

# A POSTMAN'S ROUND





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# **A POSTMAN'S ROUND**

## **1858-61**

**Selected extracts from the diary of  
Edward Harvey**

With an introduction by  
Dr Tony Mason

Edited by Richard Storey

Coventry  
1982, reprinted 1991



*It is a place with only one post a day... In the country I always fear that creation will expire before tea-time.*

Rev. Sydney Smith (H. Pearson, *The Smith of Smiths*, 1934, p.92)

#### *Editor's note*

The volume is an octavo, unruled notebook in roan-covered boards. It is available for research in the Modern Records Centre at reference MSS.219. In order to assist the reader by smoothing the flow of the narrative, some minor amendments have been made to the original. Obviously hasty errors, such as repeated words and apparently careless mis-spellings (i.e. those which do not feature consistently throughout), have been corrected. The sparse punctuation of the original has been augmented. Major errors of spelling and grammar have, however, been retained in the printed text. The commencement of a page is indicated by a page number (not in the original) in square brackets. Editorial notes have been inserted in brackets, in italics. The assistance rendered by Susan Edwards with the transcription and the preparation of explanatory notes is gratefully acknowledged.

In producing this reprint, the opportunity has been taken to correct a few errors in the original edition, but the text is in all other respects identical with the 1982 version.

The cover shows a Victorian pillar box still in use in Warwick *photograph by M. Gould ABIPP, University of Warwick Photographic Service.*

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## INTRODUCTION

If the frequency of the delivery of letters by what used to be called the General Post Office was an infallible guide to the progress of British civilisation, then the barometer has been falling for many years. Half a dozen deliveries per day were common in many towns before 1900 and in London even these figures were greatly surpassed. By the end of the nineteenth century, twelve letter deliveries were made in the City on six days in the week and between six and eleven elsewhere in the capital. 704 million letters were delivered in 1870, a figure which had multiplied four times by the eve of the Great War. The postal services were big business and the letter carrier (the title of postman was introduced only in 1883) was a more familiar figure on some streets than even the celebrated British policeman.

Modern postal services began with the inauguration of Rowland Hill's penny post on January 10 1840. The essence of the service, apart from its increasing reliance on the railway, was its cheapness. Amid much contemporary talk of the danger of taxing commerce, charges were fixed at a penny for each inland letter up to half an ounce in weight, irrespective of distance. The sender paid by purchasing a stamp or pre-stamped envelope. The desire to maintain a cheap service was paramount, not least in the 1850s when the Administrative Reform Association pointed out cases of civil service inefficiency and urged new methods of organisation and recruitment. In 1854, for example, postal work was downgraded and new staff were taken on at salaries much lower than those formerly paid for the same work. The aim was to secure postal workers with reasonable educational qualifications and trustworthy characters who would be satisfied with a job offering some security of employment and prospects of promotion, paid holidays, sick pay and pensions but low wages. Further economies were introduced in 1860, including the creation of the post of auxiliary letter carrier. These men were employed on both a full time and a temporary basis, were paid less than the permanent staff of letter carriers and did not qualify for holidays, sick pay or pensions.

Like some other contemporary services, notably the railways, discipline in the Post Office was strict, especially in the area of labour relations. Any attempt to form a trade union was dealt with severely. In March 1866, for example, the Postmaster General forbade all his 'servants' 'on pain of dismissal', from holding 'any meeting beyond the walls of the Post Office building for discussion of official questions' and the letter carrier who signed an appeal to the public was dismissed. The Postmaster General was still issuing warnings against trade union temptations in 1890. Other conditions of service could be rigorously enforced. The employer reserved the right to demand overtime and in general to vary the conditions of employment in any way he chose; dismissal was not uncommon and pension rights and seniority could be lost for infringements of the code of conduct. The Postmaster General was buttressed in these tough attitudes by the fact, constantly reiterated, that there was never any difficulty in filling vacancies.

It was into this kind of service that Edward Harvey was recruited in 1856.<sup>1</sup> As much as the strict discipline, the young letter carrier probably noticed the long hours and the long distances walked in those early days on the rounds. It is not surprising that many diary entries list the times he was on duty and the time taken to perform his various deliveries. Monday December 6 1859 was typical '... I arose at seven fortyfive a.m. I



began business at ten a.m. ... I came home about twelve thirty p.m.' and again 'at seven thirty p.m.' At ten p.m. 'me and Mess. (sic) White, Dawson, Tolly and Butler came home together from collecting'. 'I was eightyseven minutes doing my tens, seventy my twos, and eightyfive my fives' : these were almost certainly his three daily deliveries. No allowance was made for time spent travelling to the office nor for returning home after the spell of duty, a journey repeated several times a day. Letter carriers were paid only for the time actually spent collecting from the recently introduced pillar boxes (1855 in London), sorting or delivering. Moreover, some of the walks were long. Harvey lists the 'Duncan Terrace walk before the alteration' which included over eighty streets, courts, terraces and buildings. There is no wonder that early entries show a preoccupation with his boots, regularly cleaned and, most notably, made to measure. But if the work was time consuming, with six long days per week, and the discipline strict, there was enough flexibility to enable Harvey to have a colleague do his Saturday night collection so that he could go to the theatre and to pay the same man to perform two morning deliveries so that Harvey could accompany his father on a boat trip.

But it is in the sphere of social life away from work that the diary is at its most illuminating and in some respects most irritating. The long working day does not seem to have prevented Harvey from enjoying a busy round of social activities, from late night shopping expeditions with his father to midweek evenings eating, drinking, talking and singing with friends and relations. His work did not demand particularly early rising and he was certainly not averse to staying up late after a visit to the theatre, for example, a social evening with friends or a trip to the girlfriend's. The second of these was in service and the couple took the opportunity of the absence of the master and mistress to spend on Sunday evening together until one a.m. the following morning. The next Sunday Harvey stayed until three a.m.

One of the most interesting sections of the diary is that devoted to a description, almost a meal by meal account, of Edward Harvey's annual holiday in October 1860. It lasted for two weeks, the first of which was spent half in Brighton and half in Hastings. Harvey went with his father, the ladies of the family, for whatever reason, not accompanying them. Mr. Harvey senior appears to have had no difficulty arranging his own holiday so that it coincided with that of his son. The main activities of the holiday were walking, to the Devil's Dyke and back for example, and sampling the sights and sounds of the seaside. A boat trip, watching the bathers (but not apparently doing any : perhaps the keenness of the October sea put them off), looking at wrecks, watching fishermen unload their catches, listening to bands, watching trains, and, while in Brighton, three evening visits to the theatre. All this plus frequent slipping in and out of public houses for refreshment, entertainment or both, together with plenty of good, plain food. The three days at Hastings produced a lodgings bill for the pair of £1 11s. 8d.

It is a fascinating account, but is it any more than that? We do not know how representative Harvey and his family were of either letter carriers in particular or working people in general in the late 1850s and early 1860s. Perhaps one point underlined by the diary is the relative prosperity a family could experience with more than one wage packet coming in.<sup>2</sup> A copy of the petition which Harvey wrote for his Uncle William reminds us how ephemeral such prosperity could be. But while we

know the Harvey family there is no sign of financial insecurity and they had money to spend on books, music lessons, jewellery, the theatre and holidays.

Where would such a family be placed in the social structure? They appear to have been respectable church-goers, although the diary draws attention to the recreational as well as religious side of the Sabbath. Social evenings, trips, even pub-going are all very much in the Anglican tradition. But the diary leaves out at least as much as it reveals. Is the fact that the son was a letter carrier indicative of the family's social structure? There is some evidence which suggests that recruitment to the service before about 1870 still tended to be by patronage and that this had produced a better class of letter carrier. Perhaps being a member of the uniformed workforce had its own special status.

In the end, what you have is a fragment, if a fascinating one. Its value lies not so much in the light it sheds on being a letter carrier in mid-nineteenth century England, but rather in the glimpse it offers of the everyday life of one east London working class family.

1. Harvey was promoted to sorter on September 17 1861 at a wage of 24s. a week. He retired due to ill health at the age of 47 after 29 years' service in 1885, by which time his wages had risen to 50s. a week. He had 'discharged his duties with diligence and fidelity to the satisfaction of his superior officers'.

2. Harvey's father and mother were described as tailors in the 1861 census, although it has not been possible to discover whether or not they were self-employed. His sister also lived at home and worked as a needlewoman. Harvey himself began work on a wage of 19s. a week which annual increments had probably boosted to 21s. by 1861.



*The diary begins in mid-sentence* been a fine and dry day. Me and Mess. D. White, J. Dawson, A.C. Tolly (A.C. Tolley, letter carrier April 1857, sorter (inland) June 1860) and J. Butler came home together. Mr Foster spoke to me as I went by his shop. I got home at nine fifty p.m. Mrs Matthews came home at eleven p.m. I wrote some of this diary before going to bed, but I could not finish it, for the candle burnt out, so I was obliged to leave off and go to bed at eleven p.m. Thursday December the second (1858) I arose at seven a.m. I brushed my blucher boots (*strong leather half-boots or high shoes*), attended to the birds, finished writing yesterday's diary and done a sum or two before breakfast. I drempt last night Allum was on duty, that his Holliday was over, and that W. Franklin was at our office, and also that policeman was courting a girl I was, and a pretty way I was in about it. I began business at ten a.m. When [2] I came home at eleven fifty a.m. I wrote some of my diary till dinnertime. When I came home at seven p.m. I practised till eight thirty p.m. I then had my supper and went to collect. Mess. D. White, J. Dawson, A.C. Tolly and J. Butler went without me, but I overtook them in Canon Street, Britannia Fields. I was sifty (*sic*) seven minutes doing my tens, eighty my twos and fifty my fives. I got home from collecting at ten p.m. Mrs Matthews came home at ten ten p.m. I wrote some of this diary before going to bed. It was wet this morning but in the afternoon and evening dry. Father, Mother, Lizzie, Betsey and Sarah Dimes went to the Standard Theatre in Shoreditch. Benjamin Prentice and his sister went to them about seven p.m. They see performed a piece called [3] 'Christmas Eve', another 'The little sutler' and a Burletta. They got home at twelve p.m. I was writing up to the time they came home. They see Madame Celeste and Mr Paul Bedford. (*The Standard Theatre, Shoreditch was opened in 1835 and destroyed by enemy action, 1940/1. 'The little sutler' was first performed there on 1 December 1858. Madame Celeste : Celeste Elliott, b. Paris 1811, d. Paris 1882, dancer, actress and manager. Paul Bedford 1792-1871, actor and bass.*) I went to bed at twelve fifteen p.m. Friday December the third I arose at seven fifty a.m. I attended to my birds and cleaned my blucher boots before breakfast. I began business at ten a.m. The landlady of number nine Dorchester Street came this morning to say we could go and look at the house. Father was in bed ill. Mother see her and spoke to her. I had a paper given me by Mr Tarrant when I was in for my ten o'clock duty and so had the others, of the new scale of wages to commence on December the fourth. When I [4] came home at eleven forty-five a.m. I wrote some of this diary and a letter to Hannah Witherall. When I came home at seven thirty p.m. I practised till eight thirty p.m. Mother and Father went to look at the house in Dorchester Street this evening. I was fifty minutes doing my tens, seventytwo my twos and seventy my fives. Me and Mess. D. White, J. Dawson and A.C. Tolly came home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. J. Butler did not bring a bill with one of his collection, so he had to go back for it and had not got back with it when we left. Uncle William came in this evening to have some writing done, he brought a letter from his daughter Lizzie to let us see how she could write. I wrote part of this diary [5] before going to bed. It has not rained today. I go to bed about eleven p.m. Saturday December the fourth I arose at six a.m. I brushed my blucher boots and cleaned my bird cages and wrote some of my diary before breakfast. At (*after*) breakfast I practised and began business at ten a.m. When I came home at twelve a.m. I practised till dinnertime. Sarah Dimes was at our house to tea. Father and Mother went in the evening to see the landlady of number nine Dorchester Street in Trayre Street, Manchester Square. I was seventytwo minutes doing my tens, seventy my twos and ninetyfive my fives. Me and Mess. White, Dawson, Tolly and Butler came home together from collecting. [6] I got home at ten ten p.m. It rained this morning but was



fine in the evening. While I was writing some of this I snuffed the candle out and was obliged to leave off and go to bed in the dark. It was then about eleven forty five p.m. Mr Dawson gave me my *Family Doctor* today when I went in for my two o'clock duty. Sunday December the fifth I arose at eight a.m. I cleaned my wellington boots and attended to my birds before breakfast. I went to Hoxton Church in the morning, the Reverend W.W. Mills preached the sermon. He took his text from the second verse of the fifth chapter of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians, the words was 'For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord [7] so cometh as a thief in the night'. At breakfast this morning Father told us of a dream he had last night. It was to this effect, that he was in the country and Mr John Green was with him and a man put a pistol to Father's head and said he would blow his brains out, and another man said if he did he would blow his brains out, and then there was several came with pistols and arranged so that if they shot Father they would all be shot by shooting one another. Then Dr Key came in and told them not to shoot Father, as he was insane, and then he was before some gentlemen when Dr Key said he was insane again and these gentlemen said he must be [8] taken care of. Father thought he was not insane but he would appear so as they said it, and then he would see what they intended to do with him, as he thought there was something wrong. I wrote this in the afternoon by the advise of Mother and as I think it a rather curious dream. In the afternoon William and Lizzie Poulton came. Sarah came over to tea. In the evening I went out with the intention of going to St. Paul's Cathedral, but it being full I went to a church opposite the General Post Office. I asked a person who was the Minister and he said he thought it was a Mr Webber, one of the minor canons of St. Paul's Cathedral (*Rev. W.C.F. Webber, 1815-81*). He was a very good one. He took his text from the thirtyseventh [9] verse of the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The words was 'Now when they heard this they were pricked in their hearts and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"' Lizzie, Sarah and B. Prentice went out with the intention of going to St. Paul's Cathedral. They could not get in, so they took a walk and they was at our door when I came home. Father went to Aunt Sarah's. We all came home about nine p.m. This day has been fine. I went to bed about eleven p.m. There was a new moon this morning at ten ten. Monday December the sixth I arose at seven fortyfive a.m. I cleaned my blucher boots before break - [10] fast. I began business at ten a.m. Father went over to Mr. Hacks before I went out to tell him that very likely a party would call on him about our reference. When I came home about twelve thirty p.m. I went to W. Jessmei in Felton Terrace, Hoxton to be measured for a pair of blucher boots. (*William Jessmei, boot & shoemaker, is listed in the Post Office Directory for 1863 at 11a Southgate Terrace.*) When I came home at seven thirty p.m. I practised till eight thirty p.m. Me and Mess. White, Dawson, Tolly and Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. I was eightyseven minutes doing my tens, seventy my twos, and eightyfive my fives. This day has been fine, but the afternoon, evening and night has been very foggy. I write this day's diary before going to bed. I go to bed at eleven p.m. [11] Tuesday December the seventh I arose at seven fifty a.m. After breakfast I went to Mr Haines's to practise. I paid for another quarter's lesson twelve shillings. When I came home at twelve ten p.m. I practised till dinner time, and when I came home at seven twenty p.m. I practised till eight thirtyfive p.m. Uncle John came in twice today, once at four p.m., and seven forty p.m. He got Father to write an account about his scaffol(d)ing that a Mr. Wilson had got. I was seventy minutes doing my tens, fifty my twos, and sixtythree my fives. This day has been fine. While I was collecting J. Butler overtook me at Felix Terrace, Liverpool Road with his collection [12] and we both went in the



office together. Me and Dawson, Tolly and Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten five p.m. There was a marriage today from number six Grange Street, Hoxton at the Holy Trinity Church, Shepherdess Walk, and one from fortyeight Gerrard Street, Islington, but where they went to be married I do not know. I go to bed about eleven twenty p.m. I see Mr. Hepworth at work at number three Cambridge Terrace, Gerrard Street while I was doing my tens. Wednesday December the eighth I arose at seven a.m. I cleaned my bird cages and blucher boots before breakfast. After breakfast I practised for a little while, but it came over so dark I was obliged [13] to leave off. I began business at ten a.m. When I came home at twelve fifteen p.m. I practised till one p.m., and when I came home at seven thirty till eight thirty p.m. J. Dawson came this evening to hear how I got on with my first quarter's lesson. Uncle John's trial between him and Mr. Wilson came off today at Guildhall. Mr. Justice Willis tried the case. Mr (blank) was Uncle John's counsellor, he got a verdict and ten pounds damages for Uncle. Father was there from ten a.m. until two thirty p.m. Mr. Lewis was his solicitor. *(The case of Poulton v. Wilson in the Court of Common Pleas before Mr. Justice Willes and a Common Jury is reported in The Times, 9 December 1858. The plaintiff, a bricklayer, sought to recover damages for detention of scaffolding and tools and for slanderous words uttered by defendant. As the slander was published two years before the writ, damages of £10 were awarded for the detention alone.)* I was eightytwo minutes doing my tens, sixtyseven my twos and seventyfive my fives. This day has been fine but dull. One of the executors came this afternoon about the house [14] and in the evening the Nephew came. Uncle John said he would call this evening, but did not come. Charley, his son, see father at the door and asked him if his Father was here. He had not seen him since the trial. I write this day's diary before going to bed. Me and Mess. Dawson, Tolley and Butler came home together from collecting. I got to bed about eleven thirty p.m. I spoke to Mr Frost today in Shepherdess Walk opposite Edmonds Place. Thursday December the ninth I arose at seven five a.m. I began business at ten a.m. When I came home at eleven fortyfive a.m. I practised until one p.m. I was fiftyfive minutes doing my tens, sixty my twos and sixty my fives. I had my nine p.m. collection [15] done by Gotch. I went to Father at the Britannia Theatre at seven thirty p.m. We see performed a piece called 'The workhouse, palace and jail', a dance by Madame Celeste and the Coup d' (*Corps de*) Ballet. Then Mr. Ross's singing entertainment and a piece called 'The beguiled one, or the Duke's victim'. *(Britannia Theatre, High Street, Hoxton, built by Sam Lane as Britainnia Saloon 1841, enlarged in 1850, and again in 1858. (On 20 December Harvey refers to his mother and sister's visit to the "new" Theatre.) 'The workhouse, palace and jail' was presumably 'The workhouse, the palace and the grave', first performed at the Britannia on 6 December 1858. Mr Ross was probably William Griffith Ross, comic music-hall singer.)* It was over at ten fortyfive p.m. I went to bed at twelve p.m. I see Edward Waller in the Theatre, but did not speak to him. This day has been fine. Friday December the tenth. I arose at eight a.m. and began business at ten a.m. Came home at eleven fortyfive a.m. I practised till one p.m. Father went in the City this morning on business. In the evening when I came home at seven fifteen p.m. I practised till [16] eight p.m. When Lizzie and Sarah knocked knocked I let them in and afterwards when they went out again I began to practise and dropped my bow and broke it, so that I could not mend it. Mother went to Aunt Martha's (*usually spelled Matha*), but she was not at home, so she came back without seeing her. This day has been fine but cold. I (*was*) sixtyfive minutes doing my tens, sixty my twos and sixtytwo my fives. Me and Dawson and Tolley came home together from collecting. White and Butler met us at the corner of Linton Street in



New North Road. I got home at ten fifteen p.m. and went to bed at eleven p.m. Saturday December the eleventh I arose at seven thirty a.m. [17] I attended to the birds before breakfast. Afterwards I tried to mend my bow, but could not. I began business at ten a.m. As I was going to the Office one of the sorters that sorts the Barnet Ride overtook me. We went in together. When I came home at twelve a.m. I practised till twelve fifteen p.m. and when I came home at seven fortyfive p.m., till eight fortyfive p.m. W. Puddicombe overtook me while I was doing my fives in Alfred Street. I was sixty minutes doing my tens, sixty my twos and eightyfive my fives. This day has been fine but cold. While we was stting (*sic*) our two o'clock letters in Mr Heath gave us all the month's number of the *British Workmen* (*presumably the British Workman, an illustrated monthly addressed to workers and their families, seeking to promote their welfare through encouragement of hard work, etc.: Warwick Guide to British Labour Periodicals*) and a Almanack of the same. [18] I heard that a Gentleman in Islington sent them to all the men in the Office. They had not my paper when I called for it at seven thirty p.m., so me and Dawson and Tolly went for it after we had collected at nine p.m. I got home at ten p.m. We was all at home to supper. I wrote this day's diary before going to bed. I go to bed at twelve p.m. Sunday December the twelfth I arose at eight thirty a.m. I cleaned my wellington boots before breakfast and attended to my birds. I went to Hoxton Church this morning. The Rev. H.P. Kelly preached the sermon. He took his text from the first verse of the fourth chapter of the first Epistle of Paul the Apostle to [19] the Corinthians, the words was 'Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God'. Mr A.P. Kelly was not there all day. In the afternoon Lizzie went to Mrs. Dimes's. In the evening I went to Church. The Reverend W.W. Mills preached the sermon. He took his text from the twelfth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke. The words was 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a Kingdom'. When I came home Mrs. Matthews, Martha and Eliza Powell was in the Parlour. Mrs. Matthews went upstairs about nine p.m. and the Miss Powells stoped to supper [20] and went away about ten thirty p.m. I went to bed at ten fortyfive p.m. This day was fine but cold, it came on to rain when Lizzie came home at ten fortyfive p.m. Monday December the thirteenth I arose at seven thirty a.m. I cleaned my wellington boots before breakfast. Afterwards I attended to my birds and wrote yesterday's diary. I began business at ten a.m. Mr. Ely came on duty today again at the Northern Office. Last night I drempt that Mr. Curtis during the time he had not been to see us he had been drinking and had turned a drunkard, and that I was hiding behind a door with a drawn sword, and two [21] men was trying to find me to kill me. I thought they passed me and I tried to get out of the place where I was, when I awoke. When I came home at twelve a.m. I practised till one p.m. and when I came home at seven thirty p.m. Aunt Martha, Aunt Betsey and her daughter was at our house. Aunt Martha had been here to tea. I went into the next room to practise and they went away about eight p.m. I practised till eight thirty p.m. I was sixtyeight minutes doing my tens, seventyfive my twos and seventyfive my fives. There was an American Mail out with the fives. Me and Mess. White, Dawson, Tolley and [22] Butler returned home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. We all had supper together. Benjamin Prentice knocked at the door soon after I got in. I write this day's diary before going to bed. This day has been fine but muddy. I go to bed about eleven thirty p.m. I have had just now to go into the kitchen and start some cats out of the yard that was fighting under my bedroom window. Tuesday December the fourteenth I arose at seven a.m. I brushed three pairs of boots and attended to my birds before breakfast. I had to light the fire after father had lit it, it having gone out. I went



to Mr. Haines's and began business at ten a.m. When [23] I came home at eleven fortyfive a.m. I practised for thirty minutes and when I came home at seven fifteen p.m. I tried to mend my violin bow. I was sixty minutes doing my tens, sixty my twos and sixtyfive my fives. Last night I dream'd that me and Lewinton was going to Australia as sorters over there. There has been no rain today, but it has been muddy. Me and White, Dawson, Tolley and Butler returned home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. I wrote this day's diary before going to bed. I go to bed about eleven thirty p.m. Wednesday the fifteenth I arose at seven thirty a.m. I attended to my birds before breakfast and began business at ten a.m. [24] After I finished my tens, I took my three bows to a shop in Kingsland Road. One was to be mended for a shilling and the other two I left for three pence. From there I went to W. Jessmie in Felton Terrace about my blucher boots that he had to make. I got home at twelve fortyfive p.m. When I came home at seven thirty I wrote till I went to collect. I was fiftyfive minutes doing my tens, fortyseven my twos, and ninety my fives. Mr. Bowler came in the office at six p.m. Mr. Tarrant was on duty, Mr. Heath being off ill. Me and White, Dawson, Tolley and Butler returned home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. It rained today a little. I [25] went to bed at eleven fifteen p.m. Thursday December the sixteenth I arose at seven thirty a.m. Mr. Curtis came in after breakfast. Gotch done my ten and two o'clock deliveries today for me. I paid him eight pence each. Me and father went on board the 'Great Eastern'. (*I.K. Brunel's vessel had been launched on 31 January 1858, but lay unfinished at Deptford throughout the year whilst its future was considered and a new company formed. During this time it became a venue for sightseers : L.T.C. Rolt, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, 1957, ch.14.*) We left London Bridge at ten twenty a.m. and returned at one fifteen p.m. We had some stout and biscuits on board and bought a shell on board, we gave a shilling for it. I went to Kingsland Road coming home, to get my bow, but the party was not at home. I said I would go in the evening. I got home at one forty p.m. While we was having our dinner [26] Uncle John came in. My first duty today was to collect at five p.m. I was sixtyfive minutes doing my fives. When I was emptying out my five o'clock collecting Mr. Ely said to me he should want me to examine the letters for one of the branches. Mr. Fisher told me it was the North Eastern. I done it this hour for the first time. After I finished my fives I went for my violin bow. I paid one shilling and left two old bows for threepence for the mending. In coming back I met Aunt Mary at the top of Ivy Lane in Hoxton and H. Hudson at the top of Salisbury Street in Bridport Place. When I came home I practised [27] for half an hour. Me and White, Dawson, Tolley and Butler and Tucker came home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. This day had been fine but cold. Friday December the seventeenth I arose at seven thirty a.m. After breakfast Mr. Curtis (*called*). I cleaned my blucher boots and began business at ten a.m. When I came home at eleven fortyfive a.m. I practised till one p.m. W. Jessmie brought home my new blucher boots. I gave him eleven shillings for them and he took my other blucher boots away with him to mend the heels. The nephew of the lady that died in Dorchester Street came this morning to say that his cousin [28] was going to have the house there. Uncle William came in this evening. I practised from seven thirty till eight thirty p.m. I was fifty minutes doing my tens, sixtyfive my twos and sixtyfive my fives. Me and Messieurs White, Dawson, Tolley and Butler returned home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. and went to bed at eleven fifteen p.m. This day has been fine but cold. Saturday December the eighteenth I arose at seven a.m. After breakfast I attended to my birds and began business at ten a.m. It came on to rain while I was doing my tens and continued off and on all day. The evening was very wet. I put on my new blucher



boots. When I [29] came home at eleven fortyfive a.m. I bought three pair of stockings for one shilling and three pence and a scarf one shilling and a halfpenny. I practised for thirty minutes at twelve fifteen p.m. Susan Wingrove brought home Father's shirt at three thirty p.m. I got very wet doing my fives. I was fifty minutes doing my tens, sixtyfive my twos and sixtyfive my fives. Gotch done J. Dawson's five o'clock delivery and nine o'clock collection. Me and White and Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten ten p.m. Mr. Curtis came in this evening. Father and Lizzie went to Mr. Goad's (*Alfred Goad, watchmaker*) thirteen [30] High Street, Islington to buy a pair of earrings. She gave thirteen shillings for the pair. Benjamin Prentice came for her while she was gone. I opened the door for him. I got to bed about eleven fifty p.m., very tired. Sunday December the nineteenth I arose at eight thirty a.m. I cleaned my wellington boots before breakfast. I went to Hoxton Church this morning. The Reverend W.W. Mills preached the sermon. He took his text from the twentyfirst and twentysecond verses of the eleventh chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke. The words was 'When a strong man armed keepeth his palace his goods are in peace, but when a stronger than he shall come upon [31] him and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted and divideth his spoils'. Sarah Dimes came to tea. In the evening her and Lizzie went out with the intention of going to St. Paul's Cathedral, but it came on to rain and they went to Pavement Chapel. I went to Hoxton Church, the Rev. H.P. Kelly preached the sermon. He took his text from the fourth and fifth verses of the twentyfirst chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. The words was 'All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet saying, Tell ye the daughter [32] of Sion, Behold the King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon on ass and a colt, the foal of an ass'. When I came home Aunt Mary and Uncle William was at our house. They went before supper. Lizzie and Sarah came in at nine p.m. After supper I scratch my finger with Sarah's brooch. She went home at eleven p.m. I went to bed at eleven fifteen p.m. This day was fine till the evening and then it rained very fast. Monday December the twentieth I arose at six thirty a.m. I cleaned my blucher boots before breakfast. After breakfast I practised for an hour and began business at ten a.m. There was an Australian mail in today. When I came [33] home at twelve fortyfive p.m. I wrote yesterday's diary. I was a hundred minutes doing my tens, eighty my twos and nintytwo my fives. Aunt Martha came to tea, Mr. Powell came for her in the evening. Me and Mess. Dawson and Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten ten p.m. I went to bed at eleven thirty p.m. This day was fine. Tuesday December the twentyfirst I arose at seven thirty a.m. After breakfast I went to Mr. Haines for my lesson and began business at ten a.m. (*In 1856 a Thomas Haines, teacher of music, is listed at 5½ York Place, Islington High Street.*) When I came home at twelve a.m. I practised till one p.m. W. Jessmei brought home my blucher boots he had to heel. I paid him ten pence for them. He [34] took my other pair away with him to sole and heel. Mother and Lizzie went to the Britannia Theatre this evening. They see a piece entitled 'Belinda the Blind, or the cruel stepmother', W. Ross, and a piece entitled 'The Workehouse, Palace and the Jail'. They got home at eleven thirty p.m. This was the first time of them seeing the new Theatre. I was sixtyeight minutes doing my tens, seventy my twos, and ninety my fives. Me and Messieurs Dawson, Tolley and Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten ten p.m. and went to bed at twelve p.m. This day was very wet. Wednesday the twentysecond day of December I arose at seven thirty a.m. I began [35] business at ten a.m. While I was doing tens I had to go through St. John's Catholic Church, Duncan Terrace to see Mr. Somers about a letter I had for a certain party. He took the letter and said he would give it to Mr Haines's



mother for him. While I was doing my twos I met Mr. Warner at the top of Gerrard Street in Montague Place. He said that Mr. Taylor had been discharged from Mr. G. Evans's and that Jonah Smith was still there. When I came home at seven fifteen p.m. I went out with Father. He bought two pair of carpet slippers at W. Leaver's (*William Leaver, shoemaker*), thirteen Pimlico Walk, Hoxton, one for himself, and one for me. He gave four [36] shillings for the two pair. From there we went to a shop in Kingsland Road and he bought a inkstand. He gave three shillings and sixpence for it. I brought them home and he went to Aunt Sarah's. I was seventytwo minutes doing my tens, seventyfive my twos and seventy my fives. Me and Messieurs Dawson, Tolley and Butler returned home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. and went to bed at ten fortyfive p.m. We only had one shower of rain this morning but it was very muddy today. Thursday December the twentythird. I arose at seven a.m. I cleaned my blucher boots before breakfast. I began business at ten a.m. When I came home at twelve [37] a.m. I practised till one p.m. Aunt Martha was here when I came home. She went away before dinner. When I went to collect at five p.m. I called upon A. Gotch in Windsor Street, Islington to know whether he could do my night collection, but he could not as he was going to do the eights on Milner Square. I met W. Puddicombe and J. Leathers in the Antique Parlour of the 'Queen's Head' Public House, Lower Street N. after I finished my nine o'clock collection, to settle about the Christmas gratuities. They had it all their own way. While we was in there Mess. Langley, Rivers, Collier and a party that was on for Mr. Fisher came in. We left there at twelve [38] p.m. Me and Rivers came home together. I got home at twelve fifteen a.m. While I was doing my fives I see a gent get out of a Hansom Cab and in going to knock at twentyone fall down on his knees and hurt himself. I was fifty minutes doing my tens, sixtyfive my twos and sixtyfive my fives. This day was wet and windy. I go to bed at twelve thirty a.m. Saturday December the twentyfifth, Christmas Day, I arose at seven a.m. I cleaned my blucher and wellington boots before breakfast and began business at ten a.m. It was a fine morning till ten fortyfive a.m. and then it came on to rain, and continued all day. It left off about nine p.m. I was eightytwo minutes doing my tens. Mr. Powell and Aunt Martha came to dinner, tea and supper. Lizzie dressed herself up in my official clothes and went over to Mrs. Dimes'. Benjamin Prentice came in the parlour and he did not know Lizzie at first in them. She went [41] to his house to tea, but was at home to dinner. Me and Mr. Powell sung three songs each in the evening. He sung 'The Waterman', 'The little woman' and 'The stage-struck barber'. I sung 'The hay-makers', 'The Englishman' and 'Hot codlings'. Mother was very ill in the evening. Aunt and Mr. Powell went away at eleven p.m. Lizzie came home at twelve thirty a.m. Benjamin Prentice see her home. I went to bed at twelve thirty a.m. Monday December the twentyseventh I arose at six fortyfive a.m. I cleaned [43] my blucher boots before breakfast and went out at nine a.m. I met W. Puddicombe at the corner of Britannia Row in Britannia Fields. I commenced boxing at number one, Church Street, Islington. I boxed a little while before I began business, which I commenced at ten a.m. D. White was off duty all day. A. Gotch done his duty. I went to boxing after I finished my tens and continued till one fortyfive p.m. (*Presumably collecting Christmas boxes. According to E. Bennett, The Post Office and its story, it was customary for postmen to ask for Christmas gratuities.*) I went into the office and Mr. Tarrant allowed Tucker to do my twos as they owed me a turn. I went down in kitchen and had my dinner and then went to boxing till five p.m. when I collected. After I finished my fives [44] I came home. Mr. Powell and Aunt was at home and Benjamin Prentice. We had a little singing, Mr. Powell was rather tipsey. They all left about twelve fifteen a.m. I was seventytwo minutes doing my tens, and



eightyfive my fives. Me and J. Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten p.m. This day was fine but very cold. I went to bed at twelve thirty a.m., very tired. I left Mrs Matthews in the parlour with Mother. Wednesday December the twenty- [46] ninth I arose at six thirty a.m. I cleaned my bird cage before breakfast. I went out at nine a.m. I asked Mr. Tarrant to allow A. Gotch to do my tens, which he did. Mr. Clifton came in the office this morning. When I came home at four p.m. Aunt Martha was at our house. Henry Waller called today in the afternoon. Mother opened the door, she was the only person that seen him. Lizzie went with Benjamin Prentice to the British Museum and in the evening to the Grecian Theatre. (*The Grecian Theatre was built in the grounds of the Eagle Saloon, Shepherdess Walk, Britannia Fields, Hoxton. It opened as a concert hall in 1832 and was licensed as a theatre in 1851. Rebuilt in 1876, it was sold to the Salvation Army in 1881.*) They see a piece called 'A story of a night' and the pantomime entitled 'Guy Faux'. They got home about twelve p.m. I was sixty minutes doing [47] my twos and eightytwo my fives. Me and J. Butler returned home together from collecting. I got home at ten ten p.m. Mother was very ill today. Aunt Martha went away about eight thirty p.m. Mother went to bed at ten thirty p.m. and I went at eleven p.m. Father and Lizzie at twelve fifteen a.m. This (day) has been fine, but very cold. Thursday December the thirtieth I arose at six thirty a.m. I wrote yesterday's diary and went out at nine a.m. Father had to go for Mr. Key, Mother was so ill. I called at A. Gotch's, sixty Windsor Street, Lower Street, Islington to know whether he would do my tens, but he could not, as he was going to [48] do the twelves. After I finished my tens I boxed till twelve. I then went in the office to see whether I could get my twos done, but there was no-one to do them. I went back and boxed till two p.m. Me and J. Beman walked to the office together from Essex Street. We met W. Puddicombe in St. Peter's Street. I was fiftyfive minutes doing my tens, eighty my twos and ninty my fives. I met this morning a young man that used to work at Mess. Thomas and Brothers at the time I did. (*Presumably William Thomas & Bros., wholesale boot - & shoemakers, 128-9 Cheapside.*) He was with Mr. Galloway cutting out boots there. He had got a holiday today. Me and Messieurs Dawson, Tolley and Butler returned home together from collecting. [49] I got home at ten ten p.m. Dawson wanted me to go home with him and spend an hour or two, but I did not go. After I got home I went out again as far as Bricklayers Arms to buy three oranges for Mother. I bought them of Mr. Sidney and gave him three pence for them. I went to bed at eleven thirty p.m. This day was wet at times. Friday December the thirtyfirst I arose at six thirty a.m. I wrote yesterday's diary and cleaned my blucher boots before breakfast. I had to go out at eight thirty a.m., commence business at eight fortyfive. This alteration put two extra collections on me. There was an alteration in the [50] dutys today : my day collections are thirteen High Street and nintysix Upper Street, Islington; my night collection fifteen Essex Street, thirteen High Street, and fortyfour Penton Street, Islington. I had to do the papers when I came in with my collection at nine twenty p.m. After I finished my tens I went to boxing till twelve a.m. Aunt Martha, Mr. Powell, Mrs. Wingrove and her daughter was at our house today. I was fiftyfive minutes doing my tens, eighty my twos and ninetyfive my fives. Mother was very ill today with a bilious feaver attack. Me and Messieurs Dawson and Butler came home together from collecting. I got home at ten fifteen p.m. [51] I mean this to be my last day of keeping this diary unless I alter my mind. This being the last day of the old year 1858 I shall set up till twelve thirty a.m. to see the old year out and the new one in. This day has been dull and damp. D. White was off duty all day after his nine o'clock collection. Jackson done his duty. I met White boxing when I went home to my tea. Uncle William came here this evening.



I shall read the Bible, the old year out and the new one in and thank God I am better and have been better in health this year than I was last year. I pray I may continue in good health. Wishing all Friends [52] and relations the same with a happy new year, bidding all 'good night' till eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, and may it be a prosperous one to all.

*A copy of a letter Father sent to Mr. John Green, July the twentieth, eighteen [55] hundred and fifty-seven.* Sir, I have made bold to write to you, hoping to find you and your family quite well. I came down on purpose to see you a fortnight ago, but you was not at home, for as the year is now up since poor Uncle and Aunt died, I shall be glad if you will let me have the hundred pounds you promise me, and as you was not at home I went to your Brother's and left a message which he said he would deliver, and as I have not heard from you, I thought I had better write to you, thinking he had forgot to mention my coming.

*A copy of another letter sent by Father on the twenty-seventh of the same month and year as the above.* Sir, I [56] was very much surprised at your very unsatisfactory letter. You must know there was not a third person anything to do with the promise I had made me of a hundred pounds. It rest entirely with you and your Brother. You and him was to give it me, the other party was only a witness to the promise. I ought not to have left without a written agreement, but you being a man, as I supposed, of strict religious principles, I did not for a moment suppose you would forget your word. If my Uncle had not been in such a state of imbecility when he made his will, I should be in the same position that you are and should have freely given a poor relation the same you promised me. I now [57] conclude, hoping that very shortly you will prove to me and others that you ment what you said.

*A copy of a letter sent by me to Mr. Bokenham, Controller, in answer to a complaint concerning a letter that was left at the County Court, Duncan Terrace, instead of the Reverend Canon Oakley's.*

I do not think it was me left it, for first they said it was Puddicombe, then Leathers and then me. Sir, I beg to state I have no recollection of the letter addressed to twenty-nine Duncan Terrace, which was left at the County Court. I feel certain it must in some way or other adhered to one of the County Court letters, it being so unlike them I could not have [58] made the mistake as to leave it for the County Court. The Reverend Gentlemen is quite satisfied with my explanation, as you will see by the enclosed. Trusting you will be the same and it shall not occur again, I remain, Sir, your humble servant, Edward Harvey, Shoreditch Office, July the sixteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven. (pp. 59-68 : recipes probably copied from a magazine.) Sunday, November the thirtieth, eighteen hundred and fiftysix. *The measurement of my first official suit* : Length of waist from collar behind, twentyone inches; of skirt, sixteen; from centre of back to elbow, twenty; elbow to hand, thirteen; round the arm at top, fifteen; elbow, eleven and a half; wrist the same; length of collar, ten and a half, depth, three and a half; round the breast, thirtyseven; waist thirtythree and a half. Trousers : side seam, fortytwo inches; leg seam, twenty-nine; round the waist, thirtyone; hips, thirtyseven; thick of the thigh, [69] twentytwo; knee, seventeen; bottom, eighteen. *A copy of verses wrote by Henry Waller of sixteen Fleming Street, N., to the tune of 'life on the ocean wave'.* First verse : 'life in a chandler's shop/Just in Vilkes's Place/The master his wife he vops/A(nd) smacks his sister's face. (Second) : Now ain't he a rascal for that/And that you can plainly see./ He voped his sister pat/Cos she did not



make his tea. (Third) : The coward the door he locked/Then caught her by the throat/And with his hand her head he knocked/Just like a chap copping a moake. (Fourth) : The vagerbone gave her a kick/And don't he deserve another/If he don't mind, I will give him a lick/Though he is my only brother. (Fifth) : Such a [70] scoundrel is not fit to live/Just in Vilkes's Place./One hundred pounds I would give/To get rid of such a disgrace.

My sister, Elizabeth Harvey, born the seventh of May, eighteen hundred and thirtynine, at nine o'clock a.m. on a Tuesday. (*Daughter of Edward Harvey, tailor, and Elizabeth, née Poulton, born at No.9 Rodney Court, Chapel Street, Curtain Road. The birth certificate gives date of birth as 8 June 1839, but this is presumably a confusion with the date of registration.*) She came of age on the seventh of May eighteen hundred and sixty, Leap Year, the day being Monday. I bought her a dress ring and a brooch at Mr. Goad's, thirteen High Street, Islington. She [71] met me at eleven a.m. in Clarence Street, Islington on the day and I bought them. I gave seven shillings for the ring and two shillings for the brooch. Father and Mother gave her a Church service (*book*), and cousin Rachel a neck ribbon. We had a party and kept it up till two thirty a.m. the next morning. J. Burton done my night collection on Monday. We had Mrs. Matthews, Betsey, Sarah and Louisa Dimes (Ted Dimes was to have come but did not, he having met his cousin, Charley, and got detained), George and Benjamin Prentice, Aunt Martha and Mr. Powell, Rachel, who stoped till the next night when Charles Elkington came for her. They went away at eleven p.m. and came back [72] at eleven fortyfive p.m. just as I was about to go to bed, she having forgot a parcel she ought to have taken with her. Friday the eighteenth day of May eighteen hundred and sixty, Leap Year, is my twenty third birthday. The Queen keeps her birthday this year today and we are to wear our new cloths. The hat is new, the trousers is new, a grey colour, with red stripe down the leg, but the coat is last year's, only been washed. (*The period from 1855 to 1861 was one of considerable change in postal uniform, which in the latter year finally settled into the blue coat and (winter) trousers which were to be associated with the appearance of the postman for many years. (From 1837 to 1855 London letter carriers had a blue uniform cut-away coat; from 1855 to 1861 this became a red frock coat. Before 1855 there had been no uniform trousers, a feature seized on by contemporary humorists.) The issue to London letter carriers in 1860 was one hat, two coats, two pairs of trousers and a waistcoat annually, and a waterproof cape every two years : Post Office Green Papers No.27 (GPO, 1936), pp.7-11.*)... We need not wear our trousers today [73] unless we like, Mr. Honey says. I shall not wear anything till next Tuesday. It is very wet today. After I finished my tens me and Father take a walk in Shoreditch to look at some rings, but did not buy any. He bought some wine at Dirty Dick's and coming home he bought the lining (*Harvey wrote tining*) for our two new waistcoats that the Misses Powells gave us, Mrs. Dean has them to make and the lining for my official trousers. At Mr. Lock's in High Street, Hoxton we had Oxtail and the soup for dinner. Father met me at seven p.m. at Mr. Goad's, thirteen High Street, Islington to buy me a ring there, which he did. He gave ten shillings [74] and sixpence for it. I had from there to go back to the office to get a key for the pillar box, J. Burton having forgot to give me ours. The two vacant walks was put up today for competition - the E class on Downham Road, Judkins that had it being pensioned off, and the D class on Nicholas Street, H. Stephens deceased. He died last Monday, the day on which the Letter Carriers' meeting was held at St. Martin's Hall, Mr. Bennett F.R.C.S. in the chair. (*The meeting, on 14 May, aired the general grievances of overwork and low pay, and the particular problems of extra*



*midday duties and promotion by merit. A resolution was passed asking for a parliamentary inquiry to investigate grievances.)*

I was born at one p.m. on Thursday the eighteenth of May, eighteen hundred and thirtyseven. Lizzie gave me a purse this evening as a birthday present and Mother a snuff box with snuff in it. Ted Dimes gave it to her one Sunday when we was all at his Mother's house. [75] He picked it up in a box at one of the theatres. We had our stores given us today, consisting of pens, paper, pencil and two books. I got home from collecting at ten p.m. and Benjamin Prentice and Mrs. Matthews drank my health. I went to bed at twelve ten a.m.

Wednesday May the twentythird eighteen hundred and sixty was Father's fiftieth birthday. I made him a present of a ring with his Initials on the inside. I bought it the day before he met me at Mr Goad's at eleven a.m. I bought then and left it to have the Initials on it and left mine with it for the same purpose, so that each ring cost [76] us eleven shillings. I called for them at eight fifteen a.m. on Wednesday the twentythird. Mother gave Father a walking stick. I bought it for her the Saturday previous at a Tobacconist in Britport Place, Hoxton. I gave one shilling and sixpence for it. Aunt Martha and Mr. G. Powell gave Father a small snuff box. Father was born at nine thirty a.m. on a Wednesday, eighteen hundred and ten at Great Wakering, Essex. His father was a saddle and harness maker there. (*Joseph Harvey, collar maker, appears in Kelly's Directory for 1832.*)

A DIARY OF RICHARD DIMES'S WHEN HIM AND HIS BROTHER SAILED FOR NEW YORK AMERICA. (*This account may be compared with those given in T. Coleman, Passage to America (1972; Penguin Books, 1974), which presents a blacker picture of experiences of emigrants in a slightly earlier period, 1846-55.*)

We hauled out of Dock the thirtyfirst of March on a Thursday eighteen hundred and fiftynine and laid in the outer basin until Saturday twelve o'clock when we made a start. Took two steamers which [78] took us down to Gravesend. When going down the river they had all the Passengers on deck to call their names over and see if they was all there. While (*we were*) on deck they searched between decks and found three stowed away who were sent up by the tugs. When the tugs left us we set the top sails, maintop gallant sail, and two jibs, passed the Nore Light at seven o'clock and came to anchor at eight o'clock the upper side of Margate.

Sunday morning six o'clock they weighed anchor and at one p.m. we passed the Foreland. The wind blowing heavy from the westward, we beat down till eight p.m. and anchored off Deal. This afternoon being very rough nearly all [79] the Passengers was sick. Joe was very bad. During the evening we had thick fogs pass over. Turned in at 9 p.m.

Monday the fourth of April the ship very quiet. Joe ate a good breakfast. This day was beautiful. We laid close in shore. There was a good number of ships in the downs, wind-bound. We did not start until Tuesday morning four o'clock. This day light winds from the west. Everything very comfortable.

Wednesday the sixth of April the wind shifted round to the eastward, but very light. Had out studding sails. In the night the Pilot left us.



Thursday morning fine. In the afternoon the wind came out west with fogs. Had music and dancing.

Friday the eighth the [80] wind increasing till it blew a perfect gale which lasted all night. Joe very ill.

Saturday still blowing hard from the west, under close reefed top sails. Could see the land.

Sunday the tenth the same land still in sight. Finished the white bread. At night saw the Lizard Light.

Monday saw land and spoke (to) a Falmouth Pilot. Our Captain asked him to report us. Saw the Scilly Islands in the afternoon. Run right out of sight of land at nine p.m. There was a great excitement among the Passengers caused by the sailors running aft with buckets of water and smoke issueing from the cabin. The weather was very rough and they had a great fire in the stove. It appears the [81] Captain's wife fell against it and caught her dress on fire and the carpet, table cloth and a few light things but was soon put out.

Tuesday the twelfth blowing very hard from the westward. Twelve o'clock, blowing a gale. Was hove too for twelve hours under close reefed topsails, split fore topmast staysail.

Wednesday the thirteenth cloudy and dark. There was a heavy sea running which caused the ship to labour badly. Finished up with heavy rains.

Thursday the fourteenth very boisterous, squally. At one p.m. struck all aback with a squall which carried away the maintops and yard, tore the sheets out of the stay sails and [82] split nearly every sail. The ship looked a complete wreck. For about two hours there was a great sea which made the ship roll tremendous. One of the Farmers, Father noticed, was thrown down the main hatch and put his arm out. A great many was thrown out of their bunks. We laid hove too all night, knocking about.

Friday the fifteenth light winds from the west and fine weather. Very busy today rigging a new yard and mending sails. In the evening wind came out north, not too much of it. Set studding sails and made a good run.

Saturday the sixteenth still going ahead and fine weather. Finished Mother's pudding.

Sunday the seventeenth wind [83] worked round to the east and plenty of it. Set fore and main studding sails. The Captain's wife gave us a testament each. In the night a child died.

Monday the eighteenth the child was thrown overboard. The wind just the same.

Tuesday the nineteenth the same as yesterday. By this time Joe had pretty well recovered from his sickness.



Wednesday the twentieth the wind dropped and it rained heavy. In the evening a dead calm. The weather looked very nasty.

Thursday the twentyfirst still calm but a very heavy sea which shewed the wind had been blowing heavy somewhere handy.

Good Friday morning, calm. Afternoon, light easterly winds. [84]

Saturday the twentythird the same. In the (*evening the*) passengers got up a Judge and Jury and a very good thing it was, but the wind coming on to blow put a stop to it. It blew gale all night from the northeast very dark and thick.

Easter Sunday strong winds and cold. The afternoon, rain.

Monday the twentyfifth light winds from the north. In the evening a Judge and Jury, afterwards a concert.

Tuesday the twentysixth light winds from the north. In the afternoon heavy with squalls and rain. The man I told Frank I thought looked like C. Martin was thrown down the hatch and broke his leg. He suffered very much the remainder of the voyage, could not leave his [85] bed.

Wednesday the twentyseventh wind northeast, blowing hard with rain and fog, very cold. The weather was so cold that our feet was covered with chilblains. In the night passed several Iceburgs.

Thursday the twentyeighth the same.

Friday the twentyninth still blowing hard but fine. At eleven a.m. sighted a large Iceburg said to be two miles long. It was a beautiful sight, the sun shining on it, but it was so cold we could not stop on deck long.

Saturday the thirtieth still blowing hard from the west and rained all day. A thick fog came over which lasted all night. The fog was so thick we could not see the length of the ship. The [86] bell and fog horn was kept going all the time. They got the gun loaded and the boats supplied ready to launch in case of an accident. We was going about four miles an hour. At twelve p.m. a large ship bound to the eastward, running ten miles an hour, passed within ten yards of us. If she had struck us both must have smashed up.

Sunday May the first still in a thick fog. In the afternoon it cleared up a little. Saw a great many whales.

Monday the second light westerly winds and calm.

Tuesday and Wednesday light wind and fine but very cold. In the night a row took place between the second mate and crew in which [87] the Second Mate got awfully cut about. Belaying pins and Et caetera where going to work. It was put a stop to by the Captain showing his revolver.



Thursday the fifth calm and warm.

Friday the sixth calm. Afternoon (*wind?*) came out from the west.

Saturday the seventh a thick fog. Wind S.W.

Sunday the eighth the same.

Monday the ninth light winds and calm.

Tuesday the tenth calm. Afternoon (*wind?*) came out east.

Wednesday the eleventh strong easterly winds. The main topmast studding sail blew away, carried the boom with it. Hove try to get it and split the fore topmast staysail.

Thursday the twelfth it blew a heavy gale from [88] the east. The Captain became very uneasy. He knew he was very near the land. He had not got an observation for seven days. He tried to signalize a Brig which passed very close to us, but they could not attend to it, the blowing (*was*) so hard. He tried to sound, could not find bottom. Hove to all night and fired rockets and loaded the gun, expecting to go ashore every minute.

Friday the thirteenth the weather calmed down. At seven a.m. saw a Pilot Boat. At eight a.m. took a Pilot who said we was twentyone miles from Sandy Hook (*New Jersey*). Had light winds from the north. Sighted the Highland at one p.m. and came to anchor off Sandy Hook at ten p.m.

Saturday the four-[89]teenth took a steamtug at three a.m. and anchored off Castle Gardens at ten thirty a.m. (*Castle Garden, at the southern tip of Manhattan, had been built as a fort, 1807-9. It was later a place of entertainment, and was opened by the Commissioners of Emigration as an emigrant depot in August 1855.*) It was a fine day and beautiful sight going up the bay. There was two ships to discharge their passengers through Castle Gardens before us, which made it four p.m. before we got ashore. As far as the ship is concerned, I think she is a very good and safe ship. She is very wide and floaty and makes good weather of it. The passengers turned out to be (*a*) pretty respectable lot. The bunk next to us, inclosed in, was taken by four young fellows rather well off. They had good stores and plenty of tobacco. I used to do a little cooking for them when they was sick, so I [90] got more smoke than I wanted. When we went ashore I suppose I had above half a pound of tobacco left. The Jews next to us were very comfortable and friendly. We used to give them some of our stores, such as oatmeal, rice etc., for which we got herrings, both pickled and smoked. In fact, we could anything by exchange, the passengers being so well stored. The ship's stores where first rate. The allowances we got was plenty to live on. They gave us as much biscuit as we could eat and full allowance of water very day. The ship was fitted with iron tanks and the water drawn up on deck by a pump so that we could get it any state of the weather. The only things scarce [91] was oatmeal and sugar. Meat we got over easy enough. I used to go down the hole (*hold*) with the Carpenter and help him break out the barrels and hoist them on deck, for which he used to give me a lump of meat, about seven or eight pounds. Some that brought plenty of preserved meat sold their salt meat at one shilling per pound, bone and all. The water was served out at seven a.m.



and every body had to fetch it or loose it. The between decks had to be swept out and sawdusted and every thing cleaned, such as water closets etc., before eight a.m. That did not interfere with the passengers at all, there being two fellows that could not pay their [92] full passage money agreed to pay half their fare and work. As soon as we got out of the Channel there was another young fellow to be stowed away, so he had to work, which kept the place always clean and comfortable. There was another good arrangement. We had a Passengers' Cook, a New Yorker, who got a free passage for undertaking the job, and well he fulfilled it too. He would not allow anyone in the galley door. You gave him your grub at the door, he would tell you when it would be done, and you had no more trouble than to fetch it at the stated time, and so well did it work that not one passenger lost anything the whole voyage.

\* \* \*

[93] August the twentieth eighteen hundred and sixty. Mother and Father went to Colney Hatch Asylum to see Matilda Poulton, a Patient there. (*The Asylum was at Friern Barnet, Middlesex. Opened in 1851 and extended in 1857 and 1859. The reference to the 'Northern Vauxhall' has not been traced; it might refer to the pleasure grounds at one of the public houses in the district, such as the 'Green Man', Whetstone, or the 'Orange Tree', Colney Hatch.*) They thought she was too sane to be there. They took her some cake and she seemed very pleased with their visit and they promised her they would go again. Mother asked the Doctor to speak to Matilda to see what answers she would give him and by that tell how she was, but he said there was no occasion for it and he would rather not see or speak to her then. Matilda said the Doctor never see or spoke to her as he did to the others. They went into some Gardens while they was down there called the Northern Vauxhall.[94] Tuesday the twentyeighth eighteen hundred and sixty I bought four volumes of the works of Shakspeare at three shillings per book or volume of my cousin, Herbert Poulton.

## SEASIDE HOLIDAY

[95] October the eighth eighteen hundred and sixty I went off for my fourth Official Holliday and I kept a diary of it. I sent a letter to Hannah Witherall on the morning of the twentyninth of last September. It was on a Saturday at seven thirty a.m. I wrote it. October the seventh we all went to Mrs. Powell's in the afternoon. We got home about eleven thirty p.m. Mrs. Matthews was to have come for us there but did not. Ben went with us. October the eighth, Monday, me and Father arose at six a.m. Had breakfast at seven a.m. Ben came at seven thirty. We started out at seven fortyfive. Ben carried our Carpet Bag and see us off. [96] We got to the South Eastern Station at eight thirty, bought a *Daily Telegraph* and had a quartern of gin opposite the station. Father got the tickets while me and Ben sent the bag through the Parcel Office. We paid one shilling and eightpence for it. We bid Ben goodbye and got in a carriage at eight fortyfive. The train started at eight fifty. We went through five tunnels, stoped once to take in water, I got out for a few minutes. Got to Brighton at ten fortyfive a.m. Walked down Queens Road and had a pint of stout and a short cake at a Public House called the 'Morning Star' up a street on the right from the road. (*Refreshments provided by public houses were in a state of transition. In his study Victorian pubs (London, 1975, p.40) Mark Girouard refers to the progression from Captain's biscuits and spongecakes in the 1840s, via 'a glass of ale and a sandwich for fourpence' to pork*



pies and luncheon counters in the 1890s.) We then went down West Street on to the Beach. Got in [97] Yatch called the 'Lady Sale' for a ride on the water. It started at twelve a.m. till one thirty p.m. We paid one shilling each and gave one penny each to the fiddler. Met Mr. Roper on board. I was very sick and others also. We bid Mr. Roper goodbye on the Beach. When we left the Yatch we walked to the Railway Station, got our Carpet Bag and went in search of Lodgings. We took Lodgings at Mr. Clifton's Crystal Palace Dining Rooms, number fifteen and sixteen South Street, close to the sea, left our bag and walked in front of the sea towards Worthing as far as the 'Ship' Public House where we had a pint of half and half and a short cake. Started again and [98] came back by Western Road, North Street through Pavillion Gardens, pass the Barracks to Grand Parade. See part of a wreck on the beach and see them turn the fish out of the net and then went in to tea at lodgings. After tea I wrote some of this diary and then we went to Saint Paul's Church at seven thirty. It was over at eight thirty p.m. When we came out we walked facing the sea to Ship Street. Up there saw the Post Office, Theatre, Canterbury Hall. Went up North Street and round the Town. Went in another Church and heard them practising. Me and father got up a lamp post opposite Buckingham Place and looked over the wall on the Railway Station and Town. We came down [99] Trafalgar Street, Over Street, Frederick Street, West Street, and front of the sea to lodgings. Went in Public Parlour. Father had a pint of half and half and a pipe and I wrote some more of this diary. They was playing at cards and dominoes in the parlour. A young man sung several songs, comic in character and otherwise. We went to bed about twelve thirty a.m. This day has been very fine. Tuesday October the ninth awoke at five thirty. Arose at six ten a.m. Went out at seven till eight fifteen. Went on the beach and Marine Parade. See them fishing and landing the fish, see the men and women bathing. It is a very fine morning. Went through Market Street and the Market. Came back and [100] had for breakfast fresh herrings. Started for the Devil's Dyke at nine thirty. (*A large earthwork on the level top of a spur of the South Downs, some six miles northwest of Brighton; commanding extensive views, it is a popular venue for tourists.*) We got there at eleven thirty and started to come back at one p.m. We had a pint of ale and short cake at Dyke House. Father's white handkerchief blew away out of sight, but we found it when we got to the top of the hill. My cap blew off as we came up the hill but Father caught it before it got far. We got back at two forty five p.m. and had for dinner roast beef, greens, potatoes, ale, and bread and cheese. After dinner I wrote a letter to mother then went out and posted it and walked on the beach and see the sun set. Came back to tea at five thirty. Went out again at six thirty to the Theatre. See the Drama [101] of the Slave, a Dance, The Mummy, The Benceia Boy. Got back at twelve p.m. Heard the young man sing two songs and went to bed at one twenty a.m. This day was very fine. Wednesday October the tenth arose at seven a.m. Went out on the beach till eight thirty a.m. Morning very fine. Came back to breakfast and had ham and water cresses. Started out at nine thirty along the Parade to the Abergavenny Public House where we had a pint of ale. On account of it coming on to rain we stoped there about half an hour. We started again but it came on so fast that we took shelter under the Arches of the Kempt Town walk and parade. (*Kemp Town, a development by Thomas Read Kemp in the 1820s*). We stoped there about twenty minutes and then had to go [102] through the rain to our lodgings and had dinner of cold roast beef, greens, potatoes, ale, and apple turnovers. We read, smoked and played at dominoes all the afternoon. It rained and blew very hard all the afternoon. It left off about six p.m. We had tea and went to the Canterbury Hall at seven thirty p.m. There was only one or two people in when we got there. It was over at eleven fortyfive p.m. We got back to



lodgings at twelve p.m. and sat up till one a.m. We went as far as the beach coming home and found the sea very rough. Thursday October the eleventh we arose at six thirty a.m. put on clean linen and went on the beach. There was a youth drowned while we was there. He was bathing [103] without a machine. His Father wanted him to have one, but he would not, and he was lost in sight of his Father, who went in with his clothes on, but he was pulled out again by some men or man as he could not swim. The youth could not swim or if he could it was but very little. A young man went in after him and got him but could not land him for the waves took him out his hand and the boatman with the Royal Human Societies Boat fetched him out of the water and laid his body on the beach and six or seven men rubbed it for forty or fifty minutes but life was extinct. They took it away on a stretcher and put it in a warm bath, but it was of no use. They [104] then put it in the dead house and held an inquest on the body in the afternoon. We had our boots cleaned and went back to breakfast. We had ham and short cakes for breakfast. It came on to rain about ten a.m. and rained till five p.m. We started out again at nine thirty a.m. Mrs. Clifton gave me two short cakes to take with us. We went along the beach. See them at work at the wreck. Went up the old steyne where we met some horse soldiers. We went to the Extra Mural Cemetery and stoped there an hour, then past the barracks, through Lord Chittester's Park (*the Earl of Chichester*), over the hill and fields into the road by the railway that runs to Hastings. We [105] stoped at the round hill house for an hour and had a pint of ale and the short cakes. We came back through the Pavillion Gardens and arrived at two thirty p.m. Had dinner at three p.m. We had steak, potatoes, greens, and cold apple turnover. We went out again about the town, and in the Old Church to see Pheeby Hessel's grave (*The 'Old Church' was St. Nicholas, the parish church of Brighton. Phoebe Hessel (d.1821) had served for many years as a private soldier in a regiment of foot*), and on the beach, round the town hall, and had a quartern of rum at the corner of Middle Street, and then went in to tea at five thirty p.m. We went out again at six fortyfive to the theatre. We see a piece entitled *Titus Anronicus*, a farce, *Stage Struck*, and *Robinson Cruso*. Mrs. Clifton was there with her Nephew [106] and servant. We went in the Gallery. Coming out, they spoke to us. We got home at eleven fortyfive p.m. and they at twelve. We went to bed at one. This day has been very wet. Friday October the twelveth morning very fine but cold. Arose at six thirty a.m. We went out at seven through the town and Church Yard. See Pheeby Hessel's tombe, then went on to the beach until eight fifteen. See them bathe and fish. Had our boots cleaned and went back to breakfast. We had (*omission?*) with our ale and herrings. We settled our bill and started away at ten a.m. We went into the town hall. We left there and bought two goblets. We gave two shilling for the two. [107] We went to the 'Railway Tavern' and left by the eleven ten a.m. train for Hastings where we arrived at twelve fortyfive p.m. and went direct to the Pelham Coffee House in Pelham Street and had our dinner of roast mutton, beans, and potatoes. After dinner we went to look at our bedroom and then wrote a letter to Mother and posted it and went on the beach. We see the Volenteers practise shooting. They were Artillary Volenteers. (*The Volunteer movement had been inaugurated in May 1859, because of fears over the intentions of Napoleon III, and was extended in 1860.*) We went on the Clift and back by the sea beach. We heard a band play on Pelham Crescent, walked about the Town, then went in to tea at six thirty p.m. Sat some time then went out again at seven thirty p.m., along by the beach and through the Town towards St. Leonards [108] and smoked a cigar on the Parade, and heard a band play. Went in the Holy Trinity Church. Went to High Street. Had a quartern of rum at the 'Jenny Lind' Public House. We spoke to the Landlord and Landlady and gave them a bill from where we was stoping at Brighton,



but they did not know anything of the Party. We came back by the beach to lodgings at ten p.m. While we was out we went on a high hill and viewed the Town and sea by night. It was a fine night. We went to bed at ten thirty. After we got to bed it turned out a very rough night. Saturday October the thirteenth arose at seven fifteen on account of it being a rough morning. We went out on the beach at seven fortyfive and bought a guid in Robertson [109] Street. It cost a shilling. Then came back to breakfast at eight thirty. We had ham for breakfast. A Lady and Gentlemen had their breakfast in the same room. They had hot rolls. The sea was very rough this morning. We went out at nine twenty a.m., along the beach, through the St. Leonards, past the wreck and through the Fields to Bexhill. (*A distance of some five miles west of Hastings, Bexhill was not developed to any extent until the late nineteenth century.*) We had Lunchon and stoped there about an hour. In going there we took shelter under a railway arch and a Soldier came there for the same purpose. We then started to Bexhill, went round the Village and in the Church Yard and then had Lunchon at the 'Bell' Inn. We left there intending to go to Pevensy but it looked so dull we turned back and [110] came towards home. We picked blackberries coming along, and it came on to rain very fast, so we was obliged to take shelter in a public house by the road near Bulverhithe. We had a pint of ale there and stoped there about an hour and then left. We crossed the railway on to the beach to look at wreck of the 'Amsterdam'. We see it and took a small piece of it away with us. We walked across the sands. It came on to rain very fast and we took shelter under a house at the beginning of St. Leonards for twenty minutes, and then went on through the Town to Hastings. We went down to the sea to wash our shoes and went in to tea at six p.m. Before tea we changed our shoes and stockings and left them [111] up stairs, and drank the remainder of our brandy as we was very wet. We had ham for tea and when we finished our tea the Lady and Gentleman that was there in the morning came in to there tea. They had beef and ham for there tea. I wrote some of this diary and asked for the paper. We read and talked until ten p.m. We went to bed at ten thirty p.m. This day was a very dull, cold and wet day. Sunday October the fourteenth we arose at six thirty a.m., went out at seven thirty till eight thirty. We see them sell the fish. Father was shaved in the market. We met the Gentleman on the beach two or three times. We went to the top of the Hill where the Castle stands, then [112] through the town. We had saussages, tea, and coffee for breakfast. The Lady and Gentleman they had saussages and an egg. We went out about ten intending to go direct to Hollington Church (*a small aisleless medieval church with a bell-turret*). We took a footpath across the fields, but we found it so wet we turned back again to the road. We asked the way, and a young man said strait on, and we went but it took us on to Sedlescomb and when we asked a gent he said we was as far from the Church as the Church was from Hastings. We had got as far as a White House with the name of Hewett on it. We then turned back and went across a new road. When we got in the middle of it we found it very muddy. We then took the fields but [113] found them as bad. We then turned to the left and asked two little girls the way. They told us. We went back again to the right and through a white gate, turned to the right along a winding road that we began to think had no end, then into a road to the left. We walked some distance and met a Gent, asked him the way to the Church and he said he wanted to know himself. We all went on together and asked a woman. She told us to go across the fields, where we went. After going down ill and very near falling on our faces through it being so steep we got to the Church at twelve a.m. instead of eleven as we thought we should. The Minister was [114] saying the prayer after the service. It came on to rain very fast for a short time just as we got there, but it left off again and it was beautiful and fine. We stoped in the Church Porch



an hour. The Gent and Father smoked a pipe and I had a cigar. We all left together at one p.m. and came through a Garden to the road. We turned to the right. In the Porch the Gent talked about fishes and the sea, coming home about Australia. We got to Hastings at two p.m. The Gent left us at Pelham Crescent. We went up High Street and across the Fields to the Dripping Well, Lovers Seat, Fairlight Church, and past the Windmills home. (*This excursion was to Fairlight, a hilly, wooded beauty spot with picturesque combs or glens, just over two miles east of Hastings. The elevation of the area provided viewpoints, such as Lovers' Seat, and a natural site for the windmills referred to.*) We was at the Dripping Well at four o'clock, the Lovers [115] Seat four thirty and the Church at five. They was singing in the Church but we could not get in. We walked round the Church Yard. I cut this sign in the stone by the Lovers Seat with my knife O/ and . There was two or three Ladies and Gentlemen. I put my initials on paper in this O sign. We went on towards the mills but did not go quite to them. We came home another way then that we went. We got to 'Hastings Arms' Inn in High Street at six p.m. and had a glass of stout and two biscuits and sat till six thirty then went to St. Mary's Church, Pelham Crescent. We sat near the Organ. The text was from part of the sixth verse of the third Chapter of the [116] second epistle of Paul of Apostle to the Corinthians. The minister spoke of Italy. We got home at eight thirty and had tea. The Lady and Gentleman had just got in. They had stout, saussages and pickle onions. We sat and talked. A young man and woman came in and had some supper. This afternoon has been very fine. The sun shone beautiful as we was between the Dripping Well and the Lovers Seat. We got to bed at ten thirty p.m. Tuesday October [120] the sixteenth we arose at six a.m. The morning very rough, but not wet. We went out along the beach and through the fish market. We bought a dozen of herrings for a shilling and came back to breakfast. There was no fishing and they expected a very high tide. We see a very tall young man as we was coming in to breakfast. We had saussages for breakfast. After breakfast we went on the parade and bought two pair of bracelets for eight shillings, two pincushions for one shilling, and two books one shilling. We then came back and packed them in our carpet bag and settled our bill. We gave the waiter one shilling. The amount of the bill was one pound and eleven shillings and eight pence. The two young men came in [121] to breakfast and we bid them good by. We gave the waiter our address in case there should be any letters for us. We left at nine a.m. then looked at the sea and went to the railway station nine five a.m. We left by the nine twentyfive train. It was very wet. Coming up we went through ten tunnels. We got to the London Bridge Station at twelve ten p.m. We was at Tunbridge Wells at ten twentyfive. After leaving the station we went down the Boro a little way and waited in a doorway till a omnibus came by. We then got in and rode to our street. It was then twelve fortyfive. It rained all the way home. When we came in Mother was preparing the dinner. Aunt Martha was there [122] and Lizzie was at home ill, seting by the fire. We had for dinner boil mutton, turnips, potatoes, and caper sauce. After dinner we emptied our bag and sat and read and talked all the afternoon. Mother said Mr. Botting was burried last Wednesday and that Cousin William's wife died last Sunday week. Me, Aunt Martha, Lizzie, Mother, and Father was at tea together. We had herrings and watercresses. After tea we went to the Royal Coven Garden Theatre. As soon as we got outside our door we met J. Butler and W. Ambridge. We then went to Ben's house to leave word he was not to go to Miss Powell's. We got to the Theatre at six forty p.m. The doors opened at seven and it commenced at seven thirty. [123] We see the Opera of Lurline and heard an Overture from Zamba and a Divertisment. (*Lurline, an opera by W.V. Wallace, libretto by Edward Fitzball. Produced at Covent Garden 23 February 1860.*)



*Zamba, ou la fiancée de marbre, an opera by Hérold, libretto by Mélesville. Produced in Paris 3 May 1831 and Covent Garden, August 1858.)* It was over at eleven twenty. We see Emily in the Opera and Ballet. We bought a book of the Opera for a shilling. After the performance was over we went to the stage door to see if we could see Emily but could not. We waited thirty minutes. Father went and had a biscuit and half a pint of Porter in coming home. I had a half quartern of gin and peppermint. Father had a half pint of Porter. We got home at twelve thirty a.m. and went to bed at one a.m. This evening was very fine. Wednesday October the seventeenth arose at seven a.m. Had breakfast at eight, [124] started out at nine to go (to) the Crystal Palace. Mrs. Smith brought over a loaf just before breakfast. In going we went to see what time the Steam Boats started for Ramsgate. We got to the Railway Station at ten and went by the ten twenty train. We got to the Palace Station at fortyfive and walked round the grounds and went in the Palace at twelve. Then had dinner of Cold Roast Beef, bread, mixed pickles, and ale. Just before coming away from the Palace I lost my ticket but some time afterwards I thought to look in my boot and found it there. We left the Palace at five thirty, the Station at five fortyfive, and got to London Bridge [125] at six eight. We had our tea at a Coffee Room in Duke Street. We left there at six thirty, went over London Bridge, through Cannon Street, St. Paul's Church Yard, Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, Strand, and Wych Street, to Olympic Theatre at seven. (*The Olympic Theatre was built in 1805 by Philip Astley. It was burnt several times and finally closed in 1899.*) The performance commenced at seven thirty. We see the Porters Knot, a Regular Fix, and Pussy. It was over at eleven. When we came out we had a pint of Porter. We got home at twelve. We enquired our way at the Public House. We had some bread and cheese for supper. We went to bed at twelve thirty. My watch guard broke today and when I went to wind up my watch I found I had lost my key and also the key of my desk. So the watch stoped at six fifteen the next [126] morning. This day was beautiful and fine. Thursday October the eighteenth we arose at seven a.m. had breakfast at eight. We all had an egg for breakfast. We started out at nine. We got on board the Boat at nine forty. It was called the 'Prince of Wales'. Coming along Father bought two penny loves and half an ounce of tobacco. When I got on board I bought a pennyworth of walnuts and apples. This morning is dull but does not rain. We stoped at Blackwall, Tilbury, and Margate. We got to Ramsgate at four fortyfive. I was sick off the Nore and again between Margate and Ramsgate. We went as soon as we landed to the 'Admiral Napier' Public House and had a pint of ale and engaged a bed. We then [127] went out round the Cliff. It came on to rain and blow very hard. It turned our umbrella inside out. We lost our way and got very wet coming back. We got back to tea at six fifteen. After tea the seamen came in and we had a glass of rum and water. We went to bed at ten thirty. Number of Bed room, eleven. The landlady's name was Mrs. Smith. Friday October the nineteenth we arose at six thirty. A very fine morning. We went out at seven fifteen on the sands before breakfast. We had our boots cleaned by a boy in front of the Harbour. We went in to breakfast at eight thirty. We had with it eggs, ham and rolls. There was three Gentlemen at breakfast with us. They had fish. We went out again at nine fortyfive to the Harbour [128] to see the 'Prince of Wales' Steam boat start off to London. We then walked to the Railway Station then on to St. Laurence. We stoped to have a glass of ale at the 'Six Bells' kept by Oliver Smith and very good it was. In going to the Railway we looked in a Church and went round the Church Yard and went down the road as far as the Turnpike. We then turned off to the left and went across field into a road which took us on to Pegwell Bay. This is the road we took after leaving St. Laurence. At Pegwell Bay we went down some steps on to the beach and picked up



some shells. We stoped there about half an hour. Father went in the 'Bellevue Tavern' kept by J. Tapnell. I stoped outside and wrote some of this diary. While I was doing [129] it a young lady with her groom passed by on horseback. Father stoped there about an hour. We then walked back to the 'Napier' and had a mutton chop each for dinner. I wrote a letter to Mother and after dinner, when we went out, I posted it at the entrance to the Harbour about three fifteen p.m. We walked round the harbour, on the sands, and round the town. We bought half a pint of shrimps in Harbour Street and had them for tea at six thirty. After tea we took a walk round the harbour and went back in the Parlour. I had four pennyworth of rum and water and Father had a pint of Porter. We went to bed at ten thirty p.m. This day has been very fine. Saturday October the twentieth we arose at seven thirty a.m. [130] This is a very fine morning. We took a walk round the harbour and came back to breakfast at eight fifteen. We had herrings, rolls, and bread and butter. I had coffee and Father had tea. We bid the Gentlemen good by, went down stairs and settled, and I wrote some of this diary, and started out at nine twentyfive. We walked to Margate and talked to a Shepherd on the road. We went in to St. John's Church at ten twentyfive. It is eight hundred years old. On the Sun Dial in the Church Yard was these words, "Watch and pray. Time steals away. The Law of God is as clear as the light". We went through the Church. We gave the woman that let us through a fourpenny piece. She had got the minister's Surplice [131] on her arm. We went from there on to the cliff and on to the Pier and Jetty, then the sands, through the town and on to the sands again as far as the Royal Crescent. From there we went to the Railway Station to know what time the train started for London. We then went through the Town and got some dinner in Market Street. We had hot boil beef, carrots, potatoes, ale, and bread. Afterwards I had a piece of tart. The dinner cost, for the two, two shillings and sevenpence. We started out again at two fortyfive. We went through the Market and through the Town on to the beach and went to the Station at four o'clock. Got in the train at four five and got to London at eight fortyfive. We then went down Duke Street and had our tea, then got in an omnibus and [132] rode home where we arrived at nine thirty p.m. Mrs. Matthews was at home in the kitchen. Mother had gone out to get some meat. Father went to meet her but missed her. They soon came in. We had our supper at ten fortyfive. I had some rice pudding. Sarah Dimes came at eleven thirty. Lizzie and Ben had gone to the Britannia Theatre. They came home at twelve p.m. Ben came in to speak to us. We went to bed at twelve thirty. This day has been very fine, the evening very moonlight. Sunday October the twentyfirst I arose at eight thirty. Very fine morning. I cleaned my wellington boots and brushed my cloths before breakfast. We had for breakfast the remainder of our herrings and water cresses. I went to Hox-[133]ton Church this morning. I met Mr. Foster at the Corner of Pool Street in new north road. He walked as far as Hoxton Church with me. The Reverend A.P. Kelly preached the sermon. The text was from the sixth chapter of St Matthew and the twentyfourth verse. The words was 'Ye cannot serve God and Mammon'. When I came out I walked down St. John's Road, Whitmore Road, Culford Road, Downham Road, and Shepperton Cottages. I got home at one fifteen. Lizzie, Sarah, and Ben got to the door just before I did. Father went to Aunt Sarah's. He came home at one thirty. Sarah was here to dinner. We had for dinner baked beef, greens, potatoes, and apple pie. After dinner Ben came for Lizzie and Sarah to go to his house. [134] I read the Newspaper and wrote some of this diary. I then went out for a walk for an hour from four to five. I went down Southgate Road, Mildmay Street, Stoke Newington Road, Stoke Newington Green, Mildmay Road, King Henrys Walk, Balls Pond Road, Culford Road, and De Beauvoir Crescent. When I got home Mother had gone to get



some Shrimps. Mother, Father, and myself had tea together. We had the shrimps with it. After tea I went to Hoxton Church. The Reverend W.W. Mills preached the sermon. The text was the third verse of the second chapter of St. Mark. The words was 'And they come unto him bringing one sick of the Palsy which was bourn of four'. I got [135] home at eight ten. Mother and Father went to Mr. Deans (*but*) they was out. They then went to Mr. Dimes's. They came home to supper at nine. I went to bed at nine fortyfive. This day has been very fine. This is the finish of my holiday.

November the fourteenth Mother and Father met Mr. Boham at the house to see what wanted to be done. Thursday November the fifteenth as I was doing my sixes I gave information to a Policemen in Noel Street about some thieves that was over in the Gardens of Essex Street. I see them as I was knocking at twentyseven Noel Street. There was two caught. They [136] got six months imprisonment, each of them. If it had not been for me they would have got off with two bundles of linen cloths. Monday November the nineteenth Mullings was hung at Newgate for the murder of Mrs. Emsley at Grove Road. Mile End Road, E. (*James Mullins, hanged for the murder of Mrs Mary Emsley, a wealthy, seventy year old widow, despite his protestations of innocence and allegations of false evidence.*)

*A copy of a Petition I wrote for Uncle William*

Your contributions is earnestly requested on behalf of William Poulton, Stenciller and Paper hanger, who now lies dangerously ill abed with his left side paralysed. He has been in this state for three weeks past and, being in no Club or Fund, him his wife and five young children is without any means of support. If, Gentlemen, you can in any way assist by giving a trifle they will be [137] truly thankful for it.

Aunt Betsey went to the Magistrate at Worship Street Police Court on January the twentyfirst eighteen hundred and sixtyone. She went once in the morning and was told to go again in the afternoon at four o'clock which she did and a Gentleman went with her and stated her case to the Magistrate and he gave her six tickets for bread, one for two shillingworth of coals, and three shillings and [138] sixpence in money. February the sixth Father went to the Court at Westminster as a Witness in the case of Holliday V. Shoreditch Parish. (*The case involved a claim for damages for injury caused by the Vestry's negligence in leaving a heap of paving stones in Shaftesbury Street, which resulted in the plaintiff's vehicle overturning.*) When he got there he found it was postponed until the next day, the seventh. He went up this day and stoped all day but it did not come off. He went the next day, Saturday, and then it did, but judgment was not to be given till April and then it would be for the plaintiff but not so much for damages as he wanted. Father got fifteen shillings with the half crown he got at first for his expences and some refreshments. Sunday January the twentieth I first went out for a walk with Caroline Gosling. I met her [139] by St Peters Schools at seven p.m. It was a damp night. We walk down the Liverpool Road and some of the Street out of it. I left her at nine thirty. I got home at nine fortyfive. Sunday January the twentyseventh I did not meet Caroline as she thought she would not get out, but she did and went with her Cousin Eliza and Mr H. Francis to some of his friends. I was at home. I had to leave Church in the morning and come home. In the evening I did not go, but at eight o'clock I went to see Uncle William and got home at ten p.m. February third I met Caroline. I was to have met her at six thirty but she could not get out till seven. We spoke to her Cousin and Mr Francis in Devonshire [140] Street. They went for a walk and we went to the Catholick and Apostolick Church in Duncan



Street. *(This Church had become a separate body in 1835, after the death in 1834 of the Scottish divine, Edward Irving, whose apocalyptic and prophetic teaching had attracted those from amongst whom the "apostles" of the new church were designated.)* It was over at eight ten. We then went for a walk until nine p.m. Mr E.R. Fitzgerald read the lesson. Sunday February the tenth I went to tea with Caroline, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald having gone to Brighton for a fortnight. Eliza, a friend of theirs, and Mr. Francis came in in the afternoon. They all went away by five fifteen. After tea me and Caroline went to St. Pauls Cathedral. We went in at a few minutes before six o'clock and did not come out till nine o'clock. We got to her house at nine fortyfive. I went in and had some supper with her. We had some roast pork and cheese. I left about one the next morning because she was in the house [141] by herself. Sunday February seventeenth I met Caroline at her house at ten twenty a.m. We went to Trinity Church, Cloudesley Square. I left her at her house at one fifteen p.m. I went again at three in the afternoon and stoped till three the next morning. Mr. Francis and Eliza came in in the evening. This day was fine. Monday February the eighteenth Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald came home at five thirty p.m. I see Caroline when I took a paper this morning. Thursday February the twentyfirst I see Caroline this evening and last evening. This afternoon been very wet, the evening very windy. It blew my hat off as I was talking to Caroline. Me and Father worked in the garden from eleven a.m. till one [142] p.m. putting down the boards for the beds. After I left Caroline this evening I came home at eight forty p.m. and wrote a letter to Hannah Witherall bidding her goodby. This is the copy below.

Dear Friend, I hope this will find you quite well. When I told you some time ago I was married I was only joking as you must have known, but since then I have become acquainted with a Young Lady and I think if she had a Gentleman Friend and wrote to him I should not like it. Therefore, as she has been candid with me, I think I had better not write to you any more but bid you good by. I do not like to do it, Hannah, but I think I ought to do so. I should like to say a good deal more but I cannot. No more than say I shall [143] never never forget the pleasant time I have spent in your company, and shall never forget Hannah my friend, which I hope you will still allow me to call you. I think you had better destroy all my letters but this one, if you like to keep it. I will destroy yours. I do not know whether me and this Young Lady will ever come together but I wish to act right towards her. I have promised her I would do this and I have done it of my own free will because I think it for the best. Whether it will be so, time only will show. I wish you every happiness and health and for the last time, Adieu. Accept my kind love, and believe me to be your sincere Friend, Edward E. Harvey Jnr., number thirtyseven Cavendish Street, [144] Hoxton, N. The outside was addressed to Miss Hannah Witherall, number one hundred and one Inverness Terrace, Hyde Park W. Stamped, wrote on it, and the date and hour of postage in figures on the top of the Envelope. I wrote this day's diary and this copy and sealed the letter up before going to bed where I shall go about eleven fortyfive p.m. ...[145]...

*A copy of a letter sent by Uncle William's wife to him when she left him.* She went out one Sunday morning to get something for dinner and did not go back again but sent this letter.

December the nineteenth, eighteen hundred and thirtyfour, William, I now write, hoping to find you well as it leaves me and the Dear Girl at present. I dare say you would like to see her, for she grows a fine girl, and is so fat, and is always talking about Ellen,



and says she wants to see her, and I hope she will, some day or other. I should very much like to know how you get on, and what is become of that poor Girl. I am always thinking of her. I should very much like to know what is become [146] of her if you would write to me yourself, if you think it worth your while. If you do write the letter yourself, you know I know you are not a very good writer, but never mind that. You know I can make it out, and if you do I will answer it again. Christmas is very near and I hope you will spend as merry a one as I hope I shall. A better than it was last year. I dare say you often think of what I used to say, that you would know the miss of a good wife some day or other, which I am sure I always was to you. I cannot set down and think of one thing that I was bad in, for I am sure you never had any reason to be jealous till the day I went away. I will be on my oath I never knew this man from woman till after my departure, though I darsay you and [147] many more think there was. If I had I should have stoped there and carried on the game. I darsay we should have found opportunities if we had been so inclined. But I never would deceive you in the manner you have deceived me, and that you find to be the truth, but I darsay you are as happy as I am with the one that has caused all the unhappiness between you and me. If you are not, I am very much deceived, for I am sure you never brought me all the money you earned, and that you know you always kept enough to keep another. I darsay your poor Mother was very much surprised to find I did not return, and so was that Poor Girl and my Brothers and all Friends. I should like to know how they all get on, and what they [148] think, and if you do not answer this letter I shall write to some of them myself. Had you been a good Husband I should be ashamed of myself, but as it is I think I have acted very right, for I was tired of working so hard as I did and never went over the door to see anyone, nor you never wanted me to go, Sunday or Weekday. For while I worked so hard as I did it never troubled you as long as you could get what you wanted and go gading to a public house yourself. I have not taken anything from you but I should have liked to have had a little more if I had the means. But what there is of mine give to Ellen, but I think there is not much, but I hope you will buy her a good warm cloak for this winter. I should have bought her one myself if I had stoped a little [149] longer, for I did not think of starting so soon for two month, but I was determined never to bear it any longer. I might have gone long ago if I had liked, but I waited to please myself. If I had had six children it would have made no difference. The love was all the same, both for me and them, and I hope you will be as good a Father to one as you would wish another man to be to yours. I have no more to say to you at presant, but I should wish you to answer this letter as soon as you can, for it is uncertain how long we shall stop here. We may go off in a day or two, so if you mean to write you must write the next day you get this, and if you don't, I shall think you don't mean to write at all. But I wish [150] you would. And you must address it to Mrs. Brampton at Mrs. Hams, Cawsand, near Devonport, Cornwall, no number or anything else. Give my love to all my Dear Brothers and likewise to your Mother and Martha Brampton, for I suppose that is her name now, and all inquiring friends. I Remain you well wisher, Sarah.

The address was on the letter. For William Poulton, four Charles Street, Leonard Street, Shoreditch, London, With all speed - February the twentyeighth eighteen hundred and sixtyone. This evening I went to Eliza's at five Devonshire Street, Islington, to meet Carry. Mr. Francis was there. We had cake and Raspberry wine. Me and Carry left at nine thirty. I walked with her to the Bakers and [151] left her at the door at nine fortyfive. I came home, had my supper, then went up stairs to destroy Hannah Witherall's letters that she had sent me. I burned some and the rest I left for the next day. I went to bed at eleven fortyfive p.m. This day has been fine. March the



first I burned some letters before breakfast, and when I came home at eleven thirty a.m. I finished burning the letters and some of my papers. This morning was very showery. In going in with my collection at two p.m. I went through Oxford Terrace. I see Carry at the door. It was raining very fast. She lent me an umbrella. I went back at three thirty till five thirty. I had tea with her. We had water cresses, bread and butter, and Soda Cake. [152] She gave me four pieces to take away with me. I see her again after I finished my eights. She was getting some coals. I talked to her at the door a little while. Her people had not come home then and she expected them at six. They had gone to Forest Hill. This afternoon was rather wet but the evening has been cold and dry. When I came home at ten twenty p.m. Lizzie was just going up stairs to bed. I gave her a piece of cake, and Mother, Father and Mrs. Matthews a piece. I eat one piece at eight thirty p.m.

*A copy of a letter I had to write in answer to a complaint made against me by a Mrs. Thomas, number three Graham Terrace, Graham Street, City Road N. I called there for a Christmas [153] Box and she charged me with having her letter at the time and not delivering it because she would not give me any thing. December the thirtyfirst eighteen hundred and sixty. Sir. In answer to the complaint made by Mrs. Thomas of number three Graham Terrace N. respecting a letter that was sent to her on the twentysixth of this month and not delivered in proper time, I beg to state that I did not see the letter until two hours and a half after the time it ought to have been delivered. I then took it out in due course, and delivered it, apologizing to the party who took it in for its non delivery at the time I called for a Christmas box. I did [154] mention the name of Tompkins, thinking, at the time, I was at number two where that name is known, but the letter in question was at that time in J. Bentley's possession. Hoping you will be satisfied with my explanation I am Sir, Your obedient Servant, E. Harvey.*  
...[156]...

March the ninth Saturday afternoon Mrs. Wingrove came with her son William, a soldier in the fiftyeighth foot. I opened the door to them. Mother, Father, Aunt Martha, Lizzie, and myself see and spoke to them. He was stationed at Weedon. *(The Barracks in Northants., begun in 1803 on a site chosen as the farthest point from any coast, and intended as a place of refuge for the monarch in the event of a French invasion.)* He got a pass. He came up on Friday and was to go back on the following Monday. He looked very well and said he liked it.

...[159]...

Tuesday March the nineteenth as I was doing my threes I bought three Oranges in Devonshire Street of a girl. I had to go to sixteen Oxford Terrace. I see Carry writing. I put two down the area. When I got in Coombs Street I bought two Lemons. I gave a penny for the two. Mother and Lizzie went to Aunts this afternoon, it being Mrs. Deans twentyseventh birthday. Me, Aunt Martha, and Father had tea together. Me and Father had bacon. As I was doing my sixes and going to thirteen Oxford Terrace, Carry came out. She said she was writing to her Sister, Ellen Watchman, at Little [160] Blakenham Common, near Ipswich, *(Suffolk)*. I(t) was the letter I see her this afternoon writing. She said she was going round to her cousins. I bought a piece of bacon at Mr. Smees, three Hoarace Terrace, coming home. I gave one shilling and fivence for it. Mrs. Matthews was at home when I got home. When I opened the door I frightened her as she thought she had put the ketch down. Father and Ben had gone to Mile End to Aunt Flick's. I went up stairs and wrote some of this diary and practised. Thursday March the twentyfirst as I was doing my sixes I see Carry at her Cousin's. She asked me to go and set with her a little while after I finished. Her



Master and Mistress was at a dinner party at Mr. Layton's, [161] River House, Duncan Street. I was there from eight fifteen till nine thirty. Friday March the twentysecond I took a paper to Carry's house. She was out. The paper boy was at the door. I see Carry at the top of Gerrard Street as I came out of the terrace. I met her and gave her the paper. She sent me a valentine or love offering. There was two pence to pay for it, it being over weight. J. Dawson taxed it. Mother brought it up to me in my room. I was playing the fifth lesson, Allegro in E flat Major. I met Carry as I was going in with my two o'clock collection and I taxed her with sending it in such a way that she was obliged to own to it. ...[162]... The last day of March, Easter Sunday, I went to Hoxton Church in the morning. The Reverend A.P. Kelly preached the sermon. I see the new curate. I went to see uncle William after church was over. In the afternoon I went to see Aunt Sarah. I went to five York Street but they had gone from there to fortyfour Phillip Street. I went the(re) and while I was there Aunt Mary came in. I left there at five p.m. and came home to tea. I had just finished my tea when Mrs. Matthews came down and said she thought there was a mouse in her room. Me and Father went up with the cat but found none. I went to Church in Duncan Street. Mr. Kelly preached the sermon upon resurrection. After church was over I went to Carry's expecting to go in but she said her master would not allow it. I spoke to her at the door a little while. Got home at nine p.m. and finished writing in this book.











