

1861

April 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday. – I again begin my journal with a desire to continue it as long as my life shall last, am sorry I have neglected it for the last few months during that time I have taken a most important and I hope a most happy step in life dear Sarah Ann is now my wife and I trust we shall be spared to enjoy each others society for many many years to come, and when we have done with this world I pray that we may meet again in the world to come where true happiness can only be found we were married at Whittlesford on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January by Mr Hoskin who was exceedingly Kind to us as also was Mrs Hoskin, they had a fire lit in the church for the occasion as it was a very cold sharp frosty morning but the sun shone beautifully, the ceremony took place at ½ past 9 O'clock We hired one carriage from Cambridge and Mr Hoskin very kindly lent us his to take some of us to Church and back, Mr & Mrs Maynard, Harriet George Edwin Cousin Annie

UN-NUMBERED (LEFT HAND)

and sister Louisa and Mr Hatton accompanied us to Church after he ceremony was over Mr Hoskin brought the books to the house for the registration. We then had breakfast Mr & Mrs Hoskin joined us after breakfast Mr H read a chapter then prayed for our spiritual and temporal welfare, Sarah Ann and I then went to Cambridge to meet the mid-day train for London, where we arrived about 4 O'clock and secured lodgings at the Norfolk Hotel close to London Bridge Station after tea we went to Henry Maynards lodgings he came just as we got there, so we had a cup of tea and a cigar with him, then we all three went to the Collyceum (*sic*) had an Electric Shock and enjoyed our visit very much, Henry bought us ½ Dozen Silver tea spoons which was a very nice present and very Kind of him and his wife, we arrived at our lodings (*sic*) about 11 O'clock had our supper and retired for the night, poor Topsy it was a great trouble to her the noise of the cabs & quarelling some one calling murder in the streets & the excitement kept us awake

UN-NUMBERED (RIGHT HAND)

nearly all night, next morning at 8 O'clock we left for Brighton and arrived there about 10 and had another breakfast, Hannah was at the station to meet us, after breakfast Sarah Ann was very unwell, she laid down on the sofa and had an hour or two's sleep & felt much better, in the afternoon Mr Goddard took us round Brighton for a walk & very much we enjoyed it, Sarah Ann was never so near the sea before. next morning I took Sarah Ann on to the beach & Chain Pier, it was a delightful day ladies were promanding (*sic*) the walks with their Parasols some on horseback & children donkey riding we could almost fancy it was summer time, we gathered shells &c which we brought home with us when we got back Hannah had the dinner ready for us but am sorry we did not see Mr

Goddard again they were busy & he could not wait for us any longer, we left Brighton for Portsmouth about 3 O'clock, we arrived at Portsmouth earlier than we expected so no one was there to meet us we had a cab to take us to Grafton street just as we got there Mary Ann had gone to the stations to meet us. We waited some time thinking she would soon be back

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at last I went to meet her, she waited to see the last train in from Brighton, am happy to say we found them all well, next day Sarah Ann and I went over the dock yard in the morning and going back we met some one very much like Hardwick Moreland if it actually was not him, he looked at us & we at him, if it was him it was strange that Sarah Ann met with him on her wedding tour. In the afternoon Mrs Chatterton walked on to Portsea Common with us, the soldiers we (*sic*) playing at foot-ball & then marched to the barracks, we walked round the walls & looked at the Guns & shot. – SA was pleased with them. we came back into Queen Street to Mr Turners to see Mr Chatterton we were introduced to Mr Hy Turner (his brother George has since met with a fearful Railway accident) Sarah Ann looked at some of their expensive dresses & mantles &c I never was in the shop before, it is a very nice place next morning, Mr Chatterton was to call & order a cab to be at his house to take us to the station to meet the mid-day train to

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London, however we waited until we quite expected to be too late for the train, but we started to walk & going past Polly's butchers their horse & cart was standing at the door so Polly asked them to lend us that Polly & the man went back to fetch part of the luggage we left behind & over-took us & we got to the station just in time, it appears the cabman understood he was to be the (*sic*) at mid night so I suppose went at night. before we left Portsmouth Sarah Ann & I had our portraits taken together, they were done very nicely too. We had just time to get from one station to the other in London & got to Whittlesford Station about ½ past 6 in the evening Mr Maynards boy was there to meet us with the pony & cart, Harriet & Bessie were here to receive us, Edwin was in the shop Morton being very unwell he was taken the week before we were married so Joseph Gentle was here part the time Horace Barker intended the bells to ring when we came home but there was a misunderstanding, he said Edwin told they did not expect us until Monday so they did not ring them. Mr & Mrs Hoskin made

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us some very nice presents viz a large family bible, a Walnut wood tea caddy, a writing case & a small book Mrs H's sister an envelope case to match writing case George & Mr Hatton together a plated tea & coffee service, Bessie Hopkins a stone butter cooler & her mother two earthenware Candlesticks, Harriet a set of tea trays Mr Hy Maynard ½ Doz

Silver tea spoons Mr & Mrs Robt Maynard a plated toast rack Emma & Helen an Ink Stand Annie & Horace J Barker a pair of plated salts Mr & Mrs Ilott a pair of plated high candlesticks a pair of Liquors Mr & Mrs Wm Hall Junr a plated stand & cruets, Jane Maynard a pair of sugar tongues (*sic*) & Fred a pair of salt spoons & my dear Mother a pair of silver salt spoons Freds match them nicely & Mrs Chatterton a nice silver Muster (*sic*) spoon I have also received a nice gold Watch guard from Mrs Pollard, there are several small presents I have not mentioned such as pieces of needle work &c from various friends and acquaintances I consider we

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have been very fortunate indeed & I trust we may ever remember & appreciate their many Kindnesses, I think I have related about the whole of our Wedding history. - - Dear Lydia was married to Edmund Whichello on new years day, there were married at Buckden & went direct from their (*sic*) to Bourn the third day after they were married, I suppose the clergyman rather hesitated about marrying them as Edmund did not get the Licence from him he being the surrogate for that district & in the licence Whichello was spelt wrong which he said was not lawful, Father was quite impatient waiting for them so started to Church with Lydia & got great part of the way there before Edmund & the rest started, Joyce one of the bridesmaids was waiting for Uncle William to bring her Bonnet from London unfortunately again there was an accident on the line which caused a delay of the train consequently Uncle did not reach there until the ceremony was all over & they had returned from church so poor

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Joyce had to be contented with looking after them instead of being with them, next morning Charles & Stephen were to return to Cambridge, got to Huntingdon just in time to see the train leaving the station they walked to St Ives expecting to go by next train but found there was none until the evening so they hired a trap & drove to Cambridge, I am sure it must have been a very laughable affair altho not very pleasing for the Bride & Bridegroom.

Since we have been married Father has been to see us, dear Mothers sight it very bad, I went home once & when I went into the room she could not see me, it is a great trial to her, am happy to say Louisa is with her, Father is looking very well. Am sorry we find business very dull indeed hope as the weather gets warmer it will improve, we hardly know how to get money fast enough, Mr Pollard has written one or two pressing letters for money, am

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sorry to say he has been very ill for the last 3 weeks or ?me? the morning (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) I received a letter from Sarah she says he is better & returned from Ongar yesterday in a

fly with his mother he is not able to walk at present. I received a note from dear Hannah informing us of the death of of (*sic*) Mr Goddards eldest daughter Emily she died of consumption has had a lingering illness, she was very ill when Sarah Ann & I were there we thought of having her with us for the summer but trust she has gone to a better & far happier home than ours.

Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Whit Sunday. Sarah Ann went to Norwich three weeks last Wednesday to buy drapery & returned the following Friday they were all well except cold, am happy to say business has been a little brisker with them, it has been a very dull

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winter with them as well as with our-selves, they have sent a parcel of mourning to dear Hannah, which will be very acceptable to her, Mr Goddard has been very ill unable to go to business for 5 or 6 weeks, the last accounts he was getting better & thought of going to work again, I suppose poor Hannah is expecting another baby which makes her very low spirited as she is afraid she shall not get over it, so written to Kate to that effect & fretting about the welfare of her little boy wondering what would become of him should she be taken from the dear little fellow, so Kate written & promised her if any thing of the sort should happen to her, she would adopt her as her child poor Hannah then wrote in much better spirits, if God should deprive us of our dear sister, I trust & pray he will receive her into His

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heavenly Kingdom & grant unto her peace for eternity. May 8<sup>th</sup> I went to Buckden by the evening train and on the following day (Holy Thursday) Father & I went to St Neots Fair to buy a pony for me, we saw one just as we were going into the Fair Mr Lant Elderton had bought it for £9 & I gave him 10/- for buying it, it is a nice looking thing if it turns out well & quiet, I left it with Mr Hammond of Brampton to break in for me. Father bought a sow & 9 little pigs, I returned home Friday morning walked to Huntingdon Louisa went to Bourn to assist Lydia the Sunday before. tomorrow (the 20<sup>th</sup>) is their feast Edmund invited Sarah Ann and I to go we wrote & asked them to excuse us as we have no conveyance & next Tuesday is our Feast. George was married at Hertford May 6<sup>th</sup> to Bessie Annie Hopkins, they went to Portsmouth & to the Isle of Wight to spend the Honey-moon unfortunately it was cold & wet there, but here

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it was tolerably fine. they called to see sister Polly & took 6lbs Tea for her from me, they spent one night there, am happy to hear they are all well, George & his Wife (at last) came home last Tuesday evening. this is their first Sunday at home in a married state I heartily wish them every happiness.-

Mr & Mrs Maynard slept in their new house last Monday for the first time Sarah Ann went to the Missionary meeting at Whittlesford last Wednesday I went in the evening to fetch her home. Mr Alfred U Allen is going to leave Histon & has taken a business at Falstead (*sic*) Essex, but I don't know when he is going, Sarah Ann talks of inviting them over here next Sunday Mr Charles Monk & his son Charles from Elmton called to see us yesterday they went to Cambridge. Mr Monk has altered very much since I saw him last, he looks quite an old man now, he has been ill all

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the winter. There was a grand review of the Rifle Men at Cambridge yesterday it was a nice fine day & I hear – thousands of people there, some say Cambridge was never so full before. Sarah Ann has gone to Whittlesford & I am housekeeper, expect her back in the evening Harriet & Edwin with her. The last week or two we have had a little more to do in the shop – yesterday was the best day we have had since I have been here, perhaps after the Feast we shall be a little slack again. I am sorry to hear Uncle Whichello is so poorly I suppose his sight has quite gone, I don't think he will be here long poor man. Joice (*sic*) has been very unwell too I have heard from the horsebreaker once he says my pony was very vicious at first, his son has been riding her, & she goes very quiet now & is going on very nicely he will let me know how she goes in harness when he has tried her I was afraid she had a temper, but hope she will get quiet, she was bred at Buckden. –

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Monday May 20<sup>th</sup> I went to the Farm for orders it was a very hot day Mr Maynard came over in the morning to bring Sarah Ann some flowers & took a pot of Musk back with him he had lunch with us. George went to Langley for orders, we were rather busy in the shop selling plums & currants ready for the Feast. Sarah Ann went to singing class in the evening.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. Was our Feast day. Morton went out for the afternoon to play at cricket. Mr & Miss Brown came to look over the next house I was busy in the shop so Sarah Ann showed them over it, they have friends at Cambridge that want a house but this too good for them. John Colborne came over on business Miss Farnes & Miss Belton came in the evening to see Sarah Ann I have been very busy in the garden mowing the grass &c. yesterday Sarah Ann & Pheoby (*sic*)

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cleaned the parlour up for the summer & put the new carpet down.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> I received a letter from Father Mr Hammonds son rode my pony over to Buckden for him to see her, they have tried her in harness twice & she attempts to kick,

Mr H wishes to know whether I will risk her hurting herself he says she is a very nice one & a good goer will go 12 miles an hour he thinks if he gets her quiet she will be too frisky for me, I written to say I would meet Father at Brampton next Monday & see what can be done with her. I am sorry I should be so unfortunate with my first nag.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr Meadows went with the goods from Whittlesford to Langley I went to Whittlesford Bridge for orders we have been very dull in the shop since Monday Father went to Bourn to fetch Louisa home. –

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Mr Maynard & Harriet came over to the Missionary Meeting, Mr & Mrs

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Hoskin called to see us but did not stay many minutes. Sarah Ann & I went to the meeting with Mr Maynard & Harriet, there was a good meeting and we enjoyed the evening very much, I have since heard they collected £4.10.0 which is considered very good. Mr Mason a missionary from North West America was the speaker one of the Mr Perowns Mr Hoskin & Mr Havaland also spoke besides Mr Markby & Mr Hoskin. Mrs Maynard could not come not being very well has a slight attack of her old complaint. Edwin Miss Farnes Miss Belton & Miss Southam were also there. Jack Farnes has been dangerously ill with inflammation of the bowels but is getting better.

Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> I have been here twelve months today. have been to Cambridge rode there with Stephen Bradford he borrowed my cart to fetch some flowers for Revd Markby's. Cousin Charles said Mrs Hall Uncle William Mrs Gatherwood Louisa & some of Bourn people were at Cambridge Flower Show on Wednesday, I walked home

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had dinner in the new house at Whittlesford the first time I have had any meals there then went over to see Bessie, her & George talk of coming over on Sunday if it is fine we were rather busy in the evening. Mr Wm Ellis came to White wash the Kitchens this morning but was quite tipsy went a-way and left his work so his man finished it after a fashion, Pheoby & (*sic*) cleaned them up & made us look quite Smart SA & Phoeby done the bedrooms Thursday & Friday SA was not very well so I bought a cask of stout for her & hope it will do her good.

Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> It is now a month since I last wrote many things have occurred which I shall be obliged to pass over Mr & Mrs Maynard & Mrs Gellatly came over to tea one afternoon & walked back in the evening. When I last wrote I said poor Jack Farnes was getting better, it is with sorrow I am now obliged to say poor fellow he has departed this life he

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died 11<sup>th</sup> June at ½ past six in the morning Edwin was with him all night until he died, his friends seem to have behaved very cruelly towards him, he very much wished for some one to read & pray with him & Mrs Farnes refused several people going to see him, that would have willingly talked with him, the Sunday night before he died he very much wished to see Mr Edward Smith, he came but before he was allowed to go up to him Mr F made him promised (*sic*) he would not tell Jack that he would not recover & not until Monday did poor Jack know he should not get well again, his sister or any of the family were scarcely ever with him although he very much wished for them & I don't think any of them were in the room when he died. he was buried the following Saturday Isaac & Oratio Mr Isaac Moule Mr Allen White Mr Robt Maynard Mr John P Sheldrick Mr Edward

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Smith & Edwin Maynard were the only followers George had the management of the funeral, the people in the Village make quite a talk about their behaviour to him, I believe Jack was very much respected by all who knew him, his sufferings were great but his ?? waning?? short, I trust his “sufferings in this world are not worthy to be compared (*sic*) with the glory that is now revealed to him”

“While this thorny path we tread,  
May thy love our footsteps lead!  
When our journey here is past,  
May we rest with thee at last”

The following Monday Mrs Farnes went to London with John P Sheldrick. The last time I saw poor Jack was one Sunday when Sarah Ann & I were going over to Whittlesford at mid-day he came to the front gate to speak to us, he said he was very poorly then, he has not

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been well since he has been home. I went to Buckden the day he died to fetch my pony that Father exchanged for me. Louisa met me at Huntingdon Station we called at Brampton to see the pony then went on to Buckden to dinner & Father came as far as Brampton to see me start, I left there about ½ past 2pm & got home at ¼ past 9. I was quite tired of the ride & my nag about knocked up – he is very quiet & very poor, but think he has improved since I have had him, he is only 2 years old am afraid he will be too large for me. I am sorry to say Father has been poorly for some time, he is under the doctors hands, it is a liver complaint he is subject to, Mother is very well in her health her sight is very bad Louisa is at home with them cousin Charles Whichello told me

yesterday she has met with an accident but I have not heard any thing about it, hope it is nothing very serious. Sister Charlotte has another son

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We have been very dull in the shop lately. Fred came from Wales on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant he is not very well so Mr ??Kinnard?? thought a change would do him good he came & stayed a few days with us this week. Mrs Henry Maynard came last week she is at Cambridge Jane & Mr Sheldrick have had a fall out I suppose he has been flirting with another young lady in Wales & made Jane jealous I believe it is all made up again they are both expected at Whittlesford tomorrow, Mrs & Miss Southam came over this week & brought a bonnet for Sarah Ann to alter for her, they came for it last night. Harriet came over to tea on Thursday last. I went to Cambridge yesterday & had to walk home having no harness for my pony but bought some yesterday. Sarah Ann & I took sacrament at St John's Church this morning. SA was going to Whittlesford this afternoon but it rained

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Mr Jackson told me yesterday he thought Mr Russell of Arrington my landlord was dead he has been ill for a long time, I have been here now twelve months the last letter I had from him he wished me to take the premises on a lease, I wrote to him last Friday not knowing he was so ill to say if it made no difference to him as business was so dull I would rather take them for twelve months longer before I entered upon a lease, I suppose he has had a doctor with him for more than a fortnight who has not left him once, there were 4 with him one day last week to put a tube in one side of his throat to keep him alive, it is an ulcerated throat he is suffering from, I am very sorry to hear such bad news. there seems to be a very great deal of illness about, when God sees fit to afflict our bodies what poor helpless mortals we are.

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“Affliction is a stormy deep  
Where wave resounds to wave:  
Though o'er my head the billows well.  
I know the Lord can save.”

Georges wife has been very ill for the last week. I think it is an attack of the old complaint she had when at Waterbeach I hope she will soon be better, Mr Maynard seems much better than he was a few months back. Mr Robt Maynard is making a Brick Kiln on the Farm he bought occupied by the late Thomas Barnes Sarah Ann has gone to Mr Margetts church again this evening. - -



Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>. Lydia came to see us 3 weeks last Friday, she is expecting a baby about September, she has been out for a holiday, she went to Buckden the day I went to fetch my pony and the next day Louisa drove her & little Miss Haly from London to Huntingdon and returning coming down Hinchinbrook hill

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the pony suddenly fell down and throw them all out, fortunately Lydia was not hurt in the least, little Haly cut her finger but not seriously hurt, poor Louisa was hurt very much, when Lydia picked her up, her head was bent under her chest & she was quite insensible Lydia was very much frightened & thought she was killed, some men & the minister from Brampton shortly came up & assisted them all they could, Lydia sent to Mr Maddox of Huntingdon to bring a fly & a doctor, a doctor from the hospital soon came and advised them to get her home as soon as possible and get her to bed & keep her as quiet as possible, he was afraid of concussion of the brain, there were no bruises or any thing to be seen so he could not tell in what way she was injured, she was a little revived by the time they got home, of course dear Father & Mother were very much alarmed as it was, he (sic) she been insensible when they carried her in of course they would have been much more

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so, there was a woman (Harry Smiths wife) from Buckden coming down the hill & saw something was amiss & knowing it to be Fathers pony & cart she ran with all speed to the Spot & was quite out of breath & asked Lydia what was the matter & what could she do for them, so Lydia asked her to drive the old mare home & break the news to Father & Mother in as mild a way as possible which she did, the poor horse cut her head very much & hurt her knees, they cannot account for the fall as they were walking very slow down the hill & without any warning the mare suddenly dropped, it is suppose (sic) she must have trodden on a stone. Louisa was in bed about a fortnight, the first week she was in a very precarious state, Dr Woolley visited her several times night & day but am happy to say she is now pretty well again only when she gets a little excited (as she is very apt to do) her head is very bad & then she is very low spirited. Lydia says

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poor Uncle Whichello is very low spirited we think he will not be with us long. aunt talks of coming to Duxford to see us the first opportunity. Cousin Charles is looking out for a business I drove Lydia to Cambridge the following Saturday but she would not go to Hallack & Bonds, she had a Bassinette given to her in London & sent it to Cambridge for their cart to call for, so for a joke some one (I suppose cousin Hannah Farrington) redirected it to Charles he of course opened the package & to their great amusement found out what it was, so Lydia would not go Mr Bond told me about it. The same week I

went to Whittlesford Tuesday & Wednesday to assist George stock taking Henry had come home & wanted to get the affairs settled before he went home to Crumlin, we did not finish on the Wednesday, so Morton went over Thursday & Friday, George seems worried almost to death, his wife is very poorly so of course he thinks she is going to die I suppose she is withchild & suffering the

*Pages 25, 26 and 27 are missing*

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were going on well. Jenny's baby is name Ernest Henry. Harriet went to Crumlin last Friday week with Henry & his wife I believe she will stay all the winter unless she is sent for by George or any one else. Mr Robt Maynards are getting very grand they have a four wheel & like to show it too. Mr Jonas Webb of Babraham had a sale of his fancy stock about a fortnight ago one of the sheep was sold for 260 guineas & the lowest sold for 10 guineas the stock altogether realised about £11000, there was a special train run from London to Whittlesford & every train in the day call'd at Whfd Station. A fortnight today Edwin, SA & I drove to Linton to see Mr & Mrs Hollick Mrs H was not very well we got home about 9 the pony was very lame Mr & Mrs Maynard have been over two or three times lately to tea. Geo Smith Junr from London is at Whfd for a holiday. Mr & Mrs Whiting are staying at Revd Markby's. Mrs Whiting has a daughter, they are very pleased with it at the Rectory.

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Poor Mr Russell of Arrington my landlord died about June 21 when my last letter to him arrived he was dead, Mrs Russell and her sister came over to Duxford with Mr Abbott of Royston about a fortnight after his death to see me about taking the premises on a lease & I have agreed to do so for 7 years Rent for the whole of the premises to be £40 per annum to be paid ½ yearly. unfortunately the day they came Sarah Ann was at Whittlesford so they did not stay long. Sarah Ann & Jane came over about an hour afterwards expecting to find them here Henry & his wife happened to call when they were here so told them when they got to Whittlesford.

Wednesday July 31<sup>st</sup>. Poor old Mr Jay has gone to the hospital at Cambridge with his foot which has been so bad all last winter they were obliged to cut one of his toes off

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they were afraid if they did not it would mortify & cause his death, I am happy to hear he is going on very favourable now, Mr & Mrs Churcher & their baby (son) have been staying at Whittlesford, Mr Churcher came over to Duxford to see us last Thursday unfortunately Sarah Ann & I were both out, Mr & Mrs Markby invited us up to the

Rectory that day to the school festival so we went there am sorry it was very showery I had a game at cricket we were racing and playing at "prisoners base" until it was time to come home, I am very stiff in fact I have not got over it yet. We enjoyed ourselves very much & so did the children Jane came over the day before & stayed all night so went with me after tea SA went to tea. Saturday I went to Cambridge & had the pleasure of walking home in the middle of the day. Friday I rode my pony over to Walden to

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let the farrier see him as his foot began to swell, he examined him and explained to me what was the cause of his lameness & advised me to rest him to get him round & to sell him he says he don't think he will ever be of any use to me for running since then I have poulticed his foot with bran moistened 3 or 4 times each day with cold water & salt about one handful of salt to 2 Gallons of water to get the swelling down, am glad to say he is much better, Elliot Sheldrick of Triplow has a pony which I think would suite me well he has offered to make an exchange which I shall be glad to do if we can come to an agreement Mr Seaman called on Monday & said the pony was very much better & thinks he will soon be all right again, I told him what Mr Sheldrick wanted him to do if he

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had him, he says it is just the place for the pony & could not have a better. I have been to Whittlesford today & Jane says Mr Sheldrick has arranged to bring his pony over for Mr R Maynard to look at & if they cannot make a bargain they will come down here with it or else they will come to me first. Mr Smith of Portsmouth a scripture reader to the Soldiers is at Whittlesford he came to Duxford with Mr & Mrs Maynard to tea this afternoon Jane came with me to dinner, Bessie does not seem to get any better, she was not down when we left at 10'clk, people blame her very much for lying in bed so much. George looks miserable enough. Sarah Ann went to Buckden by rail last Monday Father met her at Huntingdon, I heard from her this morning Father is pretty well & Mother better than she expected to see her Louisa is well & little Willie Ilott is there, SA says he is a

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nice little fellow. I gave Morton notice to leave yesterday at the expiration of his 12 months 31 August next, I don't think he was much surprised, but said he should not have left had I not gave him notice I asked him if he would like to live at Whittlesford, I fancy he seemed rather pleased at the idea, he said he did not care where he went if he could get a comfortable situation, but he did not wish to leave this neighbourhood at present, I suppose it is his "Sweet heart" that makes him wish to stay, George thinks he would suite him as well as Meadows who receives £30 a year & I suppose Morton will want 15 or 20, I give him £10. Mr E F Oslar of Whittlesford began harvest last Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> if it please

God to give us fine weather there is a good prospect of an abundant harvest. SA & I went to Whfd to tea last Sunday we took sacrament at Mr Markbys Church in the morning..

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Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Father drove SA to Bourn on the following Thursday and I drove over on Sunday to fetch her we came home Monday I drove Sarah Ann to Caldicot to look at the old house & farm where Grandfather & Grandmother used to live and I believe where my Father was born part of the old places are down those standing are in a very delapidated state, it is many years since I was there but the old place looked very familiar, the Church where Father & Mother were married at has been repaired it was a beautiful morning and we enjoyed the ride, we called at Mrs Custersons at Eversden on our way home sister Jenny's little girl Florence was there, she said she should like to come to Duxford with us, but when her Grandma was getting her things ready she sobbed and said she did not wish to go, so we didn't like to bring her against her inclination poor Uncle Whichello is very feeble & at times

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very low spirited but no worse than I expected to see him, he went to Church in the afternoon. Sarah Ann came to meet me in the morning & we went to Church together twice, in the evening Edmund went to Uncle Uriahs with SA & I they were very pleased to see us Lydia has a very comfortable looking home but the rooms are very small, Mr & Mrs Wm Whichello came to tea with us at Uncles. David Hughes (that used to be my play fellow when visiting at Bourn) first child was christened in the afternoon he married Lizzie Whittet sister Elizabeths companion rather a giddy creature & relation of Wm Whichellos wife. Cousin John was just about starting to drive Joyce & one of Aunt Parkins's daughters of London to Buckden so he borrowed my Cart he came back the same night. I think the change has done Sarah Ann good she is looking better. On Friday evening

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August 2<sup>nd</sup> about 8 O'clock Jane & Elliot Sheldrick came over with his pony and we made an exchange that evening, I gave him my pony & £2..5d for his mine was lame & quite a risk as to whether he would ever be sound again, Morton tells me today that mine is all right again but I don't suppose he will ever be fit for hard work, I like the one I have she is old, very quiet but rather stumbles I hope she will suite me, I don't like horse-dealing, I think I have lost about £10 by my first two, Sheldrick said this was warranted not 8 years old to him but Seaman says she is about 12 so am deceived in the third deal. The man Augustus Hilton<sup>1</sup> who murdered his wife at Parson Drove (Cams) was executed at

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.truecrimelibrary.com/crimearticle/augustus-hilton/>

Cambridge County Gaol yesterday week I was at Cambridge but had no inclination to go & see his end, Yesterdays Paper gives full particulars. The 9<sup>th</sup> August Wm Knott mowed

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my first piece of corn (Barley) at the top of the garden, there is an abundance of straw but don't expect to get much corn Monday morning Sarah Ann James & I took our forks and turned it, it was a very hot day & in the afternoon, Jane came over & helped us cart it, we were working hard at it until 8 O'clock then came down & washed & dressed & drove up to the farm for orders it was quite dusk & we did not get home until ½ past 10, we were very tired, Sarah Anns hands were blistered next morning James & I finished it, we were very fortunate to get it up nice and dry, we put it in Mr Knotts the shoemakers barn, after dinner I drove up to Whittlesford to fetch Mr & Mrs Maynard to tea, Miss Sarah Holiday came too I was teasing SA about having a plum pudding for the "horkey" so after tea she made two & we had them at an early supper, then Mr & Mrs Maynard walked home, Jane has been over twice this week & is here again today she has gone

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with SA to Mr Margetts Church this evening she rode to Cambridge & back with me yesterday when we got back to Whittlesford there was a letter from Harriet wherein she said they quite accidentally met Elliot Sheldrick at Pontypool Station, he said he had come that morning & was looking out for lodgings, Harriet very wisely went & looked at his luggage which was labled Myrther, the village or two where the young lady Jane & him fell out about, when Jane read the letter she cried very much as she supposed he was in London, when he left Whittlesford he said he should be back as last Friday week Jane went to the station two or three times to meet him & he did not come Jane did not know where he was not having heard from him for about a week. I am very glad he has been caught in his dirty and unmanly tricks, Jane says she shall not hear from him again, but will write & just tell him what she thinks of him, of course it makes her unsettled & unhappy but

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says she will not fret about him, for she cannot love him again after behaving so deceitful as he has done towards her she now says herself she thinks it is a good thing for her, I am glad she can think so. Augt 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday, SA Jane & I went up to Elmdon to see Mr Monk about taking his youngest son Stephen apprentice, the youth was not at home he was at school, so they both came on Saturday & we have agreed for him to come the first of September for a month upon trial, I am sure I hope he will suite us, his Father seems very anxious for him to come. The harvest is going on very favourable indeed, and am glad to say we have been doing more in the shop. Bessie is getting on very nicely now I

asked them yesterday if they would come over to-day but they have not been I had a letter from Alfred Allen yesterday

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he wants to know whether I can make it answer my purpose to go to London with him in a fortnights time to buy provisions he will be very glad of my Company if I can go, I should like to go if I had the cash in hand to go with the same as he has. it is kind of him but don't suppose I shall go, from what he says I think he is doing much better than he did as Histon, by his card he is launching out very extensively in the Drapery as Silk mercer &c of which he knows nothing at all about, by doing so he ought to keep an experienced hand. heres Jane & Sarah Ann. –

Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup>. Jane has been over several times during the last fortnight & stayed 3 or 4 days with us. a week today Mr Maynard was not so well he attempted to write in his

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diary but could not remember, he could make the letters but could not spell the words, I am very sorry for him because I know when he gets a little better it hurts his feelings, he has been better the last week. Poor old Mrs Robinson died last Wednesday or Thursday week (Augt 21 or 22<sup>nd</sup>) and was buried last Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> I attended the funeral & had tea with them. Mrs Richard Hill & her daughter Mary came over to tea with Sarah Ann the same day, the Friday previous SA went over there to tea, I went to fetch her in the evening, we were very busy in the Shop so did not leave here until 10 O'clock, We had supper there & got home about 11, next morning (Saturday) Sarah Ann went to Camb with me to buy a Black Bonnet for Mrs John Holiday coming home the tire (*sic*) of the wheel come off at

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Whittlesford but we managed to get home without an accident, in the evening we were very busy indeed Mr Bond persuaded me to have some Bill printed & circulate for low price provisions, which has bought a great many customers, am afraid I shall not be able to keep many of them, Mr Maynard went over to Cambridge with me I introduced him to Mr Bond. Mr M went to see old Mr Jay am happy to say he is not worse but it is thought is going on very favourable, his daughter Annie is at home with her sister Mary Annie came over one Sunday night with Edwin. Last Sunday Jane went over to Linton to see Mr & Mrs Hollick, they were pleased to see her Mrs H & Jane had a great deal of talk about Elliot Sheldrick, Mrs H is very vexed with him, Jane seems pleased to think that their engagement

PAGE 42

is broken off she is quite convinced what a rascal he is, & a most deceitful fellow. Mrs Maynard & Mrs R Maynard & Edwin drove over to Linton on Thursday stayed all night & returned Friday evening. Yesterday Edwin went to Cambridge with me, just before we were ready to start home Edwin found out he had lost his Watch, he had just fetched it from the Watch makers & put it into his waistcoat pocket without putting the guard round his neck, his pocket the Watch was in had a hole in it, & I suppose he must have slipped it through the hole, but he thinks that while he & I were dealing with some man on Peas hill for a pair of steps & some books a man that was standing with us picked his pocket, but I cannot think he lost it in that way, we saw

PAGE 43

the superintendant of the Police & the detective police besides others gave the best description of the man we could & then walked round the market to see if we could find him, but could not see him. at last we went to the criers to have it cried with the offer of £1 reward, but do not know if he has heard any thing of it, I am sorry Edwin is so unfortunate the last time he went to Cambridge he lost his bunch of keys & never heard any thing more about them. Last Thursday (29<sup>th</sup>) I received a letter from sister Kate informing me of dear sister Jennys serious illness she was taken that day week with low fever & extreme debility, they sent for Mr Ilott from Buckden on the Saturday he went to Norwich on the Sunday the two children with him, she is obliged to be Kept

PAGE 44

very quiet & no one but those that wait upon her are allowed to see her (Kate & Mr Ilott) of course this was quite surprising to me, yesterday I had a letter to say on Thursday morning it was thought she was decidedly better but in the evening she was taken much worse & suffered most intensely, & poor Jenny prayed most fervently for the Lord to take her, they thought she was sinking, when sensible Kate says she is very happy, they gave her a composing draught after that she slept well up to the time Kate wrote, so that I hope a change for the better took place it makes my very anxious to hear how she is, I hope to have a letter in the morning. I have advertised the house & have had one application an old lady & her daughter from Cambridge the name of Poulter, she seems a very pleasant old lady & likes the place very

PAGE 45

much, she is to give me an answer in a fortnight she has a daughter in France whom she wishes to consult first, if she is an agreeable person I hope she will come. Old Mr Holidays pony fell down last Wednesday & threw him out of his gig fortunately it did not hurt him. – I am very thankful to say the harvest is nearly over & the weather has been

beautiful for gathering it in, I think every one has great cause to rejoice. – William Morton left me this afternoon by the ½ past 4 train for Ely he has gone home for a week & is to return to Whittlesford tomorrow week, I think we shall miss him very much in the shop. George is to give him at the rate of £15 per year to Xmas & after that if he suits him he is to have £20, Morton thinks he shall not like it if George shows much of his temper to him. I expect Mr Monk over with his son Stephen tomorrow (Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>)

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SA & I went to St John's Church this morning & took sacrament. I went to St Peters this afternoon, Jane came over to tea & has gone to Church with Sarah Ann this evening.

Sunday Sept 22. Since I last wrote I have had some sad sad news, Sep 8<sup>th</sup> I received the unexpected news from dear Kate of the death of my dear Sister Charlotte Jane Ilott, she died Friday September the 6<sup>th</sup> 9 O'clock in the evening leaving 3 dear little children the youngest (Earnest) (*sic*) only 3 months old & poor Florence the eldest 3 years old the day her poor mama died, it is a heavy blow for us all, but it was Gods will & not ours, we are very sorry to part with our dear sister, but God has some end in depriving us of he (*sic*) much loved society, it has cast a gloom upon all her friends she has left behind, death

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never visits any where without leaving some one to mourn over the departed, but we have good reason to believe that our loss has been her eternal gain, this is the first death in our family, why did God take away our young sister first & leave her poor afflicted mother her father & elder sisters, we cannot say why he did so perhaps she was better prepared for that great & happy change than we are & perhaps that is Gods way to draw us nearer to him & to lead us in the right way to eternal life where we hope one day to meet to part no more but we cannot help feeling for her bereaved husband and darling motherless children, I pray God will provide for him & the dear babes & grant them when all is done with in this world a happy union eternal in heaven

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where the wicked cease from trouble and the weary are at rest.

“Why should we mourn the dead,  
Who sleep on Jesus' breast,  
With their great living Head,  
For ever, ever blest.”  
Time's wintry blasts may harm no more,  
They've reached bright Canaan's happy shore



The changeful scenes of life,  
The sorrow, care, and pain,  
Its tumults, envy, strife,  
They ne'er can know again.  
No more they'll heave the bitter sigh,  
No more shall tears bedim the eye!

---

They've left the earth behind  
And flown to realms above,  
Peaceful, serene, resigned,  
On wings of light and love.  
They've climbed by faith the shining road,  
Unto their Father and their God.

---

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Hark! The triumphant song  
Breaks the angelic choir,  
Whilst wondering myriads throng,  
To strike the golden lyre!  
They sing salvation, - till the strain  
Rolls round the vast celestial plain!

---

“Worthy the Lamb of God,  
Who laid His glory down;  
Who bore himself the rod,  
And won for us the crown.”  
This is their song; and, as they greet,  
They fall before their Saviour's feet.

---

Why should we mourn then, then?  
They've only gone before;  
And may we meet again,  
Where friends shall part not more.  
In your pure realm above the skies, -  
Christ's own eternal Paradise!”

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She was buried Wednesday Sept 11<sup>th</sup> (dear Mothers birthday) at ½ past 4 O'clock in Norwich Cemetary, there was the hearse three mourning coaches & Mr Halls Senr 4 wheel carriage, Mr Ilott, little Florence Father sister Sarah & Kate in the first Mr Wm Hall Junr Mr Chatterton, little William sister Louisa & myself in the second, Mr Corbett their minister Mrs Custeron the nurse and dear little Ernest & I think one of the young ladies in the third Mr & Mrs Hall Senr & two of the young ladies in the 4 wheel, after the service in the Chapel, poor Jenny was born by 6 bearers to her last earthly home the grave was was (*sic*) 10 feet deep bricked about 2 feet high, the coffin was made of the best oak 1 inch thick & 5 feet 10 ½ in long with ?merely? the breastplate, I suppose she was a most lovely corpse with a sweet smile upon her countenance, I did not

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see her, she changed very much on Sunday & was obliged to be screwed down at night & I did not go until Tuesday morning, Mr Chatterton came the same day and Father on the Wednesday, Mrs Fowler from Chatteris went to Buckden to stay with poor Mother for a time, Father says Mother frets very much, she was only confined to her bed about a fortnight, she had diarrhoea for 3 weeks or more previous which injured her internally and caused her death, poor thing she was very delirious at times, just before she died she said "hark God speaks" & to her poor husband she said William dear I will come back and tell you what the Lord has done for you, they don't think she was conscious she was dying. The Saturday after I came back Sunday [*in the margin it says Sunday Oct 6<sup>th</sup>*] I was very unwell Sunday I was in bed until after dinner, Edwin came at night and attended business for me on Monday

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I did not get up until about 11 O'clock just as I came down Mrs Russell of Arrington came over to the court to take up the estate which cost her £50 besides the fines, I had the diarrhoea very bad and did not get over it for a week. Edwin went to London with a recommendation from Mr McMillan<sup>2</sup> of Cambridge to a large booksellers to try for a situation, he was waiting for an answer the last time I saw him, Jane went to London about a fortnight ago and I expect she returned yesterday, Elliot Sheldrick has written some most insulting, vulgar & abusive letters to her and threatens to play-card (*sic*) her up every where she and her friends are know if she exposes him any more he is a complete coward and a rascal and I think the most deceitful fellow I ever knew. Mrs Hollick of Linton has been to Whittlesford and came over to see us, Mr Maynard Senr & George rode

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<sup>2</sup> <https://capturingcambridge.org/centre/trinity-street/1-trinity-street/>

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to Sturbridge fair with me, George & I dined at Mr Brimleys. Last Monday Mr Maynard went to the Hon H I Adams Esq M.P. of Babraham, to see if I could get any orders as Mrs Russell when here recommended me to go over, as Mrs Allen the housekeeper said they had to send to Cambridge for every thing they wanted, Mrs R said she would write to the housekeeper & tell her I would call upon her, but I did not get any orders. Poor old Mr Jay died last Thursday or Friday week at the Hospital Cambridge and was buried at Whittlesford last Wednesday poor old gentleman he said he did not wish to get better he was quite prepared to go, it is a sad trial for his family. Last Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> Sarah Ann and I went to Norwich to buy our winter stock, we were very sorry to find on our arrival the

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dear little baby Ernest very ill, when I saw I thought it deathlike and that he would soon follow his dear Mama Thursday is seemed worse so Kate went to the doctor and told him how the child was, he said it was no more than he expected and gave her no hopes, Friday he came to see him, & said it was exactly his mama's complaint and that there was not the slightest hope of his recovery poor little fellow it is hard to see a poor helpless babe suffer as he does night and day, about 2 O'clock Friday morning the nurse called Kate they thought him dying they all seem worn out, for the last 6 weeks none of them have had any rest scarcely, poor Mr Ilott he seems wretched and almost heartbroken, he cannot sleep and prefers being alone, he sometimes calls Kate to be with him

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and talks about poor Jenny, the last night or two he has had a little sleep disturbed with horrid dreams, Friday afternoon he walked up to the Cemetary alone to see his dear wifes grave, the doctor told him that day the baby could not live which has quite upset him again at night he prayed God to relieve his dear babe of his bodily sufferings and if it was Gods will to deprive him of his dear child to take him speedily into his arms and make him an angel at once "Blessed Lord, help us to believe in every season of sorrow, suffering, and pain, that thou 'dost "not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."

"Dost thou my profit seek,  
And chasten as a friend?  
O God, I'll kiss the smarting rod, -  
There's honey at the end.

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Dost Thou, through death's dark vale,  
Conduct to heaven at last?  
The future good will make amends  
For all the evil past.

---

Lord, I would not repine,  
At strokes in mercy sent;  
If the chastisement comes in love,  
My soul shall be content

---

The following lines were (*sic*) written by Mr Ilott at the birth of his first child, which they thought of having named Chloe, but had Florence in preference

To my Infant Daughter, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 1858

“Welcome! To this thy earthly home  
Our fair, sweet child:  
Thy lovely little form doth seem  
The Phantom of some blessed dream,  
Pure, undefiled.  
Pride of thy Mothers heart and mine!  
A heritage of love is thine;  
And having thee can we repine  
Dear little Chloe!

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We feel thy breath upon our cheeks,  
And murmurs die.  
Our hearts desire that we could be  
As simple, trustful, pure as thee  
With Him on high –  
Who giveth thy sweet form of light  
Embodied beauty in our sight,  
To make our house and fireside bright  
Dear little Chloe!

---

Words cannot tell our love for thee

William Farrington's Diary 1861

Our dear, sweet child;  
And our fond hearts would fain decree  
A life of such pure joy for thee  
As never smiled  
On any in this world of care  
Brimfull of sorrow everywhere –  
Which all in some degree must share  
E'en little Chloe!

---

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Not through a land of ease and joy  
Will life's stream flow,  
But sorrow o'er thy path will roll  
And clouds of care o'er cast thy soul  
And yet we know  
A troubled and a storm-shook nest;  
A toilsome path to endless rest.  
Yea whatsoever God thinks best,  
Is best for thee

---

If spared thy life – this we desire,  
If God's own will,  
That thou may'st know His power to save  
When we are in the darksome grave  
Peaceful and still:  
Smiling amidst the toils of earth  
Esteeming all things little worth,  
Except an inward heavenly birth,  
Dear little Chloe!  
WI –

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The following is a copy written by Mr Ilott when his second child William was twelve months old.

To little Willie Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> 1860

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Twelve happy months have rolled away,  
My prattling boy!  
Since thou didst come with cherub face,  
To add a glory and a grace  
To this my earthly dwelling place:  
Dear little Willie!

---

And shall the Muse of thy poor Father  
Slumber for ever?  
The Muse that welcomed thy sweet sister  
On that glad day when first he kissed her,  
Sing no bright, bland and blessed vista  
For little Willie?

---

Aye! That she shall – though in such numbers  
As critics scorn  
But it shall be no foolish rhyme,  
Enchanted with this earth-bound chime,  
Craving the vain delights of Time  
For little Willie!

---

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Now sin and folly, grief and care  
Are none of thine:  
And whilst thou art a careless child,  
God keep thee pure and undefiled!  
God shield thee from the tempest wild  
Dear little Willie!

---

And when thou'rt grown to man's estate;  
Trials and cares:  
God make thee noble, generous, great:  
And give thee grace, to toil, and wait  
Till He shall call thee thro' the gate  
Of death to Life.

---

And when that call shall greet thine ear  
Early or late,  
God grant that thou may'st willing go,  
Cheered by that Faith His people know,  
And gladly leaving all below  
Go home to rest!

---

So shalt thine be a glorious lot  
Best of two worlds!  
A Christian's joy in this world known  
And when its sorrows all have flown,  
A fadeless Jewel in thy Saviour's crown!  
Dear little Willie

WI Senr

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I received the Invoices from Norwich this morning, Mr Hall says the babe is about the same sinking very fast, and I should say ere this the dear little creature has gone to his last long home and I trust happy with his dear Mama. –  
Morton was here to attend the shop while we were away, on our arrival home there was a letter from Mr Pollard asking me to settle my a/c by return of post he having some large amounts to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> or if I could not send the whole amount to send what I could and he would send me a Bill for 2 & 4 months. I sent him what I had and promised to send more as soon as convenient, not mentioning the Bills he talks of, which if he sends I shall return, have sent his letter to Mr Ilott for him to see.

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Morton has just been over to borrow my pony for George to go to Langley with theirs has a shoe off and George wishes to start early, mine has a shoe off too so expect he will have his own. Sarah Ann and I took sacrament at St Peters Church this morning SA went to St Johns this afternoon I have been housekeeper.

Sunday Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Miss Gellatly has been over to see us and stayed about a week with us she had the face ache at times while she was here, Edwin and Sarah Ann went home with her, and we have not seen her since but hear she has a bad cough. Edwin has been to London trying for a situation but am sorry to say has not met with one at present, he looks very unwell. Mrs Jupp came home with Jane from London Mr Jupp came

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to fetch her home they came over one day to tea, and Mr Jupp & Mr Maynard to dinner and tea we were pleased to see them. Mr Jupp looks remarkably well and very stout. We have had the Clothing Club out and am glad to say we have done rather better than we did last year, although the first day I thought we were not doing so well. George has bought a pony of Mr Brimley for £18 about the size of mine (Jenny) but heavier he is not at all pleased with it, so asked Mr Brimley if he would take it again, but he would not hear of such a thing and seemed quite offended at George asking him, we do not think it is quite strait-forward of him considering the many thousands of pounds Mr Maynard has laid out with him, George is quite vexed about it, he has borrowed

PAGE 64

my cart and harness to go to Barkway today to see whether Mr ??Elling?? will try and sell his pony for him if so I believe he will have one that a Mr Thos Coleman has to sell here at Duxford, I went to look at it for him and think it is more the horse George wants, it is much larger and at (*sic*) looking horse coming 6 years of age he will sell it for £20 as he does not want one himself. George has given "old Tom" to Mr John Arnold upon conditions he is not to sell him but keep him as long as he is able to work & then to shoot him. We heard from dear Kate about a fortnight ago, she says little Willie Ilott is very poorly and the doctor ordered country air for him immediately so Kate too the poor little fellow to his

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Grandmas's at Eversden, the poor little baby "Ernest is suffering just the same as when we were at Norwich. they are up with him night and day he takes nothing but a little milk so of course has wasted very much the doctor says he is a perfect wonder it is a severe trial to his poor Father, he is very much grieved at his child's sufferings. We had a letter from dear Father on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. he says he went up to London with dear Mother a fortnight last Tuesday, went to Guys Hospital on Wednesday and Mother had one of her eyes operated upon on Thursday he went up to see her on Tuesday last, she is very happy and meets with great Kindness and attention both night and day, she says she can see a little better but hopes to see much better over a few weeks, Father

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thinks Mr & Mrs Pollard were going up to see her today, I am very pleased to hear she is going on so well. Sarah Ann and I talked of going over to Buckden last Sunday to see her before she went but George could not spare Morton & it happened to be a very wet day, so it is fortunate we did not go.



Jane and Bessie came over on Thursday Bessie wanted to engage a nurse as a baby is expected after Christmas but the nurse is not at home, Bessie went home at night and Jane is with us now, she has gone to Church with Sarah Ann, Martha Ann Hill came to dinner with us today. Stephen has gone home to see his poor Father. I dont at all think he will be alive long poor man, his Brother sent for Stephen on Monday

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last as his Father was not so well, he came back on Wednesday, and I sent him up again on Thursday to fetch some potatoes, Stephen had a note yesterday to say they did not think him quite so well and would I let Stephen go home to day, he started about 8 O'clock, poor boy he seems very much cut up about it, it will be a sad loss to him having no Mother and only 16 years of age, his two sisters married one Brother 26 years old in Australia and the other 18 has got his fathers business. Miss Robinson came to tea with us on Friday last & Jane went to hers yesterday Sarah Ann had a servant (Lydia Dockerill) from Sawston came 3 weeks ago tomorrow upon trial, I think she will do for us very well. She is slow & forgetful but very well I believe in

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other respects. I had old Jenny clipped yesterday week and she goes very nicely now, Henry How of Triplow came over to do her, I gave him 3 pints & a half of beer his dinner and 8/- for doing her, and am glad to say she has not taken cold yet although the weather has been very severe lately. Sarah Ann and I went to Whittlesford to tea at Georges last Sunday, Mr & Mrs Jupp were there, it was quite a large party. –

Elliot Sheldrick has married Miss Jones of Myrtha, the young lady he kept company with at the same time as he did with Jane, he is a complete rascal and I hope taken in with his wife, I believe he was under the impression there was plenty of

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money, but Jane thinks there is not and I heartily hope there is not. –

November 2<sup>nd</sup> at ¼ past 4 dear sister Polly presented her husband with the third little girl, thank God both were doing well. I have had a letter from Alfred Allen, he thinks we might do well if we could go to London and buy together. –

Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Jane went home last Monday morning. I heard from sister Sarah one day this last week in reply to a letter I wrote to her telling her what sort of letter I had from Mr P last as I think she was not aware what her husband said to me, she now says she is very sorry there should be any unpleasant feeling made between us, but I am to rest

assured if her word stands for any thing I shall not be pressed for the money if they have to lose it, but if I am spared she sees no fear of

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that, she has been to London to Guys hospital to see dear Mother the first day she went she could not be admitted so she went to Mrs Catherwoods & as soon as she got in Sarah was taken ill with fainting fits which lasted so long that it frightened Mrs C so sent for the doctor who said it was ghastic (*sic*) fever coming on and that she must not go home that night, she went to bed and gradually got worse but was (she was taken on the Sunday) better and able to go and see dear Mother on Friday & returned home Mr & Mrs C accompanied her on Sunday as she was not allowed to travel alone poor Mother was very pleased to see her & knew Sarah directly. Mr Pollard went the next Monday she knew him too. I should very much like to see her, but hope to see her at Buckden shortly. I went to Cambridge on Thursday

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Mr Bentham went with me to choose a cocoa carpet as I have not one wide enough in stock. I hear Mr Deadman has notice to leave the school having offended the Revd Margetts in some way or other. Mrs John Barker of Highfield house is going to have her property at Duxford sold and is going to leave. George and Bessie went to Barkway last Sunday and Mr Elling has persuaded George to keep his pony that he bought of Mr Brimley. Stephen went home Wednesday evening to see his Father and has gone again today, poor man I suppose he is no better, I have bought a heavy cart of him for £7 and half pound Tea. – Miss Sarah Markby has been staying with her brother Thomas in Cambridge and was took much worse, they send for her Mother & Father, they have not returned yet Mr Whiting her brother-in-law came over on Friday and thinks perhaps she may rally a few days more, there is no hopes of her getting up again, poor thing she has been afflicted a long time.

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Last Friday the Cambridge hounds met at Little Shelford, the Prince of Wales<sup>3</sup> was with them and I heard they had a capital run but did not kill. Stephen went to Cambridge with the heavy cart for goods and was there just in time to see them. Mary Jay came over to Church this morning but was very late. Mr Charles Marking of Harston her intended came over to tea this afternoon and has gone to church with Miss Jay and Sarah Ann this evening. I have been twice today. Carry Colborne is visiting Mr Thomas Holiday, she was

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<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_VII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_VII) It was in December that Prince Albert died, two week's after visiting Edward in Cambridge to issue a reprimand about his affair with actress Nellie Clifdon.

at St Johns Church this morning so came round by Hunts road with Miss Holiday her brother Tom Miss Jay SA & I. – Emma Maynard has gone with her “Sweet heart” Edward Clark to Hyde Hall to his sisters Wedding, I suppose it has been quite a grand affair, Tom Holliday & Robert Maynard Junr went and came home yesterday, Emma is not expected until Tuesday next.

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Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Poor Miss Sarah Markby aged 27 years died at Cambridge while on a visit to her brother Thomas about a fortnight ago, she has been ill for a long time I believe consumption, but was taken much worse shortly after her arrival in Cambridge they sent for her Father & Mother, they remained with her until she died, she was brought home and buried yesterday week, the poor old gentleman feels it very much I suppose through her illness he made more of a companion of her, she was very kind to the poor and I think very much respected in the village, Mr Markby has not been able to preach since. Stephen Monks brothers Charles & Mr Nottage came last Tuesday week about 10pm to fetch Stephen his Father being much worse poor man he died the following Saturday and was buried yesterday Stephen has not been back yet but I expect him tomorrow morning

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it is very hard for Stephen (16 years old) to be left without either Father or Mother I hope he will be a good boy and do his best for me, then, should nothing unfortunate happen to me I hope he will find mine a comfortable home for him. –

“Whate’er thy providence denies  
I calmly would resign,  
For thou art good, and just, and wise  
O bend my will to thine!

---

Whate’er thy sacred will ordains  
O give me strength to bear!  
And let me know my Father reigns  
And trust his tender care!”

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Last Sunday Decr 1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Ann and I went to Bourn to stand sponsors for dear Lydia’s first babe “Trevor Richard”, the christening to (*sic*) place during the afternoon service, we were at the Font waiting for the baby, the congregation & clergyman all waiting so Edmund had to run home and fetch the baby, the little

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fellow cried a little, after we left church Edmund went to Mr Ridouts to apologise for keeping him waiting, and for not going into the Vestry after service as I suppose we ought to have done, Stephen Dawson was there to tea, poor Uncle does not seem quite so well as when I last saw him poor old gentleman he seems to be gradually falling off. I rather expect Lydia will come and spend Christmas with us We left about 7 o'clock in the evening and got home about 10, it was a bitter cold wind & very dirty day, we called at Eversden in the morning dear little Willie Ilott was there he is much better than he has been, I think he will go to Buckden before he returns to Norwich, Jane and Miss Gellatly were here housekeeping for us when we got home. - - Stephen being away has made SA & I very busy in the shop I had to go to Cambridge on Tuesday and left SA at home alone, George rode with me. I received a letter from sister Louisa

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yesterday she informs me dear Mother has returned from Guys Hospital and am glad to hear she can see much better with one eye and hopes to see still better as it gets stronger, they would be pleased to see us if we can go, Uncle William Farrington has been to Bedford to look at a business he has been very ill and the doctor says London does not suite him. he is now at Buckden also Mrs Catherwood I think Louisa says she came home with Mother. I have at last let the other part of my house to Mr ???thwaite??? the exciseman for £12 a year he is to give me 3 months notice & I to give him 6 months notice previous to his leaving. Cousin Annie Maynard was staying with us the week before this last SA went with her to Mrs Pattersons to tea on Thursday and to Mrs Barkers (Highfield house) on Friday. Miss White & her sister from Whittlesford came over last Thursday to buy some shop goods we persuaded her to stay tea then they stayed all night. I have been to Church twice, SA

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went this morning and evening, Lydia has been home to Sawston this afternoon. We expected George and Bessie to tea but they have not been. Edwin has not returned from Felstead yet I think he is now in London looking for a situation am afraid he has not been successful, he is expected home the middle of this next week.

Sunday Decr 29<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday Decr 14<sup>th</sup> I ??singd?? My pony for Sarah Ann and I to go to Buckden with the following day we started about ½ past 7 O'clock in the morning and got to Buckden about 1 the roads were very dirty and newly gravelled nearly all the way & the wind in our faces, we met Edward Brand between Trumpington & Cambridge he was going home to Sawston. they were very pleased to see us at home dear Mother was not looking very well but her sight was gradually improving, when coming home from London she told me every thing appeared like a frost to her & remarked to

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to Father that it was a frost, he did not contradict her, so on the Saturday when Henry the baker was washing the yard she made the same remark to him, he told her it was not at all frosty so she touched the garden gate & found she was deceived & then thought it was her sight, the next day we came home she said she could see much better in the afternoon Father Sarah Ann Louisa & I went to Buckden church, Lydia and her baby were at home with mother we stopped at Godfreys and baited the pony he told us Prince Albert was very ill & that the Prince of Wales was telegraphed for Friday night, when we got to Buckden Dr Woolley had been to see Mother and told them Prince Albert was dead. we were sorry to hear the sad sad news & could scarcely believe it, but am sorry it was too true, I saw in the paper since that he died of "Typhoid Fever" duration 21 days all the Royal Family were present when he died. We left Buckden the following day about

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12.20 got to Cambridge about 5 done our business there and got home about 10, Sarah Ann and I bought ½ Dozen Silver tea spoons at Mr Reeds for 36/- Mother gave us 35/- that was left to each member of our family by her Father (Grandfather Starr) all those that have had the money have bought spoons with it. Morton was here to manage the shop with Stephen until we returned, we had a nice ride home The drapers shops and others as well and some of the private houses were half closed for the late Prince Consort. – The other Miss Cooper died a few days ago she did not long survive her poor sister only about 7 weeks they have left an aged Mother, who I suppose is unable to attend to the shop. I was 25 years of age on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month received a note from sister Kate and Mr Goddard they are pretty well at Norwich the baby is getting on nicely. Mr Goddards little boy is very delicate indeed from what I hear of him I don't think they will rear him poor Hannah does indeed see a great deal of trouble, Christmas we were rather busy, we spent Xmas day

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at Georges, Mr & Mrs Maynard Jane and Edwin Harry Jupp & Mr Hatton were there too, we had a Turkey for dinner, we all enjoyed it very much before tea Harry Jupp Edwin & I went for a walk to Sawston Paper Mills to fetch Miss Gellatley over to tea but missed of her so we followed her home, I walked home alone about 9 O'clock & in coming home found out Sarah Ann had got the Key of the shop so I rode back on the pony for the Key. Stephen went to his sister Fanny at Lofts Mill to spend the day returned next morning, next day evening James (the boy in the yard) found some tea screwed up in a piece of paper in the warehouse and took it into the Kitchen to ask Stephen whether he knew any thing about it and Stephen asked Lydia if she did but denied it & asked him to give it her

to put in her tea, but instead of doing that he brought it to me so I went & asked Lydia about (*sic*) after finding some

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one had been to the tea chest up stairs since I left it Christmas eve, she declared she knew nothing about it & that she did not know what a tea chest was nor where I kept it, so I asked her where she got the Sugar from she made the sweets with on Xmas day as I found some burnt sugar on the fender & table in the Kitchen when I came home at night, she declared upon her oath she did not make any that she had none only what her sister brought her from Sawston, I sent James for her cousin whom we gave Lydia leave to have with her for the day as we know she did not like to be left alone her cousin came and I told her I hoped she would answer me in truth what I was going to ask her, she said Lydia got the Sugar out of the warehouse and made about 26 small sweets in a saucepan like the one we shewn her, and that she had some tea screwed up in a piece of paper when she came, so I took the girl

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into Lydia & told her what her cousin had said and asked her if it was true she said it was I then gave her a good talking to for telling me such abominable untruths and wished her to leave me that day month she then brought an action against James for coming at dinner time and taking some Loaf Sugar & Plums he confessed he did do it so I gave him warning never to do it again if he did he should leave at once, I went up to Whittlesford in the evening to my Fathers to fetch Sarah Ann they had a party consisting of Bessie George Jane Edwin Mr Hatton Harry Jupp Miss Gellatley Annie Maynard & Emma & Helen Robert & Albert, we got home about twelve enjoyed ourselves very much. Sarah Ann had been out for a walk with her Father in the morning up the Shelford road & across some fields and in getting over a ditch he fell backwards

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into it & could not get up without Sarah Anns assistance, poor old man he was very wet and dirty, he is too feeble to go about alone. The 29<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) Sarah Ann and I went to Miss Robinsons to tea, her niece Maria was at him (*sic*) & two Miss Thornes of Cambridge were there, the Miss Thornes keep a young Ladies school Henry Maynards wife had her schooling there, they are nice quiet "old-maids" we came home about 8 O'clock

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> I went up to the Farm for orders and saw a little child that accidentally set fire to her clothes on the Friday previous & was very much burnt poor little thing she looks very bad, but so very patient with it, Mr Patterson thinks she is going on nicely, I had to walk as I lent my cart and harness to George to go to Langley with, he had it again

on the Wednesday to go to Cambridge with Wednesday being the last day of 1861. Sarah Ann and I sat up until

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after 12 O'clock we were reading up to that time: during the old year passing & the new year commencing I read a prayer - -

“Great God, we sing that mighty hand  
By which supported still we stand;  
The opening year thy mercy shows;  
That mercy crowns it till it close.

---

By day, by night, at home, abroad,  
Still are we guarded by our God;  
By his incessant bounty fed,  
By his unerring counsel led.

---

With grateful hearts the past we own:  
The future all to us unknown,

---

We to thy guardian care commit,  
And peaceful leave before thy feet:

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In scenes exalted or depressed  
Thou art our joy, and thou our rest:  
Thy goodness all our hopes shall raise  
Ador'd through all our changing days.”

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Cousin Albert Maynard came over in the afternoon and brought an invitation for SA & I to their house to tea on Newyears day, he stayed tea & I drove him home about 8 o'clock. Mr & Mrs Willis Junr from Chesterford came to tea & spent the evening with us. And thus we closed the year 1861.

“The brightness of thy face  
To me, O Lord, disclose;

And, as thy mercies still increase,  
Preserve me from my foes.

---

How great thy mercies are  
To such as fear thy Name,  
Which thou, for those that trust thy care  
Dost to the world proclaim:

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Ye that on God rely  
Courageously (*sic*) proceed:  
For he will still your hearts supply  
With strength in time of need.”

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*ENDS*