a party of about 30. Enjoyed myself much. Was struck with the absurdity of the gentlemen separating to play cards at a party that was intended to promote sociability. Had a delightful talk with Mr Warburton – left about 3½.

Thursday 19th/7

Woke at 10, about which time Emily came and had a levee in my bedroom. Related all the adventures of last night. Got up in time for luncheon instead of breakfast. Felt seedy all day and lay down in bed at 7 dressed and did not waken till 8 the next morning – and surprised Agnes by my quick dressing. Wrote to Mary a description of last night's party.

Friday 20th/8

Mr Antonoff came and put up the curtains. Went with Mrs A. to bring Agnes home from the gymnasium.^[48]

Saturday 21st/9

Went with Agnes and Robby to Mrs Bell's to tea, had a lively evening and came back at 10.

Sunday 22nd/10

Wore blue checked dress for first time. Emily and Mrs B. didn't come till teatime, Uncle William likewise not till 8. No one else came nevertheless we were all very jolly at supper.

Monday 23rd/11

Emily came and gave Charlie and me a Russian lesson.

⁴⁷ *The Fortunes of the Colville Family; or, A Cloud and its Silver Lining* (1853) by Frank E Smedley.

⁴⁸ The St Petersburg Gymnasium, a prestigious school founded in 1805 by Tsar Alexander I.

Tuesday 24th/12

Renovated black skirt sewed. Read 'The Gayworthies'.^[49]

Wednesday 25th/13

Began a book on Hamilton's system of learning French.

Thursday 26th/14

Began sewing black panier. Emily came and gave Charlie and me a lesson. Miserable all day.

Friday 27th/15

Went with Ethel to Emily's. In sensible mood not too opstriperous.

Saturday 28th/16

Went with Mrs B. for a walk over the Nevsky.^[50] Exhilarating weather – fine and frosty. Had an interesting conversation ~~conversation~~ with Uncle J. about different modes of Death, whereby I have become much more reconciled to the idea of my own exit from this miserable and yet tenanciously-clung-to world.

Sunday 29th/17

Mr McGregor Uncle William and others came jollyish day.

Monday 30th/18

Emily came and gave a lesson. [*interlined*: Bought black velvet hat.]

Tuesday 31st/19

Agnes not well.

November

Wednesday 1st/20

Mr Antonoff's birthday so Uncle J. went there. Read aloud Harry Coverdale^[51] to Aunt Ann J.

Thursday 2nd/21

Paid Aunt L. and Mr Herzfield a visit and then spent the evening with Mrs Bell.

Friday 3rd/22

[*blank*]

Saturday 4th/23

[*blank*]

⁴⁹ *The Gayworthys: a Story of Threads and Thrums* (1865) by A D T Whitney.

⁵⁰ The wording suggests that Helena was referring here to the Neva River, rather than Nevsky Prospect.

⁵¹ *Harry Coverdale's Courtship, and all that came of it* (1855) by Frank E Smedley.

Sunday 5th/24

Took a dose of Robertson. Uncle W. did'nt come.

Monday 6th/25

Robertson!

Tuesday 7th/26

Robertson!

Wednesday 8th/27

Robertson still in the ascendant.

Thursday 9th/28

Robertson!

Friday 10th/29

ditto.

Saturday 11th/30

ditto.

Sunday 12th/31

Robertson's star was extinguished today. Read fairy tales to the children. Uncle W. came at 2 bringing letters. Mrs Nicolski and Mannia also paid a ~~call~~ visit. Wrote home.

Monday 13th/1

Nothing.

Tuesday 14th/2

Commenced crocheting a pin cushion for Emily's birthday.

Wednesday 15th/3

Crocheted till late at night.

Thursday 16th/4

Emily's birthday. Had a party of The Bells, Smiths, Antanoffs, Maxwells, Mrs McGregor, Uncle W. and Mr Levetske. Enjoyed myself excessively.

Friday 17th/5

Had a long talk with Aunt Ann J. about parties in general and last night's party in particular. Mrs A. and Mrs Bell called.

Saturday 18th/6

[*blank*]



Figure 15. A view across the River Neva, c.1872.
(Royal Collections Trust)

Sunday 18th/6 [*sic*]

Wrote to M. ~~Mrs B. and Mrs A. remained to supper.~~ [*interlined*: Flora came with Uncle W. in the evening. Very merry.]

Monday 19th/7

The Director's Birthday.

Tuesday 20th/8

Went to the Club.

Wednesday 21st/9

Mrs B. spent the day with us knitted all day. Went to bed early with toothache.

Thursday 22nd/10

Ate nothing all day, but lay in bed with swollen face.

Friday 23rd/11

Face still more swollen could take nothing but lemon and water. Wrote to Miss Johnson and read over M's letters.

Saturday 24th/12

Got up today. Only took a little dinner.

Sunday 25th/13

Took no breakfast but made frappe-roses for Uncle J. Uncle W. came at 2. Emily came to dinner of which I took very little, wrote to Mary, remained up to supper.

Monday 26th/14

Emily came and went out to the Gastino Dvor with Aunt Ann J. Took a walk with Mrs Bell and Charlie to the Neveski.

Tuesday 27th/15

~~Sewed sleeves all morning and then went to the Club, took supper.~~

Tuesday 27th/15

Mrs Antonoff's ~~party~~ birthday. Went at 2 and stayed till 12. Delightful!

Wednesday 28th/16

Went with Mrs B. to Mrs Noble's and Mrs Bell's. Felt rather sleepy came home about 10.

Thursday 29th/17

Went to Helen Goodlet's but could'nt find the house.

Friday 30th/18

Went to Emily's. Talked a great deal about Mary and read over her letters. Came home alone at 10½ in a sledge.

December

Saturday 1st/19

Went out to buy Agnes a present. Missed my road and got lost in the Synoy.^[52] A dense fog made matters worse. Found myself at the Admiralty when I expected to find myself at home. Reached it at last in safety past the dinner hour. Went out with Robbie to skate. Got on miserably because my skates were too loose.

Sunday 2nd/20

Agnes's birthday – Nicolski's came. Got a whole budget of letters from everyone. Wrote home.

Monday 3rd/21

Emily came this evening and we went out to skate. Rather miserable work.

Tuesday 4th/22

Sewed black tunic.

Wednesday 5th/23

Went to Emily's with Agnes because it was Katie's name-day.

Thursday 6th/24

Began to wear black Garibaldi^[53] and black tunic.

⁵² Helena might be referring here either to the district of Sennaya or to the Sennoy market itself. It was one of the poorer parts of the city. See Figure 16.

⁵³ A garibaldi was a type of woman's shirt. It was named after the Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi.



Figure 16. Sennaya, St Petersburg, c.1880. Helena got lost in this district during a shopping trip on 1 December 1871.
(Royal Collections Trust)

Friday 7th/25

Sewed linen for Aunt Ann J. [*interlined*: Mrs Rizeveski called.]

Saturday 8th/26

Sewed. Mrs Raebender paid a visit, spent the evening at Mrs Bell's. Jolly.

Sunday 9th/27

Uncle W. came in the morning. Emily and Mrs A. likewise to dinner. Had a conversation with Uncle J. at breakfast on Theological matters. Aunt Jessy Norman and her 2 boys also Aunt Jessy Goodlet came to tea. Played games with the boys. Good day.

Monday 10th/28

Dressed in time for luncheon although not for breakfast. Wrote up my journal all morning.

Tuesday 11th/29

Emily came and gave Charlie a lesson. I began reading "Le Conscrit".^[54]

Wednesday 12th/30

Sewed - Read - etc.

⁵⁴ *Histoire d'un conscrit de 1813* (1864) by Erckmann-Chatrain.

Thursday 13th/1

Went to Mrs Herzfield's, took refreshment of tea and biscuits – Betsy called. Returned home at 5. Read 'Harry Coverdale' aloud.

Friday 14th/2

Emily came sewed all morning – in nervous mood.

Saturday 15th/3

Emily came to luncheon and Robby and I went to Emily's in the evening. Pleasant walked home late. Sat up reading 'H. Coverdale'.

Sunday 16th/4

Drove to church with Emily. Did'nt feel well. Had sore throat and headache. Saw Helen and Mrs Herzfield. Aunt Ann J. and children went to Nicolski's for the day. Uncle W. came unexpectedly to dinner. Went to bed but got up to dinner. Received letters from ma and Mary. No one came but Mr McGregor.

Monday 17th/5

Remained in bed.

Tuesday 18th/6

ditto but got up to dinner and began "The Newcomes".^[55]

Wednesday 19th/7

Wrote to papa and read Thackeray.

Thursday 20th/8

Ditto. Wrote to Winny.

Friday 21st/9

Wrote to Mama

[the third section of the diary ends here]

⁵⁵ *The Newcomes: Memoirs of a Most Respectable Family* (1854-55) by William Makepeace Thackeray.

March 1872

Friday March 1st

At home all day. practised. read “Vicar of Bullhamton”.^[56]

Saturday 2nd

Went with Emily to Gastino Dvor to buy Agnes gloves, lay down at 6 and slept till daybreak then got up and dressed.

Sunday 3rd

Went to church with Mrs A. Sermon on Confirmation. Saw Helen Goodlet. ~~Mr~~ George Goodlet came at 1 and stayed till 8. Does’nt look like a black sheep. Mr McGregor came in the evening. I did’nt stay up to supper. Letter from Mama.

Monday 4th

Emily came for the whole day. Settled on instituting a weelkly [*sic*] journal, comprising scientific and literary subjects as well as lighter reading.

Tuesday 5th

Masolinsa week.^[57] The snow is melting everywhere. Streets full of ditches. Had a talk with Uncle J. at dinner upon the pupils of government schools having arbitrary rules laid down for them on the matter of dress such as that their hair must be cut short, also that they must have only a certain number of buttons on their coats neither more nor less than the prescribed number, and a number of other such rules. Well I declared that this system was tyrannical to which I was answered “Not at all that it was necessary to teach order and also it was good discipline.” I next said that everyone being dressed exactly alike left no room for individual taste [*interlined*: and therefore one would be just like another, none of them uncommon] but here again I was answered that there were plenty of other opportunities for exercising taste in drawing, writing, composing and what not, and besides a man need not be dependent on his dress or the mode of wearing his hair for his originality.

Wednesday 6th

Emily called this afternoon, had a talk and laugh over the journal. Commenced it in the evening.

Thursday 7th/25

A holiday. Emily came for the whole day. Gave in her contributions for the magazine.

Friday 8th/26

Emily came over in the morning. Wrote Edward Gibbon’s life.^[58]

Saturday 9th/27

Edward came in the evening. Finished journal. Took it over to Mrs Bell’s and read it there amidst much laughing. Spent a pleasant evening much joking.

⁵⁶ *The Vicar of Bullhampton* (1870) by Anthony Trollope.

⁵⁷ Maslenitsa is a religious and folk festival celebrated in Russia and other Slavic lands the week before Lent.

⁵⁸ The historian Edward Gibbon (1737-94), author of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

Sunday 10th/28

Kept the children in order while Aunt J. was out at English Magazine. Mr McGregor and Mr and Mrs. Antonoff came in the evening, a so-so evening.

Monday 11th/29

Practised a great deal – also sang the scale – read Bryant.^[59]

Tuesday 12th/30

Emily came in the afternoon. Charlie obstriperous.

Wedenesday 13th/1

Wrote a letter to mama, practised.

Thursday 14th/2

Uncle J's ~~cabinet~~ library was flitted. Helped to remove books all morning. Aunt Jessy Norman came at luncheon time, Aunt Ann J. had to go out so I dispensed it. Emily and Mrs B. also at luncheon.

Friday 15th/3

Busy with journal. Emily to dinner.

Saturday 16th/4

Got a letter from Mary and answered it. Went to see Emily. J. Bell there.

Sunday 17th/5

Very cold. Mr Antonoff called in the morning. Also Emily. George Goodlet came to dinner. Mr Johnston called and in the evening Messrs Harrison, McGregor and Nicolski, did'nt remain to supper.

Monday 18th/6

9 Went with Aunt Ann Jane to Madame Bloch's, asked [*sic*] a ¼ of an hour's interview she asked me to come on Wednesday.

Tuesday 19th/7

Went over to Emily's in the evening had a long talk about Madame Bloch – practised duets.

Wedenesday 20th/8

[*blank*]

[*the fourth section of the diary ends here*]

⁵⁹ Perhaps the American poet Edward Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), whose work was widely read at the time.

1872

~~March~~ June A.D. 1872
Sarskie Siloy^[60]

Saturday ~~March~~ June 17th/29

Day year since I landed in Petersburg. 7 Went to the park and met there the relations of Ren. Went to see the elephant.^[61] Came home past 9.

Sunday March [*sic*] 18th/30

Read Adèle^[62] till luncheon, then went to see Aunt Jessy Goodlet. Saw a number of rooms in the palace, and returned home in time for dinner. 7½ Went to the music.

Monday 19th/31

Very wet day. Lessons till dinnertime. Took a long spell of 'Heir of Redclyffe'^[63] - Read Quits.^[64]

Tuesday 20th/1

Received a letter from Mary and mama, in which I heard M. was getting married in the beginning of August. Stunned by the news - Wrote all day a letter to Mary. Could'nt go to the music.

Wednesday 21st/3

Went ~~in the mornin~~ after luncheon a walk to Gastino Dvor, and [?little] Sophia. Went another walk after dinner to the park to gather forgetmenots and on the road home posted a letter home.

Thursday 22nd/4

Very wet day. In the evening cleared up and went a walk to the village and saw the Egyptian Gates. [*interlined*: Began Havel.]

Friday St John's Eve 23rd/5

Felt shivering all day. Went a walk to the park to gather ferns.

Saturday 24th/6

St John's day and Mad-Reinkie's birthday. 10 Miss Davie came. Read Heir of Redclyffe. Visitors came to dinner and more after dinner. Played swords and rings crocheted. Tea at ten - bed 1.

[*the fifth section of the diary ends here*]

⁶⁰ Tsarskoye Selo, about fifteen miles south of St Petersburg. It was the location of the Catherine Palace, the tsar's summer residence. The grounds were entered by the Egyptian Gate mentioned in the entry for 22 June.

⁶¹ One of three elephants gifted to Alexander II in 1870 by the emir of Bokhara was kept at Tsarkoye Selo.

⁶² *Adèle, a Tale* (1858) by Julia Kavanagh.

⁶³ *The Heir of Redclyffe* (1853) by Charlotte M Yonge.

⁶⁴ Perhaps *Quits, a Novel* (1858) by the Jemima von Tautphoeus.

1873

June 1873

Thursday 12th

Heard I was to start on my travels the next day. packed children's trunk in the morning got home about 4, packed – went out, said goodbye to papa, went to Halls, came home about 10 accompanied by [?Jol] who was irresistibly comic. [*interlined*: Sat up till 4 packing.]

Friday 13th

Started for Wales reached Chester without accident. Met Mr Harrison who accompanied us to his own house Cae Gwyn.^[65] Met Mrs Williams, delightful person, tea, music, and bed quite done out sherry to [*sic*] much for me almost met with a serious accident, fell down a number of steps picked myself up and went to bed.

Saturday 14th

Drove to Rhyl and made acquaintance with Mrs W's relations, came home past 11. Mr. H. in fearful state of anxiety, supper bed.

Sunday 15th

Went to church and heard Welsh service. Mr Jones and Mr Brown came to dinner. Had a ride on a pony without saddle or bridle helped by Mr Jones. Evening with Mrs J. and children, went to church, looked at photographic views.

Monday 16th

Drove to the station. Mrs Williams showed me Penguin.^[66] Mr J. at the house when we returned, had come to play croquet, asked us to be one of a party of fishers at Maes munnan^[67] but declined – too many gentlemen!!!!

Tuesday 17th

Yawning mood out of sorts. The coach had jolted me too much.

Wednesday 18th

Could do nothing but yawn and read Hypatia^[68] – a disappointing book.

Thursday 19th

Mrs W. went to Rhyl and I sketched, and altered dress.

Friday 20th

Mrs Williams returned bringing [?Maerdie] with her. Went up the Holywell road and drew in the sun – very fatiguing.

⁶⁵ Cae Gwyn, a Georgian house near Tremeirchion, Denbighshire.

⁶⁶ *i.e.* ?Pen Gwyn.

⁶⁷ *i.e.* Maes Mynan, a house and estate near Caerwys, Denbighshire.

⁶⁸ *Hypatia, or New Foes with an Old Face* (1853) by Charles Kingsley.

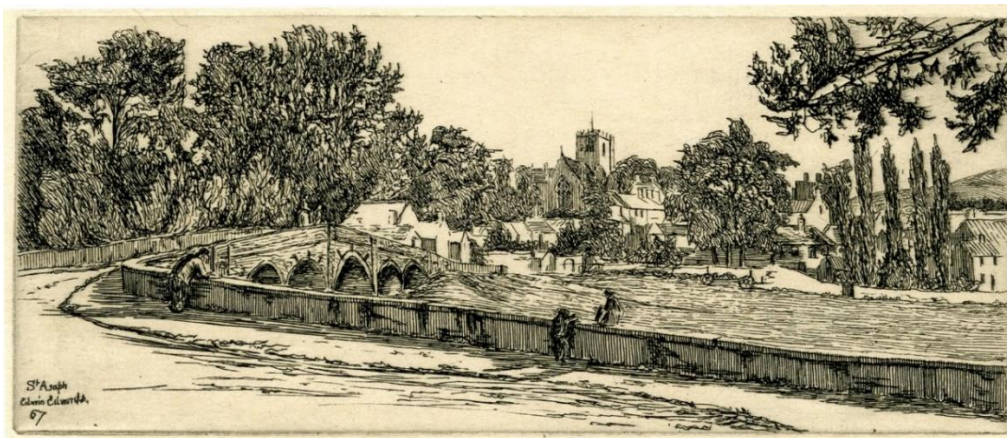


Figure 17. St Asaph, 1867. Helena's visit here with Mr Jones and her wards on 23 June 1873 resulted in her getting a headache.
(British Museum)

Saturday 21st

Drove with Mr J. to Maesmunnan – beautiful woods plenty of ferns, had tea at Maesmunnan, reached home at 10. Enjoyed myself extremely, supper after which Mr J. left. bed 1. Mr Harrison came home at 2.

Sunday 22nd

Went to church and saw black David's tomb.^[69] Mr J. came home with us. Major Penn came in the afternoon – very jolly tea out on the croquet ground. Went a walk in the evening with Mr J. and children, beautiful view, very enjoyable plenty of hills to climb, talk chiefly literary.

Monday 23rd

Immediately after dinner Mr J. drove the children and me to Bodelwyddn Church^[70] and to see Asaph Cathedral, Elsie very trying, gave me a headache which became strong by the time I reached home, took strong liquors which aggravated the pain rushed to the croquet ground where Mr J. made a bed for me, and bathed my temples with eau de Cologne, felt relief after a couple of hours but did not go indoors till 1½. Mr J. very sweet, assumed the character of a lover, would have popped the question if had'nt thought better of it.

Tuesday 24th

Very unwell. Sat in the summerhouse all forenoon. Mr J. read *Heartease*^[71] aloud, Mrs W. and children went with Mr Harrison to station. Mr J. went a walk with me to Bringevin,^[72] delightful walk – very sweet, saw Bringevin Hall, returned – played croquet, took toddy, dozed in easy chair, and returned about 12 leaving Mrs W. and Mrs J.

⁶⁹ The tomb of the bard Dafydd Ddú (Black David) is to be found in the church at Tremeirchion.

⁷⁰ St Margaret's Church, Bodelwyddan, was notable for its marble construction and tower of 202 feet.

⁷¹ *Heartsease, or the Brother's Wife* (1854) by Charlotte M. Yonge.

⁷² *i.e.* Bryngwyn Hall, to the north east of Cae Gwyn.

Wednesday 25th

Mrs Williams took suddenly unwell in the afternoon and continued so all night. Forenoon Mr Jones took the children and me to the Priory which I sketched. Mr Jones left at 9 in the evening.

Thursday 26th

Mr Jones and Mrs Dew came about 7 and left at 10, croquet, music and nonsense.

Friday 27th

Mr J. didn't come all day. Roberts drove us to Trevnant^[73] to see the church.

Saturday 28th

Expected Mr J. all day didn't come till 5. Major Mrs Penn and Maimie also came, took a starlight walk with Mr J. about 1 and went to bed at 4. Mrs Williams very accommodating.

June 29th

Went a walk with Mr J. to Maesmunnan, discussed religious matters, Darwinian theories etc. afternoon wet and dreary – evening Mrs J. ill, bed 1. Received letters from Mary and Petersburg.

June 30th

Wrote to Mary and mama. Mr Jones, Mr Dew, Major and Mrs Penn came about 5. played croquet, poor evening. Mr Jones didn't stay the night to our intense disgust, hysterical tête à tête with Mrs Williams, made no confidant bed 12½. Children and I ~~went~~ accompanied Mr Jones part of the way home in the morning.

July 1st

Felt low-spirited, sewed and did odds and ends in the forenoon – read *Lala Rookh*.^[74] Children went with Mrs Williams and Mr Harrison to the station. I wrote up my journal. Went out for a drive half way to Holywell, drove Polly myself – managed very well. Expected Mr Jones but he didn't turn up. Went out and recited on the style thereby frightening a little girl out of her wits, who came to the sage conclusion that I was a lunatic. Mrs William's nurse dressed up as a tipsy man and gave us ½ an hour's entertainment.

Wednesday July 2nd

Packed the children's trunk and my own. Slept all night on the sofa ~~Elsie received a letter from Mr Jones saying he would come on Thursday to be enclosing the photographs, she sent back an answer in which she told him we were going on Friday morning.~~ Mrs Williams drove us to Holywell and we saw St Winnifred's well.^[75] We did shopping and at last landed in a confectioner's.

Thursday July 3rd

Finished packing. Wrote to Mrs T. ~~telling~~ Mr Jones the curate came. Mr Harrison in spite of pouring rain came at 5. Tea at 6. 7 Mr Jones came. Spent the evening in the summerhouse,

⁷³ *i.e.* Trefnant. Its church had been built between 1853 and 1855 to a design by George Gilbert Scott.

⁷⁴ *Lalla Rookh* (1817), a poem by Thomas Moore.

⁷⁵ *i.e.* St Winefride's Well, Holywell, Flintshire. See Figure 18.



Figure 18. St Winifred's Well, Holywell, 1866. Helena visited the well on 2 July 1873. (British Museum)

very pleasant. Call in to supper at 11. Mr Jones left about 12, said a last adieu at the garden gate. Sat up with Mrs W.s half the night.

Friday July 4th

Started with the children at 9½ for London. Saw Mr Jones at C[?] Station. Mrs T. met us at 4½ at London and we went to Mrs Herz's, had dinner at 7. oppressive weight all evening.

July 5th

Went over in the morning with the children to Mrs T. where I found a letter from Bangor awaiting me, took a walk to Hyde Park, went out shopping with Morris, wrote to Mrs Williams and Mr J.

Sunday July 6th

Left London in steamer for Antwerp. No seasickness til 11 at night when I had to retire to bed and spent a wretched night. Mr Bidder the only acquaintance I made.

Monday July 7th

Landed at Antwerp, train to Cologne. Wretched journey, heat and no water, dined at the hotel at 7. Went out to see the town and visited the cathedral which was marvellously fine.



Figure 19. Cologne Cathedral, late nineteenth century. Helena visited the cathedral on 7 July 1873 and thought it 'marvellously fine'.
(National Galleries of Scotland)

Tuesday July 8th

Sailed up the Rhine – enchanting scenery, suffered very much from heat, landed at Mayence^[76] at 9.

July 9th

Went out to see the town, bought print of the market and eat [*sic*] in an [*interlined: open*] garden, parted at 12 and reached Baden-Baden at 7. Saw Mrs Herz, had dinner and went to bed early.

Thursday July 10th

Went for a walk with Miss Schwabe to the riding-school, in the evening went to the music.

Friday July 11th

Gave Harold and Elsie lessons. Trimmed dolly varden hats,^[77] went to music, had a confidential talk with Mrs Herz.

Saturday July 12th

Lessons. too wet to go to music.

⁷⁶ *i.e.* Mainz.

⁷⁷ A Dolly Varden was a flat straw hat that was usually trimmed with flowers and ribbons.

Sunday July 13th

Went to Russian Church, returned home soon as Winnie was not well. Went to music and did a good deal of shopping, went to bed late as I had packing to do.

Monday July 14th

Left Baden at 9 and took train to Basle, had dinner there, and went to see the cathedral, started for Zurich at 5 and reached it about 7.

Tuesday July 15th

Went with Morris and Harold to see the town and in the afternoon sketched the lake. Did'nt leave Zurich as Mrs T. had to wait for a telegram.

Wednesday July 16th

Left Zurich at 2 immediately after table-d'hôte. In the train met Mr Bidder, reached Choir^[78] at 6.

Thursday July 17th

Mrs T. left for the Engadin this morning. The children, Morris and I took a walk thro' the village. In the afternoon Miss Herz went a beautiful walk with us up the hill.

Friday July 18th

Gave the children plenty of lessons, took the same walk with them as the previous day, returned home at 6 and found a telegram awaiting us saying we were to start for Pontresina the next morning. Packed, wrote letters home, and to Mr J. went to bed about 11.

Saturday July 19th

Got up about 5, started near 5 in the stage coach, reached Pontresina at 6, tea and bed and passed a very bilious night.

Sunday July 20th

Lay in bed all morning – got up drew and wrote to Mrs W. ate nothing.

Monday July 21st

All went off to St Moritz with the exception of myself. I went out armed with Bell and my sketch-book. Made a lovely sketch of a waterfall.

Tuesday July 22nd

Gave lessons to the children at 1 went to the hotel Rosseg but was'nt equal to dining at the table-d'hôte so took a beef-steak at the luncheon table. Went after dinner with Harold and Cortauld to the wood and we all 3 sketched. In the evening Bellew came to hear the children recite.

Wednesday July 23rd

Gave the children lessons, dined at the table-d'hôte for the first time since coming here, went to the woods with Harold and Winnie began to sketch but was soon interrupted by rain. At 8

⁷⁸ *i.e.* Chur.

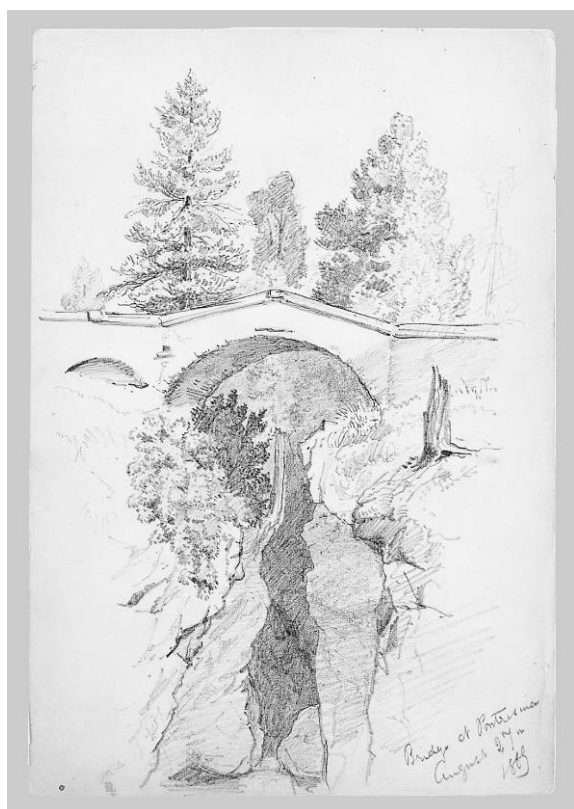


Figure 20. The bridge of Pontresina, 1869. The bridge was a popular subject for visiting artists, although rain forced Helena to abandon her attempt to draw it on 24 July 1873. (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

went to the hotel for the children but didn't return till 10. ~~Wrote~~ drew and began a letter to M. After going into bed talked with M. on ticklish subjects till past midnight.

Thursday July 24th

Had a terrible morning with the children, in the afternoon Miss Herz, Harold and W. went to Samaden.^[79] I went with Cortauld and Clarence to the river and drew a bridge but soon had to stop because of rain.

Friday July 25th

Lessons, in the afternoon went with Elsie baby and Winnie to the woods. In coming back received a message that Mrs T. wanted me, found her half crazy at finding one of her most valuable skins sold, from a mistake on my part. Returned home and wrote to Mr Chapman. Went with children to hotel after tea. Saw Mrs T. again, went home and wrote to Mr Wood and another letter to Mr Chapman. bed.

Saturday 26th

Got up at 5 to post letters. Went to table-d'hôte at 1, gave a letter from Miss Herz to Mrs T. Went with Harold and baby to the woods over the bridge, caught butterflies. sketched. On returning home found letters from Mary and mama awaiting me. posted a letter to Mary at 3 o'clock. Recited.

⁷⁹ *i.e.* Samedan.



Figure 21. The Roseg Glacier at Pontresina, 1869.
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Sunday 27th

Elsie wrote to Mr Bidder. went to Church with the children. didn't go out all afternoon because of a thunderstorm. Sat in the reading-room looking at papers. 6 Got a letter from Mr J. felt elated. Away with melancholy. Went with Harold to the hotel at 9 to bring the children home.

Monday 28th

Did'nt see Mrs T. all day. In the afternoon took all the children and Clarence to the woods. The 3 boys sketched. The little American girl took tea with the children, broke my parasol, recited, began lessons at 8 o'clock. Mrs T. came over during the day to pay our bills and took up her quarters at the "Couronne".

Tuesday 29th

Elsie impudent, Winnie out a drive with her mama all day, dined at the Couronne, took the children to the woods. Harold and baby sketched, began letters to Mary and Emily.

Wednesday 30th

Was startled by Mrs T. making her appearance in the midst of lessons, beckoned me ominously into the boy's room, and there announced that my services would'nt be required after September. I coolly replied Very well and so the matter ended. Harold and baby went out for a walk with Clarence and Mr and Mrs Mitchell. Harold came home late for dinner.

Thursday July 31st

Went out a walk [*interlined*: of 3 miles] with the children and Clarence, to the lake, sketched and was home by 7½.

1873

August

Friday 1st

Let the children go a walk with their cousin and the Marshall's, should have been home by 11 but didn't come till 12 so didn't have any lessons, sketched frogs. In the afternoon went over the hill with Harold baby and the minister's son. In the evening went to the Roseg with the 2 girls and made Mrs Gardener's acquaintance.

Saturday 2nd

Harold and Winnie went out a drive with their mama, I took Elsie to the Roseg and then went out a walk with baby taking a book with me. After tea I took Elsie out a walk. Mrs T. paid a flying visit in the evening and promised me the loan of Romola.^[80]

Sunday 3rd

Mrs T. went to church with us, Winnie didn't go because of a headache. In the afternoon the children went a walk with the Marshall's. I wrote letters and began Romola.

Monday 4th

Harold went out an expedition with his cousin Nelly. After dinner Morris and the children went a short walk with me. I posted a letter to Mr J. and received a letter from Mr Chapman saying the skins were recovered. At 11 went to a dance at the hotel, had a waltz with a German. Went to bed near 1.

Tuesday 5th

Took Harold out sketching in the morning. In the afternoon began a walk but was interrupted with rain. bought pears, marking ink and india rubber. Received a letter from Mama. Posted a letter home.

Wednesday 6th

Went out an expedition to the Bernini,^[81] had a snowball match and slide down an ice hill, walked home a distance of 12 miles. fearfully tired.

Thursday 7th

Remained at home because of rain.

Friday 8th

Went a walk with the children and May Gardiner. Read Romola and received a letter from Mrs Wood.

Saturday 9th

After lessons went out with the children to sketch. Wet in the afternoon so wrote to Emily.

⁸⁰ *Romola* (1862-63) by George Eliot.

⁸¹ *i.e.* Bernina. The mountain was a popular tourist attraction, and a carriage ran daily between Pontresina and the inn at Bernina. Perhaps Helena and her party missed the carriage home or simply preferred to walk. See Figure 22.



Figure 22. The Bernina Pass, 1869. Helena went on an expedition to Bernina on 6 August 1873, enjoying a snowball fight and a slide down an ice hill.
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Sunday 10th

Went to church with Mrs T. and children. Took a walk with Harold and baby to Samaden. Got half sunk in a ditch. Finished Romola at 2 in the morning.

Monday 11th

Woke with a bad sore throat remained in bed all day. Began and finished Mrs Wood's Anne Hereford.^[82] Did'nt sleep till 2.

Tuesday 12th

Remained in my room all day not to give the children sore throat. Wrote to Mrs Bell and Robbie, sowed [*sic*] etc.

Wednesday 13th

Posted letters to Petersburg. Quite better. Gave lessons and went sketching with Harold before dinner, in the afternoon with Harold, Elsie and baby to the wood and commenced building a house. Received a letter from Ma in which I heard of her determination to go to Petersburg. had a bad night after which I came to the conclusion to do the same myself.

Thursday 14th

Went to the woods and continued the house. Got a letter from papa – wrote to mama.

⁸² *Anne Hereford, a Novel* (1868) by Mrs Henry Wood.

Friday 15th

Went to the house with the children, bought some coloured chalks for baby's birthday.

Saturday 16th

B's birthday went to the wood made tea. Gardiners there.

Sunday 17th

Church. ~~Went to Samaden with Harold and baby.~~ Rainy.

Monday 18th

Received a letter from Mary this morning.

Tuesday 19th

Took Harold out to sketch in the morning.

Thursday 21st

Mr Tennyson came here.

Friday 22nd

Found a still born goat took it home for inspection. Mr Hargrave paid us a long visit. Miss Herz came home.

Saturday 23rd

Went to the dentist's and got a tooth stuffed.

Sunday 24th

Church in the afternoon. Went to Myra with the children. Winnie in bed.

Monday 25th

Began lessons but was interrupted by Mrs T. saying it was to be a holiday. Gathered flowers and made a figured wreath for [blank]. ~~Mr T. Said Bridge of Sighs~~

Tuesday 26th

Received a letter from ma. Went to the woods with some children and cooked potatoes which were fully appreciated. In the afternoon went out with H. and read 'Little P... and Bridge of Sighs' to Miss Herz.

Wednesday 27th

10 Went to the woods and cooked a luncheon for a numerous company. Mr Tennyson left, packed my trunk, dined at 4 at the restaurant.

Thursday 28th

Received letters from Emily and Robbie, posted letters to mama and Mary. Left Pontresina at 9. Reached Albula at 4.

Friday 29th

Took a walk with Miss Herz and children in the afternoon, bought collar etc. Went out with Morrice and children.

Saturday 30th

Left at 11 and reached Cour^[83] at 4.

Sunday 31st

Left at 9. Stopped at Ragatz^[84] to see Pffefers. Reached Zurich about 5.

September

Monday 1st

Mrs T. left at 2. Went with children to the lake and sketched it. In the morning went with them to the fair. All in bad tempers except Winnie. Awake all night. Formed good resolutions for the future.

Tuesday 2nd

Spent most of the day at the lake. 10p.m. received a telegram from Mrs T. saying we were to join her next day, got out of bed and packed a little.

Wednesday 3rd

Dressed by 6 packed till 8. Took train and dined at Berne, took tea and walk at Lausanne reached Vevey at 8. Morrice came to meet us. [*interlined*: Received letter from Mr Jones.]

Thursday 4th

Mrs Herz came over to see the children, also Miss Herz's aunt. Took a walk thro' the town.

Friday 5th

Play and no work. Was introduced to some very nice Russian ladies.^[85]

Saturday 6th

Harold, W. and baby sketched. Harold also commenced a caricature drawing of all of us. Mrs T. gave the children lectures about dawdling. Sent a letter to Mr J.

Sunday 7th

Not fine, did'nt go to church. Harold finished his drawing. Made the acquaintance of a German.

Monday 8th

Went by train to Montreux. Said goodbye and received German's letters. Came home with children at 6.

Tuesday 9th

Mrs Herz came over ~~and took a walk with Miss Griffis and pupil.~~ Miss Herz left for England.

⁸³ *i.e.* Chur.

⁸⁴ *i.e.* Bad Ragaz.

⁸⁵ Vevey had a significant Russian community in the late nineteenth century.



Figure 23. Lake Geneva with Chillon Castle. Helena went for a walk to Chillon with Miss Griffis on 10 September 1873. (Llandudno Museum)

Wednesday 10th

~~Harold left at 11.~~ Took a walk with Miss Griffis. Went a [*sic*] Chillon.

Thursday 11th

~~Began lessons Elsie in a temper. Went to Chillon walk with Miss Griffis – Chillon with Harold.~~

Friday 12th

~~Lessons went on smoother today.~~ Harold left at 12. Posted a letter to Mr Jones.

Friday 12th [*sic*]

Began lessons. Elsie in a temper.

Saturday 13th

Lessons went on smoother. Went in carriage with Mrs T. and children to Montreux, returned in train with Miss Jahnalie. Went a walk with Miss Griffis and children.

Sunday 14th

Went to church. Spent the afternoon in Miss Griffis room.

Monday 15th

Went at 11 with children to Montreux returned at 6.

Tuesday 16th

Wrote to Mary. Sat up with Miss Griffiths past 11. Criticised the different dancers – took a drive with Miss G. [*interlined*: Mrs Herz remained all day.]

Wednesday 17th

Wet – lessons. In the afternoon sat with children in Miss Griffith's room.

Thursday 18th

Elsie in bed with stiff neck. Went a drive to Hotel Byron – returned at 5. Read to Elsie. Miss Griffiths came upstairs and sat with us in Elsie's bedroom.

Friday 19th

Read aloud to Elsie till she got up about midday. ~~In the evening went a walk with Miss Griffiths.~~ Mrs Herz came.

Saturday 20th

Went a walk in the evening with Miss Griffith's. Elsie impudent because I didn't allow her to come.

Sunday 21st

Went to church with children. In the afternoon bought fruit and took a walk. Elsie again impudent because everything didn't go exactly as she wished.

Monday 22nd

Mrs T. went off in the evening to Montreux. Sat with Miss Griffith's who wished me to come out in a boat but resisted the temp.

Tuesday 23rd

Went to a concert with Miss G. After which promenaded about and did not go to bed till late.

Wednesday 24th

Played cards in the evening with 4 damsels of an uncertain age. Took a walk in the afternoon with Miss Griffiths.

Thursday 25th

Gave the children short lessons and went out with Miss G. in the morning. In the evening sat with Miss Grif and Miss Defay. Spanish Adonis disdainful.

Friday 26th

Went with Miss Griffiths in the forenoon to St Martin.^[86] In the afternoon took another walk with her. Sat in her room till 11 whilst she was packing.

Saturday 27th

Miss Griffith's [*sic*] left at midday. Sat in the garden in the afternoon crocheting. Read in the evening, went to bed early.

⁸⁶ *i.e.* the church of Saint-Martin de Vevey.

Sunday 28th

Mrs T. went with us to church. The town was adorned with garlands being a fête. Bought grapes and went to Latour.^[87] Mrs Herz came laden with good things.

Monday 29th

Scene at dinner with Elsie. Mrs T. gave it her and no mistake. The children went with Mrs T. to Montreux. I sketched Tour de Tour. Received a letter from M. to Mrs Herz.

Tuesday 30th

Lessons after which went out with Winnie to Tour la Tour to sketch it. Went out before breakfast with baby to sketch.

October

Wednesday 1st

Mrs T. and Morrice went to Geneva, the children and I went to Montreux at 9, tried to learn netting was pronounced hopeless, consoled myself with crochet, walked home in the evening.

Thursday 2nd

Left home with the children at 8 and walked to Montreux. played croquet with a party of 3 gentlemen and 2 ladies, took train home. Spent a half hour in Miss Welsh's room, Mrs T. came home, received 3 letters from Mary and Mama.

Friday 3rd

Mrs Herz came over this morning and requested me to write to my sister to make arrangements. Occupied myself till dinnertime in writing a long letter. And in the morning wrote to mama. In the afternoon took a walk with the children and in the evening read 'Little Dorrit'.^[88] Some Tyrolese singers gave a concert.

Saturday 4th

Walked to Montreux and back before dinner to ask Mrs Herz to come over here. Mended stockings in the afternoon.

Sunday 5th

Went to church in the afternoon, took a walk with baby to St Martin's. Mrs Hertz spent the day at Vevay [*sic*].

Monday 6th

Went with the first boat to Montreux. Asked to go in a boat to Chillon but could'nt.

⁸⁷ *i.e.* La Tour-de-Peilz, located on Lake Geneva between Vevey and Montreux.

⁸⁸ *Little Dorrit* (1855-57) by Charles Dickens.

Tuesday 7th
Stormy weather.

Wednesday 8th
Cold and wet, spent an hour in the evening with Miss Welsh.

Thursday 9th
Fine but cold. Mrs Hertz came. Children went out a walk with their friends and I sketched St Martin's church.

Friday 10th
Drew almost all day.

Saturday 11th
Drew in the morning. Received letter from Mary.

Sunday 12th
Went to church. Took walk with W. and E. Read 'Mother's Recompense'.^[89]

Monday 13th
My birthday. Walked to Montreux. Arrived just in time for dinner, drove home with Mrs T. in carriage. Packed.

Tuesday 14th
Wet. made lists, packed. Mrs T. sat upstairs with the children.

Wednesday 15th
Got up at 7. Received £25. Good breakfast at 9. Bought penknife for Morrice, and umbrella. 12 left Vevay. Mrs T. accompanied us to Lausanne. About 9 our luggage was examined, very disagreeable night.

Thursday 16th
Reached Paris at 7 in the morning, drove to other station and at 9 took train to London. Suffered very much with my eye. Reached London at 7, made purchases. Left at 9, miserable night eye intolerable. ~~Got to Edinburgh at 9 met papa went for~~

Friday 17th
Reached Edinburgh at 9, papa at the station, breakfasted at his office, went to Marshall's for M's address. took out passport, went to Romanes', returned to Edinburgh, heard Mary had been but was gone, waited at last she came in, drove off to Mrs Romanes, dined, unpacked. After tea did shopping and called at Marshall's!

Saturday 18th
Took a passage in the Iceland, said goodbye to papa, met Spring, made many purchases, had

⁸⁹ *A Mother's Recompense* (1859) by Grace Aguilar.

tea, packed, supper, went off to the Iceland. Spent 2 hours with Mary and Romane's on deck, had some final words with M. and bade adieu at 1 in the next morning.

Sunday 19th

Started at 12 a.m. Pleasant weather, went to sleep on the sofa in the cabin.

Monday 20th

At 3 a.m. awoke with the ship lurching fearfully, in getting to my berth received a succession of bumps and then became terribly sick, ate nothing all day.

Tuesday 21st

Fast and sickness continued.

Wednesday 22nd

Dreadful storm. No rest for the wicked.

Thursday 23rd

Weather slightly better, got up for 2 hours, ate some sago, went to bed and took some soup.

Friday 24th

Storm and sickness.

Saturday 25th

Sea slightly calmer, more soup.

Sunday 26th

1 a.m. landed in Cronstadt. sailed for Petersburg at 3½ and reached it at 6. No one to meet me. Dreadful time but reached Uncle John's in safety. Saw Mrs Anderson and Mrs Bell. The rest were at the Kirpitchnoi with mama but came later. Mrs Nicolskoi came. Slept at Mrs Bell's.

Monday 27th

Spent the day at Aunt Ann Jane's, mama came about 5 and was surprised to see me. Slept with Aunt Ann Jane as it was Uncle John's déjournée. Aunt Ann J. and [*blank*] talked for several hours in bed about the past winter.

Tuesday 28th

Went with Aunt Mary to the Kirpitchnoi and saw the children and Aunt Jessy Goodlet.

Wednesday 29th

Felt miserable. Betsy Rizevski and Emily came.

Thursday 30th

Aunt Mary came to dinner, mama and I accompanied her home and took tea at Uncle John's.

1873

November

Friday 1st

Unpacked. Aunt Ann Jane came with Ethel and Ina.

Saturday 2nd

Uncle John came in the morning.

Sunday 3rd

Took Boulie and Jamie to the English church, went to Aunt Ann Jane's and saw Mr Marvel and Mr [blank]. Stayed the night.

Monday 4th

Walked to the Kirpitchnoi with Robbie. Emma spent the day with us. Mrs Bell came to tea sewed.

Tuesday 5th

Aunt Jessy and I sewed, Flora read, and then Aunt Jessy gave us an account of former lovers, great fun.

Wednesday 6th

Flora very amiable, showed me all her possessions.

Thursday 7th

Went to Gastino Dvor with Flora.

Friday 8th

Flora and I went to Morrison's, pleasant evening.

Saturday 9th

Letters from Mary. Wrote to her and papa.

Sunday 10th

Flora's good fit at an end. Read 'Hard cash'^[90] and didn't go out.

Monday 11th

Aunt Ann J. came and stayed to dinner Aunt M in the afternoon.

Tuesday 12th

Ellen's birthday. Aunt Ann J. and children, Mrs Fletcher and Tilly came. Flora's amiability returned.

Wednesday 13th

Called on Bloch's but found all out. Went with ma to Mrs Bell's.

⁹⁰ *Hard Cash, a Matter-of-Fact Romance* (1863) by Charles Reade.



Figure 24. The English Embankment, St Petersburg, c.1888. The English Church, which Helena visited on a number of occasions, was located on the embankment.
(Royal Collections Trust)

Thursday 14th

Went with Mrs Fletcher about a lesson. lady out. bought goloshes and went on to Aunt Ann Jane's, slept from 6 till morning.

Friday 15th

6 Went with ma to Mrs Fletcher's, Emily there.

Saturday 16th

Bought presents for Emily.

Sunday 17th

Emily's birthday, had a family dinner at Aunt Ann Jane's, slept in U. J's cabin.

Monday 18th

When at dinner an important letter came from M. Went home with it.

Tuesday 19th

Posted a letter to M., called at Mrs Fletcher's.

Wednesday 20th

Very snowy, had the 1st reading meeting at Mrs Anderson's, drove [?home].

Thursday 21st
Written to Mr J.

Friday 22nd
Went with Flo. to post a letter to Mr J., bitterly cold.

Saturday 23rd
Visited Blochs and gave out dress.

Sunday 24th
Went with mama to Uncle John's, came home at 10, found Mary seated.

Monday 25th
Went with M. to Aunt Ann J.'s, saw Emily there.

Tuesday 26th
Practised diligently.

Wednesday 27th
Had a reading meeting without reading.

Thursday 28th
Ma and Mary went to Noblis.

Friday 29th
Went to Mrs Antonoff's birthday.

Saturday 30th
Mary went to Knatz's.

Sunday
Went to Aunt Ann J.'s with Mary. Came home at 11.

December

Monday 1st
Mary went about a situation.

Tuesday 2nd
Remained at home.

Wednesday 3rd
Went to Agnes' birthday. Most of the grown up people dull.

Thursday 4th
Talked with M. all morning, chiefly on character. Ma and Mary went to Mrs Herzfield's.

Friday 5th

Mrs Smith ~~came~~ expected but did'nt come.

Saturday 6th

Nothing. ~~Mrs Heriot and Mrs Fletcher called.~~

Sunday 7th

Went to Aunt Ann Jane's with Mary and Flora. [*interlined*: Mary had a tiff with Aunt Jessy.] Emily and Mrs Anderson there. The Smirinoffs came for the first time.

Monday 8th

Gave children lessons.

Tuesday 9th

Toothache.

Wednesday 10th

Mrs Heriot and Mrs Fletcher called, likewise Aunt Ann J. Went to Mrs Bell's and had a reading of Thackeray.

Thursday 11th

"A blank my lord"^[91]

Friday 12th

Called on Mrs Noblis and treated to tea.

Saturday 13th

Went to Fletchers, with the children, pleasant evening.

Sunday 14th

Felt very unwell so didn't go to Uncle John's. Mary went with Olga and called for Miss Dencher.

Monday 15th

Went to the recitation class. Great fun.

Tuesday 16th

Aunt Mary and Mrs Noblis came. Pleasant evening. Aunt Jessy after more than a week's silence almost spoke.

Wednesday 17th

Fearful row between Ma and Florence. Went to Uncle John's – very unpleasant visit. Fearfully unwell.

⁹¹ *Twelfth Night*, Act 2, Scene 4.

Thursday 18th
Ate nothing all day.

Friday 19th
Ate at dinner felt a little better.

Saturday 20th
Uncle John came. Disagreeable visit. Mama not at home to dinner.

Sunday 21st
Went to the English Church. Saw Mrs Bell. Went to Uncle John's in the evening. Emily not there but Mrs Anderson, Mrs Bell, Messrs M[?] and Smirnoff. Mrs B. entertained me with an account of the Aborigines of Australia.

Monday 22nd
Went to recitation class and heard debate on "If Elizabeth was justified in her conduct towards Mary."

Tuesday 23rd
Toothache. Wrote down our names for lessons.

Wednesday 24th
Party. Toothache just vanished when the company arrived. Party not equal to our Scotch ones. Company left at 12 fearful toothache morning.

Thursday 25th
Christmas. ~~At home evening~~

Friday 26th
Finis had black tunic.

Saturday 27th
Olga's birthday – Aunt Ann Jane came with the children.

Sunday 28th
Miss McDonald came to dinner, likewise Aunt Mary, attended the chapel both morning and evening. Introduced to Mrs Hall.

Monday 29th
Went to recitation class and recited.

Tuesday 30th
Went to Mr Thomson. Got a very warm reception. Aunt Mary came.

Wednesday 31st
Hogmanay – Sewed – taught.

1874

January 1874

Thursday 1st

At home all day. M. composed poetry in the evening for ma's special edification.

Friday 2nd

Sewed black silk.

Saturday 3rd

Ditto. Received letter from pa.

Sunday 4th

Went with Jim to the English Church. evening went to chapel.

Monday 5th

Sewed. Sat up with Flora till 1. Went in the evening with Mary and children to see trees and to Gastino Dvor.

Tuesday 6th/25

Russian Christmas. Went with Flora in the morning to Aunt Ann Jane's, again at 4 to dinner. Came home at 11½.

Wednesday 7th/26

Sewed whilst Mary read aloud the *Young Lady's Friend*.^[92] Felt in bad humour.

Thursday 8th/27

Sewed M.'s dress. George came in afternoon, very entertaining.

Friday 9th/28

Took plenty of gymnastics. Altered striped garibaldi.

Saturday 10th/29

Gave Olga music lesson. Uncle J. came seemed dull. M. made bread pudding. Mama, Mary and I went to Mrs Anderson's.

Sunday 11th/30

Did'nt go to church my bones ached too much. Read all day.

Monday 12th/31

Mary engaged herself as governess today. In the evening went for pies. Received a letter from Mr Jones, ecstatic mood. Began a letter to Mrs Williams.

Tuesday 13th/1

Russian New Year's day. Aunt Mary came to dinner. Young Amyrat and Douglas called. Went to Chapel soirée. Rather poor affair.

⁹² *The Young Lady's Friend* (1836) by Eliza Ware Farrar.

Wednesday 14th/2

Posted a letter to Mrs Williams. Mrs Anderson, Emily, Aunt Ann Jane and children came, likewise Cousin George and his brothers and sister.

Thursday 15th/3

Realterred striped garibaldi. Presided at dinner table. Took the children for a walk in the afternoon to see Prince of Wales^[93] but did'nt see him. 7 paid ½ an hour's visit to Morrison.

Friday 16th/4

Mended petticoat. Drove with mama to the island of the photographer's. Called on Mrs Thomson. Found her out.

Saturday 17th/5

Mended linen.

Sunday 18th/6

Went with Mary and got myself photographed. 4 Went to English church and heard Dean Stanley.^[94]

Monday 19th/7

Helped Mary to pack – went to Aunt Ann Jane's and remained to supper.

Tuesday 20th/8

Wrote and posted letter to Miss Johnson. Mary went to Gerbine's. Alice Morrison spent the evening.

Wednesday 21st/9

Saw the Grand Duchess's dowry.

Thursday 22nd/10

Mary called with her pupils. Went with Flora to the summer Gardens and saw the Grand Duchess driving, and the Prince and Princess of Prussia walking in the gardens with their son. Should have gone for photograph but was too tired.

Friday 23rd/11

The Grand Duchess's marriage day. Went with Aunt Jessy to Fophchers, and saw the Miss Fophchers in the Russian dress. Went to the Annitchkin Palace^[95] and saw the little Grand Dukes, Prince of Wales and the Prussian prince. In the evening went to see the illumination but could not go far for the crowd.

⁹³ The Prince of Wales was in St Petersburg to attend the marriage of his brother Prince Alfred to Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, daughter of Tsar Alexander II.

⁹⁴ Alfred Stanley, dean of Westminster, was in St Petersburg to officiate at the wedding of Prince Alfred and Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna.

⁹⁵ *i.e.* Anichkov Palace. See Figure 25.



Figure 25. The Anichkov Palace, c.1872. Helena went to the palace on 23 January 1874 to catch a glimpse of the Prince of Wales and other guests attending the royal wedding. The photograph was taken by a member of the prince's staff during his visit. (Royal Collections Trust)

Saturday January 24th/12

Went to see the illuminations and called in at the 5 corners.^[96] Went with Flora to the photographers and got a card, crossed the river, in a very wet condition.

Sunday 25th/13

Mary came went with her to see the royal family coming out of the English church. Spent the evening at Uncle John's.

Monday 26th/14

Went to Mr Thomson's but didn't see him. Took the children to Gastino Dvor. Went with M. to Mutual Improvement society - Very few. No debate but a few remarks by Mr Hall on the subject of debate.

Tuesday 27th/15

Saw Mr Thomson. Took a walk with the children, skated and went down the ice-hill in Commercial school garden.

⁹⁶ 'The Five Corners' is the unofficial name of the five-way crossroads at the centre of St Petersburg.

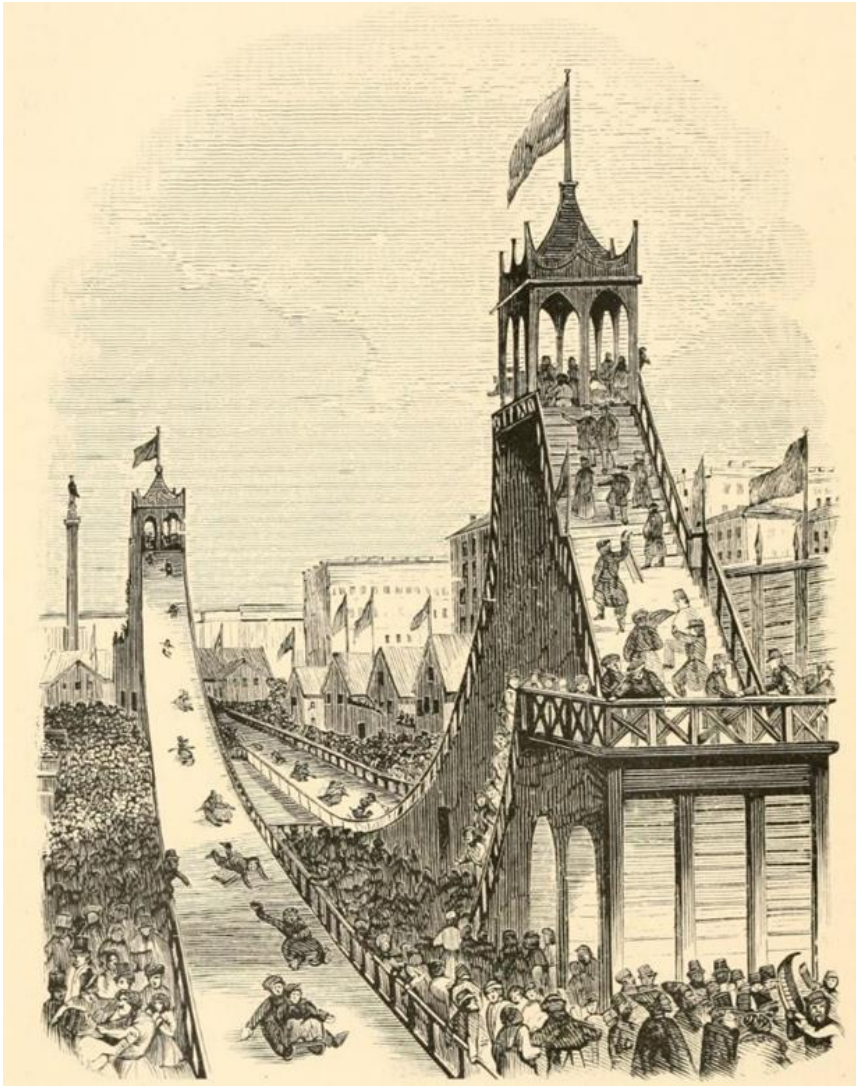


Figure 26. Ice-hilling in St Petersburg. Helena took part in this popular winter pastime on 27 January 1873.
(*The Boy Travellers in the Russian Empire*)

Wednesday 28th/16

Mary came in the evening. Went with her to Watson's.

Thursday 29th/17

Called on Reinckes. Spent the evening at Mrs Fletcher's.

Friday 30th/18

Called on Mrs Makaravitch and remained to dinner, returned home at 8 accompanied by Mr and Mrs Makaravitch.

Saturday 31st/19

Emily came with Ethel from 4 till 6. In the morning went to philanthropic society and saw a gentleman about Moscow situation. 7 Went to see Miss Griffiths and dined there.

1874

February

Sunday 1st/20

Mary came, remained at home all morning. 5 Went to Aunt Ann Jane's. Vanegradofs, Nicolskis, Emily and Mrs Anderson all there.

Monday 2nd/21st

12 Went to Mrs Makaravitch. Returned at 7 as Raemers were coming. Not too lively evening.

Tuesday 3rd/22nd

Got my photos. Spent the evening at Mrs Heriot's. Sent off a letter to papa. Aunt Jessy and Flora came home near 12 from Aunt Ann Jane's as it was the anniversary of her marriage.

Wednesday 4th/23

4 dined at Mrs Anderson's. Dreadfully sleepy. 7 Went with Emily to Aunt Ann Jane's. Mary there, took tea and came home.

Thursday 5th/24

Posted a letter to Mr Jones. Spent the evening with M.

Friday 6th/25

Went to Mrs Makaravitch returned home at 3.

Saturday 7th/26

Mary dropped in.

Sunday 8th/27

Went to church. Evening to Aunt Ann Jane's.

Monday 9th/28

Went with Ma to the Slitukin and bought collars and [?bonazey]. Called in at Aunt Ann Jane's. Mary came in the evening. Did'nt go to debate as she has a cold.

Tuesday 10th/29

Mrs Anderson came.

Wednesday 11th/30

Spent the day at Aunt Ann Jane's. Sewed.

Thursday 12th/31

Sewed. Mary called, traced pattern for Aunt Jessy.

Friday 13th/1

Spent the day with Miss Reincke. 7 Called at Aunt Ann Jane's. 8 Went to see Mary.

Saturday 14th/2

Went about a situation – and obtained teaching. A delightful lady and child. Miss McDonald came for a couple of hours in the afternoon.

Sunday 15th/3

Mary came. Went to church. In the afternoon M. went to Knatz's. Did'nt go with M. to Aunt Ann Jane's.

Monday 16th/4

Went to the Mutual Improvement. Discussion on What is the best way of ~~employing~~ spending Sunday.

Tuesday 17th/5

Mr and Mrs Hall called.

Wednesday 18th/6

Spent the day at Aunt Ann Jane's. Saw Mrs Bell there.

Thursday 19th/7

Finished my sealskin bonnet. Called at Mary's and found her out.

Friday 20th/8

Read *Old Helmet* by Miss Wetherell.^[97]

Saturday 21st/9

Finished *Old Helmet* – Fascinated by it. Jim came for the afternoon.

Sunday 22nd/10

Went to church good sermon. M. came at 2. I had toothache so did'nt go to Uncle John's.

Monday 23rd/11

In bed all day with toothache.

Tuesday 24th/12

Went to Raemer's for the first time. stayed till 2. Very pleasant and easy time. Child's play.

Wednesday 25th/13

George came at 3.

Thursday 26th/14

Went to Raemer's. Very cold. Went to bed early.

~~Thursday~~ Friday 27th/15

Got up late with soar [*sic*] throat. Took a walk in search of English books. Bought *Home Influence*^[98] for Aunt Jessy.

Saturday 28th/16

Miss Davie unwell so stayed the whole day at Raemars. Most miserable. Playing with a child is hateful, came home at 8 dead beat having had a fearful amount of walking.

⁹⁷ *The Old Helmet* (1864) by Elizabeth Wetherell.

⁹⁸ *Home Influence: a Tale for Mothers and Daughters* (1847) by Grace Aguilar.

1874

March

Sunday 1st/17

Mary came and found me in bed. Remained at home all day. Aunt Mary came to dinner. Talk chiefly about our return to Edinburgh.

Monday 2nd/18

Did'nt go to debate. Mary came in the evening. Taught Olga 4 hours.

Tuesday 3rd/19

Great holiday. Anniversary of the Emperor's coronation and liberation of the serfs. Went to Raemers notwithstanding and stayed till 4, miserable day tho' not as bad as the last. Mrs Heriot, Mrs Morrison and Mrs Antonoff came to tea. Had bad toothache.

Wednesday 4th/20

Remained in bed till 5 when George Goodlet came. Was surprised to hear that Burns had been translated with great success into Russ [*sic*] and is very much read.^[99] Heard Bridge of Sighs^[100] in Russ. Beautiful. It is thot [*sic*] by some that the translation is even more beautiful than the original [*interlined*: however the translation is double the length.] Tennyson is not translated. It was in the hands of the 3 best translators but all failed.

Thursday 5th/21

Went to Raemers stayed to dinner. In foaming passion by the end of the day. Went to M.'s and talked myself into calmness.

Friday 6th/22

Darned dress. Gave Olga 2 hours lessons and a music lesson to Flora.

Saturday 7th/23

Went to Raemers. Took sewing – a great improvement. Left about 3½.

Sunday 8th/24

Mary came at 2½ with Aunt Mary. Did'nt go to church. Read Cometh up as a Flower.^[101] Liked it but dissatisfied with the ending.

Monday 9th/25

Went to Mutual Improvement with Flo. M. gave an essay on George Eliot. Mr Hall egotistical. Gave a “valuable”? hint on reading. Gave M. some of Hamlet.

Tuesday 10th/26

Went to Raemars. Holiday. At 1½ took Lisa to visit one of her friends. Unfortunately the child

⁹⁹ The poems of Robert Burns had found popularity in nineteenth-century Russia through translations by Ivan Kozlov, Mikhail Lermontov and others.

¹⁰⁰ *The Bridge of Sighs* (1844), a poem by Thomas Hood.

¹⁰¹ *Cometh up as a Flower* (1867) by Rhoda Broughton.

was ill so I returned home with her and stayed till 4 o'clock. Then I went to Aunt Ann Jane's and dined with Uncle John. The others having finished dinner mama was there with the children. Uncommonly good evening.

Wednesday 11th/27

At home busy with Olga.

Thursday 12th/28

Went to Raemars and stayed to dinner, not a very bad day. Went to M.'s. The children recovering from chickenpox.

Friday 13th/1

At home.

Saturday 14th/2

Mr Raemar breakfasted with us and made me thoroughly uncomfortable by his free manner. Did'nt remain to dinner.

Sunday 15th/3

Did'nt go to church – Mary and Aunt Mary.

Monday 16th/4

Emily came in the afternoon and went to the debate with us.

Tuesday 17th/5

Went to Raemars. Miss Davie came at 2¼.

Wednesday 18th/6

At home.

Thursday 19th/7

Came home early from Raemars. Gave Olga and Flora their lessons, then went to see Mary at 7½. A self-constituted attendant made himself very troublesome. Poor evening came home early.

Friday 20th/8

Went to Mrs Makaravich. Enchanted to see me. Her brother came for a short time. Went home about 7 and found Aunt Mary busy over the children's dresses.

Saturday 21st/9

Went to Raemars. Miss Davie came at 3½. Went to Uncle John's. Emily came and gave Ethel a lesson.

Sunday 22nd/10

Went to church in the morning. Uncommonly poor sermon. Saw Miss McDonald. On reaching home found Mary seated there. Received a letter from pa. Read *Trevelyan Hold* by Mrs Wood.^[102]

¹⁰² *Trevelyan Hold: or, Squire Trevelyan's Heir* (1864) by Mrs Henry Wood.

1874



Figure 27. A selection of portraits of St Petersburg citizens taken by the Scots-born photographers William Carrick and John McGregor, giving an idea of the sorts of people Helena would have seen during her walks round the city. John McGregor was probably the 'Mr McGregor' Helena met on several occasions and considered 'Quite a Scotchman'.
(National Galleries of Scotland)

Monday 23rd/11

Wrote up my journal which is a fact worth knowing. Went to debate, Mary recited “Enter! Enter! Enter!”

Tuesday 24th/12

Went to Raemars. Came home early and drew. George came and stayed till 7. Very pleasant.

Wednesday 25th/13

Mrs Morrison called to tell me of a lesson. Went with Flora to the Gastino Dvor – met Mrs Bell and Emily and afterward Aunt Ann Jane and Agnes.

Thursday 26th/14

Ask [*sic*] Mr Raemar to change my days got it accomplished with great difficulty. Aunt Mary came this afternoon, took her almost home and then went to see Mary. Began ‘Goodbye Sweetheart’^[103] and was very much taken with its freshness.

Friday 27th/15

4 went to Miss Dencher and got particulars about my new lesson.

Saturday 28th/16

After going to Raemar’s went to Madame Smirnoff’s – a very nice family – very homely pupil anything but a beauty. Left at 8. Came home and dressed then went to Aunt Ann Jane’s were [*sic*] Ethel’s and Mary’s birthday was being celebrated.

Sunday 29th/17

Got up at 11 when Mary came. Aunt M. came in the afternoon.

Monday 30th/18

Went to Raemar’s. Came home taught Olga and Flora the [*sic*] with Mary to Mr Hall’s party of the Mutual Improvement. Only one recitation – Mary’s. Games all the rest of the evening. Quite a unique party. Feel hen-speckled.

Tuesday 31st/19

Mrs Smirnoff’s. Saw French governess decidedly most formidable person in the house. Came home at 7. Met George. Felt so tired and ill from the fast food I had indulged in, that I went to bed at once.

April

Wednesday April 1st/20

Went to Raemars. Gave Liza drawing till ¼ to 4 when I left – taught Olga.

Thursday 2nd/21

Went to Smirnoffs. Saw Eda Page, clear English very sensible. Not such a tiring day.

¹⁰³ *Good-bye, Sweetheart!* (1872) by Rhoda Broughton.

Friday 3rd/22

Went to Raemars. I went with Liza to the Palms and bought her a pair of candlesticks. Did't come to lunch till 3½ to Miss Davie's intense disgust. After returning home went to the fair again with mama, bought a pair of studs.

Saturday 4th/23

Went to Smirnoff's. Miss Dencher called. The child got a music lesson so my day was curtailed left at 10 minutes to 8. Came home and then went to Mrs Herzfield's. Looked at photographs almost the whole evening. Helen unusually amiable.

Sunday 5th/24

Read Veronique.^[104] Miss McDonald came at 1 Mary at 2. Very pleasant afternoon.

Monday 6th/25

Finished Veronique. Very much disappointed at first found it tiresome if nothing worse. However the latter part of the book is much better. Charlie's birthday – bought him a drawing book. Did't go to Raemar's as it is a holiday.

Tuesday 7th/26

Went to Smirnoff's.

Wednesday 8th/26

Went to Raemars – stayed to dinner. Not so tiresome as usual. Went to Mary's. Finished first vol. of "Goodbye Sweetheart".

Thursday 9th/27

Smirnoff's.

Friday 10th/29

Good Friday. Went to Raemars. Had a bad cold did't give many lessons. Went to Aunt Ann Jane's left after dinner bought Easter eggs. Came home. Went to Mary's found her out later in the evening saw her at our house.

Saturday 11th/30

Spent the day at Smirnoff's, dressed, went to Uncle John's. Went with Mary to the church. Enjoyed it but frightfully tired. Passover supper – bed 1.

Sunday 12th/31

Easter Sunday. Left Aunt Ann Jane's at 10. Stayed at home all day. Mary came at 1.

Monday 13th/1

Payed Mrs Makaravitch a quarter of an hour's visit. Saw the Reincke's there. Went to Aunt Ann Jane's and came home at 3 with Aunt Mary. Began to alter my blue dress. Emily came and in the evening Mary.

¹⁰⁴ *Veronique* (1869) by Florence Marryat.

Tuesday 14th/2
Smirnoff's. No lesson.

Wednesday 15th/3
Did't go to Raemars. Wrote and posted a letter to Mr Jones. Aunt Ann Jane called in. 5 Went with mama to Petersburski. Remained till 9. George not at home.

Thursday 16th/4
Smirnoff's after which went to Mary's.

Friday 17th/5
Went to Raemar's. Felt very unwell had to lie on the sofa. 7 Went to Morrison's with mama and Aunt Jessy.

Saturday 18th/6
Smirnoff's – tiresome day. A little French girl [*interlined*: full of mischief] almost the whole day there. Katie came at 4 and stayed the night.

Sunday 19th/7
Went with Mary to church. In the afternoon amused ourselves with changing dresses etc. Unusual amount of joking.

Monday 20th/8
Went to Raemars. Stayed all day.

Tuesday 21st/9
Smirnoff's – 10. Went with ma and M. for passport.

Wednesday 22nd/10
~~Stayed all day at Raemar's.~~ Went at 7 to Mary's.

Thursday 23rd/11
Smirnoff's.

Friday 24th/12
Mrs Raemar paid me. Stayed all day at Raemar's. 7½ Went to Mary's. Finished “Goodbye Sweetheart”. Left Mary's in anything but an enviable state of mind having spent an hour there ~~without~~ doing nothing but waiting for Mary – George spent the evening did't see him.

Saturday 25th/13
Smirnoffs – very dull.

Sunday 26th/14
Went to church. Heard a Scotchman from Ceylon. After service went upstairs to Mrs Hall and made the late preacher's acquaintance. At last got back my purse midst sighs and groans from Mr Hall. Mary came.

Monday 27th/15

Took a short walk with Liza. Drove home. Sewed till 7½. Then went to Aunt Mary's birthday. Mary there.

Tuesday 28th/16

Madame Smirnoff paid me. Eda did'nt come.

Wednesday 29th/17

Emperor's birthday so did'nt go to Raemar's. Aunt Mary came, sewed dress all day and felt quite ill by evening. M. came for a short time.

Thursday 30th/18

Smirnoffs.

May

Friday 1st/19

Went to Raemar's. Stayed at Aunt Ann Jane's all evening.

Saturday 2nd/20

Smirnoffs. Asked to go to the country with them. Refused.

Sunday 3rd/21

Mary came at 3 for altogether.

Monday 4th/22

Did'nt stay at Raemars tho' had a battle to get away. Went out with Mama and Mary in search of ideal dresses, came home empty handed as we wished for ideal dresses at vulgar prices.

Tuesday 5th/23

Smirnoff's. Found Aunt Mary at home.

Wednesday 6th/24

Raemar's. Liza went to a 2 o'clock ball. Went shopping and bought loads of things.

Thursday 7th/25

Last day at Raemars. Left with tears and embraces.

Friday 8th/26

Raemars came home early – bought Robertson. Went to Zoe's and gave her first lesson. Jolly easy work – consisted almost solely in laughing and eating ices. 8½ Went to Mrs Herzfield's as it was Helen's birthday. George there.

Saturday 9th/27

Holiday. Arranging dresses etc. Shopping.

Sunday 10th/28

Read “Mad Damerik”.^[105] Very poor.

Monday 11th/29

Raemars. Left after a battle royal. Sewed brown [ʔbarije]. Read poetry.

Tuesday 12th/30

At home renovated hat. Aunt Mary came took her home in the evening.

Wednesday 13th/1

Raemar's. 6 Went to Zoe's. Found her in affliction so that at present she won't continue her lessons.

Thursday 14th/2

Went out shopping to the Gastino Dvor. Aunt Mary came. Consulted Doctor.

Friday 15th/3

Lisa [*sic*] engaged with surprises for her papa's birthday. Afternoon spirits maximum evening minimum.

Saturday 16th/4

Sewed. 11 Received a letter from Mr Jones. Read “Her Lord and Master”.^[106]

Sunday 17th/5

At home all day – read. Emily and Robbie came for ½ an hour and Miss McDonald to tea. Acted Faust.

Monday 18th/6

Raemar's.

Tuesday 19th/7

~~At home.~~ Flora's birthday – morning 1½ went to photographers and got ourselves taken as Faust and Marguerite. 4 Went with Aunt Mary to Gastino Dvor to buy presents. Evening Uncle John and Family here.

Wednesday 20th/8

Aunt Ann Jane's birthday – a very quiet one.

Thursday 21st/9

Sewing.

Friday 22nd/10

Raemars. Got Faust from photographer. Acted all evening.

¹⁰⁵ *Mad Dumaresq* (1873) by Florence Marryat.

¹⁰⁶ *Her Lord and Master* (1871) by Florence Marryat.

1874

Saturday 23rd/11

Sat up till 2. Mary packing. [*interlined*: Received letter from papa] I prepared acting.

Sunday 24th/12

[?Berotle] photos taken. 7 Went to Uncle John's.

Monday 25th/13

Not well. M. went instead of me to Raemars. Received 10 R. [*i.e.* ?roubles]

Tuesday 26th/14

Taught Gerbines from 10 to 12. 3 Went to Aunt Mary's, dined then went and purchased stays etc. At supper, Mary intolerable.

Wednesday 27th/15

Raemars. Mary inclined for peace – the sacrifice pies.

Thursday 28th/16

Gave Gerbines a lesson. Sewed petticoats. Aunt Mary came – fiery mood.

Friday 29th/17

Raemars. M. left for the country before I came home. 4½ George came and stayed till 7. Read Byron. Uncle John came. Sat up till 2 writing and then felt so ill that I only got into bed by daylight. ~~5½ morning arranged drawer~~

Saturday 30th/18

Morning arranged drawers and sewed. 7 Went with Olga to the Gastino Dvor. Bed 12. Finished letter.

Sunday 31st/19

Posted a letter to Mr Jones. At home all day.

June

Monday 1st/20

A holiday – did'nt go to Raemars.

Tuesday 2nd/21

Letter from Ma. Gave Gerbine's a lesson at Gulavinski Pristini. Reached home at 5 when George came stayed till 7, mama not at home. Talked chiefly of Byron's poetry.

Wednesday 3rd/22

Went to Raemar's. Took a walk to other gardens and saw student.

Thursday 4th/23

Went to Gulavinski Pristini. Got a letter from the Countess asking to call on her. Went to Aunt Ann Jane's, saw Emily there. Did not go on to the Countess'.

Friday 5th/24 [*originally out of sequence after 6th*]
Raemars – George came. Mama out but soon returned.

Saturday 6th/25
Went in diligence to Gulavinski Pristini – dreadfully hot day. After the lesson sat by the stream and read “Golden Sorrow”.^[107] Very interesting.

Sunday 7th/26
Giro Gurin left today. Letter from Mary.

Monday 8th/27
After Raemar’s packed.

Tuesday 9th/28
Flora went with me to Gerbine’s left at 1.40. Walked to Mary’s aided by vot a 4-seated vehicle. Found M. with much difficulty. Remained to dinner. Felt at cross-purposes with everything and everyone. Left for the 7 o’clock train but arrived too late. Walked to Lisnew^[108] and took the diligence home, dreadfully tired.

Wednesday 10th/29
Raemar’s. Felt but half alive – packed.

Thursday 11th/30
Did’nt go to Gerbines as it was bad weather and I had a cold. Finished packing.

Friday 12th/31
Aunt Mary and Kirpitchnoi family went to Mourino. Raemars – did’nt get home till 5. Had great difficulty in getting away before dinner.

Saturday 13th/1
Returning from Gerbine’s walked to Nova Dierevna and drew the church. Came home in the diligence at 5½ and found George seated at home.

Sunday 14th/2
Finished “the Pathfinder” by ‘Cooper’,^[109] interesting but too much sameness.

Monday 15th/3
Liza gave me the present of a silk scarf. Aunt Jessy left with Uncle J.’s family. Mama and I revelled in our freedom and read novels to our heart’s content. Wrote to Mary. George came.

Tuesday 16th/4
Sketched. Gerbines – paid. Went with ma to the Gastina and bought prunelle slippers and stockings.

¹⁰⁷ *A Golden Sorrow* (1872) by Frances Cashel Hoey.

¹⁰⁸ Perhaps Lisy Nos, a district and village to the north west of St Petersburg.

¹⁰⁹ *The Pathfinder, or The Inland Sea* (1840) by James Fenimore Cooper.

Wednesday 17th/5

Raemars. Read the “Victory of the Vanquished”.^[110] Frightful sore throat at night.

Thursday 18th/6

Gerbines.

Friday 19th/7

Last day at Raemars.

Saturday 20th/8

Did’nt go to Gerbines because of sore throat. Uncle John came. Read “Bessie” by Julia Kavanagh^[111] – Very interesting.

Sunday 21st/9

Wrote to Mary. Read “Bessie” and enjoyed it.

Monday 22nd/10

Finished brown dress by sewing all day.

Tuesday 23rd/11

Very wet did’nt go to Gerbines. Read “Sybil’s second Love” by Julia Kavanagh^[112] – liked it very much.

Wednesday 24th/12

Posted a letter to papa enclosing fancy photo, wrote to Mary. Went to Gast. Dvor with ma in search of a bonnet. Met Lisa Rae[mar].

Thursday 25th/13

Went to Gerbines for the last time. Read “Rupert Godwin”.^[113] Don’t care for it – plot anything but new.

Friday 26th/14

Felt ill at night. Did’nt get up till 12. Read novels and packed.

Saturday 27th/15

Went to Mourino. Everyone delighted to see me. Took a walk after tea and saw Mrs Dickson and Nicolskies.

Sunday 28th/16

After breakfast took a walk to Millar’s Garden. In the evening Flora, Aunt Mary and I went a walk beyond the bridge. Smirnoff’s and Nicolskies were at Uncle J.’s.

¹¹⁰ *The Victory of the Vanquished; a tale of the first century* (1870) by Elizabeth Charles.

¹¹¹ *Bessie* (1872) by Julia Kavanagh.

¹¹² *Sybil’s Second Love* (1867) by Julia Kavanagh.

¹¹³ *Rupert Godwin* (1867) by Mary Elizabeth Braddon.

1874

Monday 29th/17

Gave Olga a lesson at 8½ – breakfast not ready till 11. Cleaned black tunic. Walked to Nova Dierevna. letter from M.

Tuesday 30th/18

Gave Olga a lesson. Jim's birthday. Wrote to Mama and Mary – from 6 till 11 croqueted. tea at Aunt Ann J.

July

Wednesday 1st/19

Darned children's stockings from breakfast till dinnertime. Croqueted, interrupted by a thunderstorm. Began "Little M[?]"

Thursday 2nd/20

Gipsies paid us a call this morning and told my fortune. Altered my blue and white check. Played croquet all evening.

Friday 3rd/21

Darned my stockings. Played croquet. Jim began English.

Saturday 4th/22

Worked and croquet.

Sunday 5th/23

St John's eve. 11 Went to the bon fires [*sic*]. Robbie behaved disgracefully and made Jim do the same. Bed 1½. Letters from M. [*illegible letter*].

Monday 6th/24 St John's Day

In bed till dinner with headache. Read "Dora" (J. Kavanagh).^[114] Wrote to Ma and Mary.

Tuesday 7th/25

Did'nt croquet.

Wednesday 8th/26

Did'nt croquet.

Thursday 9th/27

Got up at [*illegible*] a.m. Flora and Aunt Ann Jane went to town. Played croquet.

Friday 10th/28

Elongated the sleeves of blue and white check. Got letters from Mary.

¹¹⁴ *Dora* (1868) by Julia Kavanagh.

1874



Figure 28. A further selection of portraits of St Petersburg citizens taken by the Scots-born photographers William Carrick and John McGregor. (National Galleries of Scotland)

Saturday 11th/29

Went out for an hour's ride enjoyed it excessively. Peter and Paul's day. Croquet. [*interlined*: 12½ Fearful fight. Aunt M. shrieked. Servant's lover wanted to effect an entrance.]

Sunday 12th/30

Flora took a ride.

Monday 13th/1

Sewed. Wrote to Ma and Mary.

Tuesday 14th/2

Finished blue and white check began to wear it. croquet. too wet for a ride.

Wednesday 15th/3

Mrs Bell arrived. Mrs Dickson called. took a short promenade with Flora.

Thursday 16th/4

Went a two hours ride to Lavrika. Enjoyed it excessively but unfortunately broke the saddle.

Friday 17th/5

Played croquet.

Saturday 18th/6

Uncle J. brought a letter from ma.

Sunday 19th/7

Wakened at 4. Mama came at 10 with Edward. 12 Mary came. Afternoon walk to Nova Dierевна. 8 Ma left. Took supper at Uncle John's. Mr Nicolski and Mr Gladinski there. bed 2 after hearing many thrilling recitals from Mary.

Monday 20th/8

Took a walk behind the church with Aunt M. and Mary. rested until half benumbed on a haystack. played 1 game of croquet. Emily and Robbie came to tea.

Tuesday 21st/9

Mary and I went out for a walk before breakfast and sketched. Returned at 12. Took breakfast and played croquet till dinner time. Mary left with the 4 o'clock diligence. More croquet.

Wednesday 22nd/10

Mrs Nobles spent the day at Aunt Ann Jane's. Took coffee with them.

Thursday 23rd/11

Croquet. Mrs Robalie and Miss Dickson payed Emily a visit. Fearfully cold. Had to use a muff.

Friday 24th/12

Morning work. Afternoon Played chess with Robbie. Croquet.

Saturday 25th/13

Beautiful weather. croquet.

Sunday 26th/14

Mrs Norman and her 2 boys spent the day at Aunt Ann Jane's.

Monday 27th/15

Aunt M. and Flora ill – anxious day.

Tuesday 28th/16

Aunt M. still ill. Went to the Wood in the evening.

Wednesday 29th/17

Felt headachy so did'nt play croquet.

Thursday 30th/18

Got up at 6½. Went to town with Mrs Bell and Emily. 7p.m. called at Romanes'. Went to the new gardens in the pl.

Friday 31st/19

George came.

August

Saturday 1st/20

Took my dress to the dyer's.

Sunday 2nd/21

Read.

Monday 3rd/22

Altered my grey lustrine.

Tuesday 4th/23

Sewed.

Wednesday 5th/24

Went to the gardens.

Thursday 6th/25

Trimmed black cloth jacket with baraslika.

Friday 7th/26

Read and sewed.

Saturday 8th/27

Mary came at 10 A.M. Went to Gastino Dvor and made purchases. At 8 P.M. I went with M. to the diligence.

Sunday 9th/28

11 A.M. Took the diligence to Mourino. Ma and Edward saw me off. Spent half an hour in the other house.

Monday 10th/29

Got up at 7½. Gave Olga a lesson before breakfast. Taught Jim.

Tuesday 11th/30

Took a walk behind the church and studied elocutionary manual. Took tea at Aunt Ann Jane's. began frill.

Wednesday 12th/31

Finished "Broken to Harness".^[115] Wet in the evening. 11 A.M. Walked with Mrs Bell and children on the Paigalo road.

Thursday 13th/1

Holiday blessing of the water. 7 P.M. Walked nearly to Lavrika. sketched.

Friday 14th/2

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Bell and Emily went to town. Went with Aunt Mary and children berry gathering and sketched. [*interlined*: took tea at Aunt Ann Jane's.]

Saturday 15th/3

Spent the afternoon at Aunt Ann Jane's.

Sunday 16th/4

Read Chained Cross etc. pr[?] all afternoon and evening wrote to baby Thomson.

Monday 17th/5

drew.

Tuesday 18th/6

holiday blessing of the apples.^[116] Got letters from mama, Mary and Papa. Went to Aunt Ann Jane's and stayed to tea. In the evening sat on the balcony with Mrs Bell. Interesting talk. topic - superstitions.

Wednesday 19th/7

4 P.M. Mrs Bell went to town.

Thursday 20th/8

Read "The White Rose".^[117] Very interesting – but don't care for the style of novel, too much gambling in it.

¹¹⁵ *Broken to Harness: a Story of English Domestic Life* (1866) by Edmund Yates.

¹¹⁶ In Russian Orthodox Christianity, the Feast of the Transfiguration is marked by the blessing of apples, a tradition that has led to its popular folk name, the Apple Feast of the Saviour.

¹¹⁷ *The White Rose* (1867) by George J Whyte Melville.

Friday 21st/9

Mrs Bell returned from town with Emily. A fire near Mourino.

Saturday 22nd/10

10 A.M. Paid a visit to the next house and took some tea after which went a walk to Nova Dierevna with Mrs Bell, Emily, Charlie and Robbie, had a taste of boating – then continued the west past Nova Dierevna. Returning home strolled into the park and sat by the river's side for ½ an hour. Examined the church-yard and returned home just in time to escape a drenching rain. Took evening tea at Uncle John's – felt exhilarated.

Sunday 23rd/11

Mrs Smirnoff at Aunt Ann Jane's. Stayed to supper.

Monday 24th/12

Packed. Took the children to Nicolskie's. Had a last game of croquet. Aunt Mary ill. Went for medicine to Aunt Jane's returned empty handed and ingeniously supplied the deficiency.

Tuesday 25th/13

Got up at 6. lunched at 2 at Aunt Ann Jane's and then left for town. Arrived about 5. Fearful headache – ill all night. letter from M.

Wednesday 26th/14

Felt disabled, served.

Thursday 27th/15

Aunt Christina and Katie paid us a visit at 9 A.M. Went out to see the Grand duke Prince Waldemar and his bride^[118] and procession returned home disappointed in our object and well drenched. Sewed my blue dress.

Friday 28th/16

6 Went to Aunt Ann Jane's and stayed to tea. very dull evening.

Saturday 29th/17

Sewed.

Sunday 30th/18

Remained at home all day.

Monday 31st/19

Finished altering my blue dress.

¹¹⁸ Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich married Duchess Marie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin in Saint Petersburg on 28 August 1874 at the Winter Palace.

1874

September

Tuesday 1st/20
Sewed.

Wednesday 2nd/21
Went to see Mary. Arrived just as she was going to town. Spent the day at Adel's town house.

Thursday 3rd/22
Went with Flora to the new gardens.

Friday 4th/23
Dreadful weather – very dull.

Saturday 5th/24
“A blank, my Lord”.

Sunday 6th/25
Mary came. evening went to Aunt Ann Jane's. The Andersons were there.

Monday 7th/26
Went with ma to the ‘Widow's’ – Gin Geivrin^[119] arrived.

Tuesday 8th/27
Posted letters to Elsie, Winnie and Baby. Went [*interlined*: with ma] to Mrs Anderson's new house. Robbie there.

Wednesday 9th/28
Went to Mrs Bell's – found her out so went to Mrs Smith. Introduced to Miss Thomson.

Thursday 10th/29
Sewed.

Friday 11th/30
Read Disraeli's “Sybil”.^[120] Rather too much politics for my taste, otherwise liked it.

Saturday 12th/31
Read and sewed. Jim came.

Sunday 13th/1
Invited to Katie's birthday – weather bad so did'nt go. 6½ went to Mary's. Wonderfully agreeable evening.

¹¹⁹ Perhaps the same person referred to on 26 June.

¹²⁰ *Sybil, or The Two Nations* (1845) by Benjamin Disraeli.



Figure 29. The Admiralty, St Petersburg, c.1890. Helena took a walk in its gardens with her sister Mary on 20 September 1874.
(Royal Collections Trust)

Monday 14th/2

12 A.M. Mary came for the day. Visitors expected in the evening but bad weather frightened everyone but Aunt Mary who remained the night.

Tuesday 15th/3

George's birthday. lengthened Mary's black skirt and sent it to her.

Wednesday 16th/4

[*interlined*: Cleaned brosnikas.] Sewed and read Hazlet.^[121]

Thursday 17th/5

Ma and Flo. had dreadful quarrel.

Friday 18th/6

Drew. 8 Edward Goodlet came.

Saturday 19th/7

Uncle John came. Gave Olga a lesson. Aunt Mary came.

¹²¹ Probably the essayist and commentator William Hazlitt.



Figure 30. The Hermitage, St Petersburg, c.1872. After a visit to the museum on 29 September 1873, Helena had 'a disagreeable feeling of chaotic confusion'.
(Royal Collections Trust)

Sunday 20th/8

Mary came. 4 Took a walk with her in the Admiralty gardens and the Russian quay.

Monday 21st/9

Altered Mary's black cloth jacket. Mrs Anderson, Mrs Bell and Emily came at 4 and stayed to tea.

Tuesday 22nd/10

Continued M.'s jacket – tough job.

Thursday 24th/12

nothing.

Friday 25th/13

Aunt Ann Jane came with Ina to to [*sic*] dinner.

Saturday 26th/14

Mending.

Sunday 27th/15

Mary came evening. Went to Aunt Ann Jane's. Very pleasant evening.

Monday 28th/16

Lydia's birthday. 6 Went to Aunt Ann Jane's – returned at 9 as Miss Dencher and Edward were coming. Mr Knatz paid a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour's visit.

1874

Tuesday 29th/17

Mrs Bell, Aunt Mary and Robbie called for me to go to the Hermitage. Had a disagreeable feeling of chaotic confusion when I returned from it. Aunt Christina came. Went with Aunt Mary to Adel's.

Wednesday 30th/18

Went with ma to the Gastino dvor and bought boots. Went to Mrs Anderson's. Emily taught me to take fern impressions.

October

Thursday 1st/19

Wet.

Friday 2nd/20

Lay in bed with headache till after dinner. then went to Raemar's and Reinekes – returned at 7 and found Aunt Ann Jane, Emily and Robbie at our house, dreadfully sleepy.

Saturday 3rd/21

Aunt Mary came. Called on Morrison's.

Sunday 4th/22

Mary came. Spent the morning in preparing to go to the photographer's – had just gone out to go there when George and his bride came. 1 Went to the Hermitage. Miss Dencher, Edward and Mr and Mrs Jones were there. Dined at Uncle John's with the Anderson family – pleasant. The Harrison's, Smirnoffs and Mr Marvell came in the evening. Aunt Mary gave me the present of a ring.

Monday 5th/23

Got up at 6½ and finished packing before breakfast. [*interlined*: Mrs Nobbs called] 4 Mrs Bell and Emily called. Ma and [*blank*] paid a farewell visit to Mrs Herzfield's. Ellen franker than she has ever been. George Goodlet was also there. Uncle John came in the evening – likewise ~~Mary~~ and Edward and Mary, the latter remained all night.

Tuesday 6th/24

9 A.M. Mrs Thomson called. Mary and I went out shopping and met Aunt Ann J. returned home with her and found Aunt M. there. Robbie also came. 5 P.M. Ma and I accompanied Aunt M. home and bade a final goodbye to Uncle J. and his family. 8 Went to Mrs Anderson's and remained there a couple of hours.

Wednesday 7th/25

Rose at 6. 10 Went to photographers with M. but found him gone. 11 Drove off to the boat. Aunt Ann J., Aunt Mary, Emily, Robbie, Flora, Mr Dyn durin, Mrs Morrison, Mrs Heriot and Mary were at the boat. Started at 12½ for Cronstadt. Went early to bed.

Thursday 8th/26

Set sail from Russia this morning ill in bed all day.



Figure 31. A steamship at Leith harbour, c.1870. Helena landed in Leith on 15 October 1873.
(National Galleries of Scotland)

Friday 9th/27

Managed to crawl upstairs. Read 'The Count of Ehrenstein'.^[122]

Saturday 10th/28

Still on deck, dined at table for the first time. Like Mr Tait – excellent company.

Sunday 11th/29

Lovely weather almost enjoyed myself. Read Byron.

Monday 12th/30

Fine weather still continues. Enjoying 'Hard Cash'.

Tuesday 13th/1

My birthday – sick and in bed all day.

Wednesday 14th/2

Up. Felix Holt.

Thursday 15th/3

Thank Heaven we landed today. Entered Leith [*interlined*: roads] above 2 but could'nt land till 5. Mrs Romanes met us at the boat and took us home. bed 12.

¹²² Perhaps *The Castle of Ehrenstein: its Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, its Inhabitants, Earthly and Unearthly* (1847) by George Payne Rainsford James.

1874

Friday 16th/4

Wrote to M. in the forenoon. 4 Went to pa's. Saw James. Pa went to the 'bus with me. 7 James paid ma a visit.

Saturday 17th/5

Took good breakfast and then set off with ma visiting and didn't reach home till 8. Marshalls, McKays, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Shearer and Miss Sheriff were all called upon. dreadfully tired so went to bed early.

Sunday 18th/6

At home all day.

Monday 19th/7

Ma and I went to Mrs Browns. Found her still at Haddington. Walked home at 9.

Tuesday 20th/8

Fearful storm remained at home.

Wednesday 21st/9

Went to the George St. Society. Saw Miss Murray. Called at pa's office. Saw James and afterwards pa.

Thursday 22nd/10

Fast day. At home.

Friday 23rd/11

Went to Kirkcaldy. Received syllabus of Berwick school.

[*the diary ends here*]

FURTHER READING

The original diary is held by the Centre for Research Collections, University of Edinburgh, Coll-1952.

For the growth of higher education for women in Scotland during the late nineteenth century see Moore, L. The Scottish universities and women students, 1862-1892. In Carter, J and Withrington, D, eds. *Scottish Universities: Distinctiveness and Diversity*, Edinburgh, 1992, 138-146; Women in education. In Holmes, H, ed. *Scottish Life and Society. A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology, volume 11: Education*, East Linton, 2000, 316-343; and Education and learning. In Abrams, L, et al., eds. *Gender in Scottish History since 1700*, Edinburgh, 2006.

Hughes, K. *The Victorian Governess*, London, 1993, and Brandon, R. *Other People's Daughters: the Life and Times of Governesses*, London, 2008, explore the lives of governesses in nineteenth-century Britain using diaries, letters and other original sources. See also Renton, A. *Tyrant or Victim: a History of the British Governess*, London, 1997. For governesses in Russia, see Cross, A G. Early Miss Emmies: English nannies, governesses, and companions in pre-Emancipation Russia, *New Zealand Slavonic Journal*, 1 (1981), 1-20; Pitcher, H. *When Miss Emmie was in Russia: English Governesses before, during and after the October Revolution*, London, 1977; and Mahnke-Devlin, J. *Britische Migration nach Russland im 19. Jahrhundert*, Wiesbaden, 2005, which provides a detailed description of the culture and everyday lives of the British community in St Petersburg, including governesses.

Contemporary descriptions of the places where Helena Marshall lived during the period of the diary can be found in: *Black's Guide to Edinburgh and its Environs*, Edinburgh, 1871; Mrs Guthrie, *Through Russia: from St Petersburg to Astrakhan and the Crimea*, London, 1874; *Jenkinson's Practical Guide to North Wales*, London, 1878; and Ludwig, J M. *Pontresina and its Neighbourhood*, London, 1876.

Other relevant works can be found in the notes to the Introduction.

IMAGE CREDITS

BRITISH MUSEUM

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Figure 17. Edwin Edwards, *St Asaph*, 1867. BM 1889.508.195.

Figure 18. William Callow, *St Winifred's Well, Holywell*, 1866. BM 1938.0517.4.

LLANDUDNO MUSEUM AND GALLERY

<https://llandudnomuseum.co.uk/>

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Figure 23. Francis E Chardon, *Lake Geneva with Chillon Castle*. LMG PCF3.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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Figure 20. John Singer Sargent, *Bridge of Pontresina*, 1869. MMA 50.130.147u.

Figure 21. John Singer Sargent, *Roseg Glacier, Pontresina*, 1869. MMA 50.130.147m.

Figure 22. John Singer Sargent, *Summit of Bernina Pass*, 1869. MMA 50.130.147z.

NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/>

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Figure 4. J B Cartlidge, *The Royal Scottish Academy*, c.1870. NGS PGP 47.1.

Figure 6. William Brassey Hole, *Sir Herbert Stanley Oakeley*, 1884. NGS PG 3460.

Figure 7. George Washington Wilson, *Roslin Castle and Glen*, late nineteenth century. NGS PGP 403.11.

Figure 9. James Valentine, *Arthurs Seat from Queens Park*, late nineteenth century. NGS PGP R 638.

Figure 19. *Cologne Cathedral*, late nineteenth century. NGS PGP R 2159.19.

Figure 27. William Carrick and John McGregor, A selection of Russian portraits, late nineteenth century. PGP 81-.

Figure 28. William Carrick and John McGregor, A selection of Russian portraits, late nineteenth century. NGS PGP 81-.

Figure 31. George Washington Wilson, *Leith Pier*, c.1870. NGS PGP R 205.

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Figure 12. *Wassili-Ostroff-quay*, c.1872. RCIN 2929520.

Figure 13. Daziario, *Nevsky Prospect, St Petersburg*, c.1880. RCIN 2700556.

Figure 15. Albert Felisch, *St Petersburg, showing St Isaac's Cathedral*, c.1872. RCIN 2929520.

Figure 16. Luciano Carbini, *Assumption Church and the Grand Hall on Sennaya Square, St Petersburg*, c.1890. RCIN 2700530.

Figure 24. Daziario, *English Embankment, St Petersburg*, c.1888. RCIN 2700545.

Figure 25. Albert Felisch, *Anichkov Palace, St Petersburg*, c.1872. RCIN 2929517.

Figure 29. Daziario, *Alexander Garden and the Admiralty Building, St Petersburg*, c.1890. RCIN 2700547.

Figure 30. Albert Felisch, *Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg*, c.1872. RCIN 2929516.

CASSELL'S OLD AND NEW EDINBURGH

James Grant, 3 volumes, Edinburgh, 1880-1883.

Figure 1. *Newhaven from the Pier*, III, 296.

Figure 2. *Granton Harbour and Pier*, III, 313.

Figure 3. *The Royal Botanic Gardens*, III, 100.

Figure 5. *The Watt Institution and School of Arts*, I, 377.

THE BOY TRAVELLERS IN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

Thomas W Knox, New York, 1887.

Figure 14. *Drosky Drivers*, 60.

Figure 26. *Russian Ice-Hills*, 198.

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