

JOURNAL OF OUR DOINGS
AGNES F. C. LAIRD
(Born 12 November 1878,
Willie Parker born 2 August 1877)

Started at Gowanfield, Crieff,
21st August, 1900

"The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, & writes another; & his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it"

J. M. Barrie

I wrote my diary faithfully till 31st December 1898, since when I have kept no record of events happening within our family & circle of friends. Although it may be of no interest to others, still I shall write it for my own pleasure, because when I am old I may like to look back upon the days of our youth

Within this last year & half, great changes have taken place, what has touched us most nearly being the death of Willie, our only brother. That was the first break in our family, the first time death has visited our house - so peaceful, calm, who now would be afraid?

I will write down the events as nearly correct as I can remember & only principal ones do I remember. On the 18th of January 1899 Willie turned suddenly ill. It was in the early morning we heard his heavy breathing & hastily got fires lit & poultices made. Dr. Laird came at 3 a.m. & waited till seven. It was a very severe attack of congestion of the lungs, but by morning the danger was over. A Dr. Middleton from Glasgow came down to consult with Dr. Laird. The immediate danger was over, but he would never be strong they told us.

For three months he was kept indoors, mostly upstairs, but by May, was allowed to go out for a very little quiet exercise.

Papa turned suddenly ill about the middle of March. Maggie had arranged to go to Germany with Eliza Begg & Maggie Swan on the 25th. By that time Papa was getting better, on the fair way to convalescence, so she was able to get. They stayed in Liepzig for three months. Papa, mamma & Willie had a nice week's holiday at Pitlochrie in June, then in July Papa & Mamma went over to Germany to bring Maggie home, leaving us alone. They spent about a month travelling from place to place - Papa coming home quite strong & well again.

I am forgetting things - it is difficult to remember everything according to date. Rev. A. J. B. Patterson was inducted to our U. P. Church on the 25th of May - his calling having been quite unanimous.

Papa & Mamma's Silver Wedding was on the 30th June, bt we only celebrated it very quietly or perhaps some people would say not at all - we five at home.

Willie was fairly strong again by July - although we knew he must not take any violent exercise or anything to tire himself.

Mary Laird stayed with us three for about a week whilst the others were away. I remember that one Sunday we walked to Old Duchal - Mary, Willie, Willie Parker & I - perhaps it was too much for Willie. I don't know.

Before the others came home, the workmen had started to our house alterations. They made a stair up through the press on the landing, floored the attics - thus giving us two bedrooms, one box-room, & a dark room for photography. This was not all finished till November, so that the house was rather in a turn up till then.

After Papa's illness, & when we all knew that Willie would not be able to go into Papa's business at any rate, he, Papa, gave up business entirely, leaving the firm which Mr. Hay still carries on. So now we always have Papa at home. I don't think he has wearied much.

Bessie Craig stayed with us about a fortnight in the end

of September. Willie & she were great friends.

We spent the last fortnight of August at Hunter's Quay. Willie, Jessie & I were there all the time, the others taking turn about.

I started singing lessons from Mlle. Thoma in October, but only had one quarter till Xmas holidays. Had two songs in that time & don't know whether I got on well or not.

Willie became worse again in the beginning of October & had to go to bed. He never left his room again.

Always as he improved a little, & was able to sit for an our or two in the evening, he took another bad turn & was thrown back again. Each time he did not get so far on as he had been before until on the 4th Jan., in the evening, he became sick & afterwards had more hemorrhage than there ever had been before. When Dr. Laird saw him, he let us underst& that Willie would never be better.

For a week we expected the end at any time. Dr. Laird slept in the house, & was with him as much as possible during the day. At the end of a week he was

rather easier. The hemorrhage, which had been so heart-rending, almost ceased, & he did not suffer quite so much pain.

Sydney Smith came on the 12th, I think, to say "Good bye" as he was going to South Africa to the war. Willie was able to see him, but it was very hard for them both. For a fortnight Willie kept on, & was able to have us read to him, & was always anxious for us to talk, to keep him from thinking, he said. He knew that he would never be better, but he never spoke of it to anyone but Mamma.

During this fortnight's respite, he even began to discuss what he could do when he was better. Perhaps he did it to cheer us up, & we discussed it with spirit to cheer him. He was always bright, & Mamma said she never nursed anyone so patient, & certainly never patient had a better nurse. During the worst days, Mamma never left him day or night, & we had even to feed her with spoonfuls of jelly at his bedside. When he so very weak he always knew if she were in the room. Then when he got a little better he insisted on her resting, & said others would do instead. that fortnight of pleasant

memories made it easier for us all when the end came. We all had our duties to do, & to take turns of nursing, & as we were told that recovery was impossible, we had to let the knowledge grow upon us, until we got to realise it without bitterness.

The heart was so weak it could not perform its duties. His weakness had been increasing for thirteen years, when he had had rheumatic fever. We ought to be thankful that we have had his companionship for these thirteen years. One is apt not to know the real value of any object until it is about to be taken away.

He passed away very peacefully on the 2nd of February at 2.20 in the afternoon. All was peace, we felt that we could grudge him his rest. It was selfish to be sorry.

The funeral was on Monday the 5th, when Mr Paterson came down. Only relatives & a few boy friends were there. When it was over & Papa came home all five of us drove out to the cemetery. We felt it would be like saying Goodbye, as we might not again all get together.

The grave was covered with wreaths & flowers sent by

friends. the members of the Y.M. C.A. sent a lovely wreath - it was so kind of them. We five stood there with the one who had gone, & felt it was the parting. Henceforth our family has only a memory of one.

"There is no Death! what seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath is but a suburb of the Elysian
Whose portal we call Death.
He is not dead - the child of our affection -
But gone unto that school
Where he no longer needs our poor protection,
& Christ himself doth rule"

In March we spend a fortnight in Rothesay, ad
Wimbledon, where we all had a nice rest & quiet. in
May we all arranged to go to Edinburgh for a wheel
while Papa attended the Synod. Unfortunately Jessie
took cold & was unable to go.

Riversdale, Grantown on Spey.

13th June 1901

Nearly a year has passed since I wrote the above. We
have had a very busy winter & I never felt that I had
time to spare to do what be be considered unnecessary.

However I enjoy doing it, & now during holiday when I have lots of time on my hands, I shall try to write up to the present, & then continue in the form of a diary, as I used to. A few notes or jottings for each day cost little trouble, & always form a record, interesting at least to the one concerned.

Well to begin where I left off. - In May 1900, Papa & I spent a week in Edinburgh - Maggie & Mamma each being a few days there, while the other stayed at home with Jessie, who was in bed with cold. We attended the meeting of the last Synod of the Uniting Presbyterian Church. It was also my first visit to Edinburgh, so that, taking everything into account, it was a most interesting & delightful week.

Edinburgh, in my eyes, was the most beautiful city imaginable, & to walk under the castle rock along Princes Street to Calton Hill & other things down High Street to St. Giles' Cathedral & on to Holyrood was like living in a story book.

Edinburgh in Spring seems to be at its best, & altho it was very cold, we enjoyed our visit very much & did quite a lot of sight seeing. Before going to Edinburgh in

May, I had not seen the capital of any country. By the end of June I had visited also London & Paris. Papa had made up his mind to go to the Paris Exhibition, & quite unexpectedly, he took me with him. In the beginning of winter he had said that if Jessie & I would study the French language, he would take us both to Paris. We had started to study with Miss Jeanie Davidson, but she was soon called away to Irel & afterwards to South Africa as an army nurse. & then when Willie became worse & worse, we gave it all up. Now that Jessie was not able to go, I had given up all thought of it, & it came as a delightful surprise. We spend a week in Paris, & a week - going & coming - in London.

I kept a diary of that fortnight, so that is all written down elsewhere. I say nothing about our home life in the period between holidays, but that is because it just went on in the usual quiet way - nothing of importance happened as far as I can remember.

Papa had taken to photography in the beginning of winter, & ever since his camera & the work connected with it has occupied a great part of his time. Willie

Parker also started photography. First of all he made two cameras for himself then bought one - a quarter plate & now has a "Nipper" also, so that our house is gradually getting choked up with photographs. Both Papa & Willie Parker have got on very well, & their hobby gives them a great deal both of amusement & recreative work.

Jessie & I spent the first fortnight of August at Benvie, where we had a very happy holiday. Mrs Thoms was just beginning to get about a little after having had a few months in bed. She was carried downstairs & sat or lay in the garden most of the day. We had a very nice quiet time, as Cecil (?) & Phemie were too busy for much knocking about. We spent a day in Dundee at the Connochie's & one at Abernethy visiting the Butler's.

Leaving Benvie, Jessie & I joined the others in Crieff, where we all spend the next fortnight. We did some cycling at Crieff - Papa & I & sometimes Maggie. Visited Comrie, St. Fillans, Sma' Glen, Auchterarder etc.

Coming home from Crieff, Mamma & Jessie went to Stonehouse where they spend a few days with Uncle

Alex. Mrs. & Misses Caldwell had been in our house for the fortnight we are all away, so they stayed a few days longer with us, & then we began to settle down for the winter.

In October Papa, Mamma & Jessie went to Edinburgh for a week, & attended most of the Union meetings - the Union of the U. P. & the Free Churches - making the United Free Church. I suppose they were most interesting & enthusiastic meetings - well to be remembered.

About this time or earlier Willie Parker made up his mind to study for the ministry. He had been going about all summer in a kind of uncertain state of mind. On the whole I was surprised when he told me, but I dare-say if I had had my eyes open, I might have seen how the wind was blowing. He started to study during the winter but will not be ready for his prelim. till next summer, & as, after that there is still 7 or 8 years of study, he says, unless he finds he is going to get on well & quickly, he will just give it up. He came to ask my permission before he decided to go in for it, as he said, it meant so many years of waiting. Of course, I was

very glad to know that he really wanted to do it, & I do hope he gets on well, & that his eyes will stand the strain of studying.

During the winter, I had two quarters of singing lessons from M^rlle. Thomà - just finished the last one the week we came here. I enjoyed my lessons & improved a great deal, although I am not very far on at all yet. I was rather unfortunate for practicing, having cold twice, & we were a good few times without a servant - also Jessie was not very strong & required a lot of attention all winter. We had a very quiet winter, & yet it passed very quickly. Papa, Maggie & I attended most of the Harrison concerts in Glasgow, & there were often concerts & lectures in Kilmacolm.

Mamma had an illness in Spring. She had never got her strength up since nursing Willie, & all last summer she had a nasty cough. On the 8th of February she was compelled to go to bed & then had a nasty attack of bronchitis. It seemed to affect the kidney, & the doctor found some organic disease there. I am afraid Mamma will never be very strong now, & I would like to take as good care of her as possible. She is fairly

well now, goes about & walks a good deal, but still lives almost entirely on milk. It is lovely to have her even so well again, but we will need to be careful not to let her overdo it.

Jessie was rather unfortunate in Spring. Just as she was beginning to feel strong & get out a little, she slipped one day on the steps at the door & sprained her ankle. There was a thin coating of ice on the step, & of course that made it very slippery. It was the weak ankle that was sprained & it took a very long time to heal. She lay in bed for three weeks, & it was still many weeks more, before she was able to use it much.

Papa had a splendid three week trip to Rome, Florence & Naples in March. Mr. James Clark & he went together, & there was a large party from other places. Papa took a great many photos & they are really splendid. I think his holiday was rather spoiled by his anxiety for Mamma at home. He came home on April 2nd. That evening Maggie & I were in Glasgow at Mmille. Thomà's concert in which I had to take part. There was quite a party of us went from Kilmacolm - Dolly MacFarlane, Agnes McGeachy, John Barr,

Jamie Davidson, Willie Parker & Maggie & I. The concert was voted a great success, although I think the solos were much better than the choruses.

Easter holidays passed very quickly. I think we spend them Spring cleaning. We had a sale of work in connection with the Church for the Building Fund, about the end of April. They raised bout £180. There has been a bit of a row in our church over the buying of a manse. Happily it is all settled now. Mr. Paterson is to receive £80 a year in addition to his salary, & provide himself with a manse, while the purchase of Dunard is cancelled. There has been a great deal of ill-feeling over it, & Mr. Paterson, I am afraid, has lost a great deal of respect & favour by the part he took in it.

The Glasgow Exhibition of 1901 was opened on May 2nd. We had beautiful weather nearly all May & so far the exhibition has been a great success. I have already been three times, & enjoyed it immensely. On Monday the 3rd. June I went out for two hours in the afternoon after my singing leasson to hear the music wit Willie Parker. There were two splendid orchestras -

the Austro-Hungarian & the Berliner Philharmonic. Both were splendid. Tuesday the 4th June was Margaret Arbuckle's wedding day. Maggie & I were at the wedding, but Jessie did not feel well enough to go. It was an afternoon wedding, & I enjoyed it very much. In the evening most of the guests went to the Exhibition. I spent most of the time in the Art Galleries as it was raining out of doors. It was a very nice finish up to our day. We Kilmacolm folks (& there were quite a lot) came home by 10.05 train.

On Thursday the 6th June we all (our family) came here (Grantown-on-Spey) to spend our summer holiday. We had not rooms taken, & were very fortunate to get such nice rooms. The Friday & Saturday were beautiful hot days. We sat in the garden mostly. Friday night, Papa, Margaret & I had a run on our bikes to Dulnain Bridge & a mile or two further on. On Sat. Papa & I alone had a splendid run to Dulnain Bridge, Carr Bridge, round by Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge & home by Spey Bridge. It is a beautiful district - the Dulnain is such a pretty river & the whole county seems well wooded with pines &

birches.

On Sunday the weather broke & all last week was stormy & bitterly cold. We had rain & hail-showers & there was more snow on the Cairngorms. It cleared up a little on Friday & in the evening Papa & I had a nice ride to Cromdale - a circular tour. Saturday morning promised well & Papa & I started for Tomintoul by the mountain road about a quarter to ten. It certainly is a mountainous road. We ascended gradually till we reached the summit, over 1300 feet. Grantown is about 712 feet high. Then there was a short distance we could ride, & then a steep descent to the Bridge of Brown about 500 feet down again, where we could scarcely hold back our bicycles. There are very pretty ??? of Brown, quite near the Bridge, where the water has cut a passage for itself through the rock. We had another very steep ascent - we thought we were going quite over the mountains - & down again into the valley of the Avon, then up this valley to the town of Tomintoul, said to be the highest town in Scotland. Tomintoul consists of two very long rows of houses (it is about a mile long) with a nice wide square where the

market is held. It must be a very cold place - they had had snow during the week. The nearest railway station is at Ballindalloch, 15 miles away. We thought of cycling home that way - a splendid road - but decided to return the same way as the other might be too far.

There was a very strong wind in our faces coming home & what with the hill, & rough road, we were both pretty tired when we got home at half past five. Poor Papa was almost done out. I think I can st& more now than he can.

Sunday 16th June, it rained a good deal. Mother, Maggie & I went to the U.F. church in the morning & hears such a nice old man, Dr. Brown from France preach on Palm 143.8 "Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift my soul unto thee." He was very very nice & restful. Mr. Holmes came in for a little in the evening.

Monday it poured till about 5 o'clock. Maggie & I went down & I spend an hour with Mrs Holmes in the afternoon. It cleared up beautifully at night, & Tuesday was a very good day. We had a very nice

drive in the afternoon - by Dulnain Bridge, Broomhill & Nethy Bridge. The sun shone beautifully on us, although the wind was rather cold at times.

& now I have got up to the present date, & shall try to be regular in my entries, unless there is nothing of importance to write down. We are expecting Willie Parker to arrive this afternoon & stay for a week. I hope the weather will improve, as it is dull & rather cold today.

Wednesday 19th June, 1901.

It was dull all forenoon, & shortly after dinner rain came on. I went to Meet Willie Parker at 3.26 - train was just about up to time. After tea it cleared up a bit, & in the evening, Maggie, Willie & I had a walk along the Spey-side to Spey-bridge & home through the woods. Papa & Mamma went to see Mr. & Mrs. Holmes, & Jessie did not go out. W.P. has brought four botany books, so we must study hard.

Thursday 20th June.

In the forenoon, Papa, Mamma & Willie Parker cycled nearly to Carr Bridge. They had not time to go all the way. They got a shower of rain coming back.

Mamma & I had a nice walk down by Spey-side. After dinner they nearly all slept. WP & I studied botany for a little, & then went out for a stroll with Jessie. After tea, when the rain had cleared off, Willie & I started to walk to Cromdale. We missed the turning & walked for to far along the road, coming back to the bridge by a grass grown path through the woods. We just went half way over the suspension bridge, & felt it swaying.

It was getting late & we had a shower of rain. We found short cut home through fields, which we were glad as we were tired with our long walk.

Friday 21st June.

Maggie, Willie Parker & I had a circular tour, leaving Grantown at 9.4 am. We went first to Forres (by train) where we had about an hour to spend. Our sight-seeing consisted in walking smartly through the town, to the Sweno (Sueno) Stone & back to the station again.

The Sweno Stone is about 1000 years old, 23 feet high & covered with old Druidical (Celtic runic) markings - some supposed to be Runic. Forres seems to be a fairly

nice town with pretty surroundings. Nairn, where we next stopped having about two hours to spend, struck us as being a splendid holiday place. We ate lunch on the sandy shore & gazed across the Moray Firth to hills & cliffs beyond. It seemed a fine town too. About two o'clock we arrived in Inverness. I was charmed with it. It may well be called the capital of the Highlands. First we climbed to the castle, where we had a magnificent view of the River Ness in both directions. There is a fine statue to Flora MacDonald in front of the castle. W.P. took a photograph of the river, looking towards the firth. We walked along the banks of the river to the islands, which are so beautiful, that words of mine can not describe them

There are bridges from the mainl& to one isl& & to another - & at least two of the islands are quite large, beautifully wooded, & with many seats through them. We were all delighted with them imagining we wer walking upn the stage of some pantomime. We had a hearty tea in Inverness, a look at the Clach-na-cuddin Stone in front of the Town Hall - also a walk through the Cathedral in which is a lovely marble foud, a copy

of one by Thorwaldsen in Copenhagen. It is a very fine Cathedral, with beautiful stained glass windows. Leaving Inverness at 5.40 we trained to Aviemore, where we had about 1/4 of an hour to wait for a train.

We were entertained there to a most exciting hunt for half-a-dozen little pink pigs, by all the station officials even including the dignified station - master & a policeman. The train had to wait till they were all caught (& they showed a surprising amount of swiftness & "jinkiness") & packed into their box again. We arrived home about nine, having had a most enjoyable day.

The others had had a visit from Andrew & Jack Fleming, who had cycled from Newtonmore.

Saturday 22nd June

In the forenoon we drove to Castle Grant, saw through the old Castle (about 700 years old), which contains many old portraits, weapons, etc. & drove home by the mill. The house (outside) itself is like a factory, but the view from the drawing room windows was beautiful. they looked into the deer-park where we saw different flocks of deer, & over the valley to the Cromdale Hills

beyond.

In the evening Willie Parker & i had a splendid walk up past Dreggie Farm over the hill till we looked down into the next valley. It was lovely & fresh after the afternoon's rain.

Sunday 23rd June.

We all but Jessie went to hear REv. William Hays of the Baptist Church preach in the morning. They are using the Hall at present. He was very nice indeed, taking for his text John 17.4. "I have glorified thee o earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

It rained all afternoon, & W.P. & I made some resolutions which I hope we will be able to keep. In the evening Mr. & Mrs. came in. Willie, Jessie & I started to the episcopal Church, but when we got down we found that the Grantown "Advertiser" had given 6.30 instead of 6.30 p.m. & were too late. so we had a walk instead. Willie & I going afterwards by ourselves a good bit along the Cromdale road.

Monday 24th June.

In the forenoon, Mamma & Papa went to Cromdale by train & Willie & I walked to Dulnain Bridge & back. W. got two photos, & could have had more but the sun would not come out until we had started homeward again.

After dinner, went down to see the fair or market which is held in the Black Park, & later, Willie got a photo of gulls following a plough, which should be pretty. In the evening Willie & I walked out to Dava Road past the second gates to Castle Grant, saw some beautiful Highl& cattle.

Tuesday 25th June.

Papa, Maggie, Willie Parker & I cycled to Aberlour & Craigellachie, going by way of Tulchain (?) Lodge, across the Spey at Adine where we had to walk up a very steep hill by a rocky path, & lift our bikes over a stile. It was a very rough path till we joined the main road again. Had milk- twice & three times skimmed at a farm & lunch we had brought. It is about 23 1/2 miles to Craigellachie, a lovely place. There is a beautiful bridge over the Spey - just at Craigellachie

Rock. Had a jolly tea in aberlour which is a very pretty place. Papa seriously thought of looking for rooms there for another week or two. It was a long ride home with the wind in our faces. The prettiest bit of the road is the Bridge of Avon, just near Ballindalloch, where Willie took a photo of us all.

Got home about 8.30, very tired.

Wednesday 26th June.

In the afternoon, Willie & I had a walk through the woods & down by Speyside. In the afternoon we hired a donkey carriage, of which Mamma & Jessie had turn about sometimes both together & walked or drove to Boat of Ballyfirth (?) - a very pretty little bit on the banks of the Spey.

In the evening Willie & I had a nice walk through the woods - up above the railway (rather spoilt by midges) - a farewell walk, as Willie leaves tomorrow. We went under the bridge by the road that leads to Dreggie & then kept along the cart-track to the quarries, then over a stile, along a path through a lovely birch wood to the top of a hill where we had a splendid view of Grantown. We came down by a different path, crossed the railway

& found a seat on the top of a little hill on the other side. Came home along the side of MacPherson's Nurseries.

Thursday 27th June.

It drizzled a little in the morning & then cleared up into a lovely day. Willie Parker & I walked in the morning through the woods by the Black Park, found it rather marshy, & returning walked down by Speyside, & along nearly to Inverallan. We felt too hot to go any further so sat down on the s& till it was time to go back for dinner. In the afternoon we removed here: c/o Mrs Campbell, Parkburn - the first house on the right h& side as you come down from the station. We are very well pleased with it - everything seems comfortable.

Willie & I went up to Duncan's (baker's shop) where we had a nice tea & then we - the whole family went up to the station to see him off by 4.22 train.

I think he enjoyed his visit here. I certainly enjoyed his company. Wrote to Cecil in the evening, posted it & did some unpacking.

Friday 28th June.

I had a very nice lazy day. Read some botany, sewed a bit & in the forenoon had a short run with Papa on bikes to Spey Bridge, a bit along the Cromdale road & back & then round by Inverallan Church & coming home. In the afternoon all the walking I did was to Kylvintia Saw Mill with Jesse where we sat on the Bridge for a little.

*Went with Pap to a lecture in the evening. "Impressions of russia by *Rev. Mr. Green. (* This Mr. Green has died very suddenly this summer. It is a month or two since we heard of it, august 10th 1902) It was the lamest attempt to describe a trip that I ever heard. He is a very poor reader, & Prouost Grant of Grantown (it sounds big) made the poorest chairman possible.*

The people came dropping in till the lecture was more than half through & even then there would only be about 50 altogether. Collection taken for Soldiers Families.

Saturday 29th June.

We had a glorious day. Bright & hot. Papa, Maggie & I cycled to Aviemore meeting Mamma & Jessie there about 12.45 p.m. We walked up to a wood near the

station, walked. There is a summerhouse where we had sat three years ago when we went from Kingussie:- Maggie, Jessie, the two Willies & myself.

I was much disappointed to find it locked - used evidently as a tool-house, so I just peered through the trellis-work to the back wall where we had written our names; but of course we could not distinguish them among so many that are there.

We cyclists went on to North Kinnara, leaving mother & Jessie to go home by train. We found pretty easily Mrs. McBain's cottage & Lizzie MacDonald, whom we had come to see was not there. She was staying with an uncle at a farm on Loch Aluieside. It is beautiful in Kinnara Grounds. We cycled round the foot of the hill on which is the monument to the Duke of Gordon. Were quite near Loch-an-eillean, but could not see it, a hill came in between.

Aviemore & its surroundings seems to me to be much prettier than Grantown.

We came home quickly with the wind on our backs, arriving here about six. It was a splendid ride, & none

of us were tired, only very much sunburnt.

Sunday 30th June.

Maggie & I went to the baptist Church in the morning & listened to a very fine sermon from Rev. Mr. Hay "In your patience ye shall win your own souls."

In the evening Jessie & went over to the Episcopal Church but were very much disappointed. We could not follow the service & the preacher gave us a very poor sermon. It was a beautiful evening & cloudless sky, & when the sun set, the hills opposite were tinged with purple & lilac. The full moon rising above them looked very strange. It must be quite light all night. Began a letter to Willie Parker.

Monday 1st July.

We have had another lovely day. finished Willie's letter in the morning, & afterwards had a walk with Jessie through the town to the Mineral Well & back by Rivers dale. In the afternoon we had the donkey carriage again & we all went out to Tomvaich. Papa & I cycling. the donkey is very slow, but we are not in a hurry here. It is very pretty at Tomvaich, first a farm house among the woods, - a quiet peaceful place. We

sat for a short time with Mr. & Mrs. Holmes, who I think were glad to see someone. Had milk & cake (much nicer than afternoon tea) especially as we had had it before we left.

walked with Jessie in the evening out to the end of the wood where we sat & admired the purple hiss. It was a beautiful sunset - just newly all over 10 p.m.

Tuesday 2nd July

I had a lovely lazy day. It was very hot & bright. I sat outside nearly all day - reading - studying botany & sewing. About eight o'clock Maggie & I went for a short run on our bikes down to Speyridge & out about two miles on the Cromdale road. It is a lovely road & the sun was just setting. The cool of the evening is the pleasantest time to take exercise if it were not for the midges which bite one all over & go into one's eyes whenever they can.

Wednesday 3rd July

Another very hot lazy day. Sewed & read botany again. Papa & Mamma went by train to Aberlour & Craigellachie, & seem to have enjoyed it. We three girls spend over an hour in the Japanese shop in the forenoon.

purchasing a few presents. They have beautiful things, sent from Japan by old Mr. Cameron's son, which whom John Thomson (Denistoun) is in business. It was very hot in the afternoon. Jessie & I sat in the pine wood below the station for a long time. Went a short walk with Jessie in the evening. We spoke to Mr. McLennan, the rector, who lives next door.

Thursday 4th July

This is a holiday in Grantown; there is a cheap trip to Glasgow for the Exhibition 4/6d return!!!

It was very hot all day. In the afternoon we went to Huntly's Cave. Mamma, Maggie & Jessie driving, & Papa & I cycling. We stayed there about an hour, going down through the woods to the top of the precipice in which the cave is. It is a beautiful wild rocky place - more like west-coast scenery than any we have hitherto seen hereabouts. Maggie & I went up to see the shows in the evening. Everything was glare & noise. I felt quite sickish & wondered how I used to enjoy those things so much.

Friday 5th July

{Mr MacDiarmid (U. F. Minister) called in the afternoon}

It was oppressively hot during the night - I saw the trippers coming home from Glasgow about 3.30 a. m. Poor souls! they must have been very tired - they left at five yesterday morning.

Lizzie MacDonald came to spend the day with us. M & I met her by the 9.4 train which was three-quarters on an hour late. Unfortunately it rained most of the day, but happily the rain brought coolness. We took Lizzie to see the Japanese shop in the forenoon, & in the afternoon got a dry time to have a short walk up the the Black Park where the shows are. Lizzie MacDonald went by 6.10 train, & I think enjoyed the visit - it is always a change for her.

She does not seem strong at all & has a nasty cough.

Rained all evening.

Saturday 6th July

It was dull in the evening, & Papa, Maggie & I had a cycle run round by Nethy Bridge, Broomhill & Dulnain

Bridge. Although dull it was a very close & hot. In the afternoon the sun came out, & it was very pleasant. We hired the donkey & carriage & with it & three bicycles all went out to Tomvaich, where we sat in the garden with Mr. & Mrs. Holmes for over an hour. The donkey actually trotted part of the way both going & coming. I found some crow-berries which I had never seen before. In the evening we went up to see the Fair, but did not patronize any of its shows. I think we have better circuses that come to Kilmacolm.

Sunday 7th July.

I have not been to church at all. Have been reading 'The Unseen Universe' by Stewart & Tait, the latter of whom died last week. I sat out all day. In the afternoon it was oppressively hot. Papa & I had a lovely farewell walk in the evening. We went up to Dreggie & over the hill into Glenbeg, which is a very pretty wee valley. Had a long chat with the farmer's wife at Gorton. She seemed lonely — her husband being in Edinburgh. It was beautiful looking over Grantown from the top of the hill, with the sunlight, traversed by shadows of cloud, on the hills opposite. There was a

very pretty sunset. We went out to see it after supper, & the beautiful warm evening makes me feel so sorry to leave this place where we have spent such a happy holiday. However we go home tomorrow, & I must get to get, so as to be able to get up early & pack.

Caerleon, Kilmacolm

Tuesday 16th July 1901

It is a week since we came home from Grantown. We had a very pleasant journey, although the day was very hot. Arrived home by 7.6 train from Glasgow, & found the house all nicely aired & a nice fire in the parlour, with Janet Laird to welcome us.

The garden was like a wilderness & the fruit just ripening. We have had a busy week making jam & jelly, & cleaning the house seeing we have no servant.

Papa & Mamma went to Stonehouse on Friday & we expect them home tonight. We three girls went to church on Sunday to hear Mr. Paterson. the new church is started, the road in front is all barricaded.

Yesterday, Monday: Agnes Kinloch came down, &

stayed a long time. Willie Parker came in after tea & I went down to tennis with him to see a tie being played off.

Today we have James Chalmers, our cousin from Glasgow. He is going to stay overnight. I had a walk with him in the forenoon, over the now defunct golf-course & down by the Gryffe. Maggie has one to Duchal with him this afternoon.

Monday 22nd July

James Chalmers stayed till Wed. on which day we pulled gooseberries & currants for him. I went a walk with Willie Parker in the evening. A lovely walk round the pretty flowing road by Blacks-holm. Got beautiful foxgloves & ferns.

Mr. & Mrs. Barr were down when I came in. They also had got a great many red currant. We had a great discussion as usual at supper time.

On Thursday morning Jessie & I went up to see Dolly MacFarlane. She was at Mansfield. We talked to Mrs. MacFarlane for over an hour, & then went up to Mansfield & saw James Holmes & Dolly for a little.

Friday, Uncle Adam & Aunt Janice, & wee Alex Clark drove over from Dampson. More currants to pull. After they left I went up to Strathmuir about four o'clock. Poor Mrs Parker was in bed, having had a very bad sick turn during the night. Mrs Robertson, who is keepin' ghouse, seemed very nice. After tea we played croquet, Willie & Jim making up a set. Later on I helped Mrs. R. to make black currant jam. Came home before tea, having had a splendid time.

Saturday, Willie Parker & I sailed to Port Bannatyne, & walked to Ettrick Bay & back. We both enjoyed the day immensely. It was very dull in the morning, but cleared up & was very hot. there were lots of Glasgow Fairs folks about from whome we got some fun. I enjoyed the sail as much as any I ever had before.

Sunday. Went to church morning & evening. Mr. Paterson gave us a splendid sermon in the morning. How to keep our gardens - the dangers of too much or too long continuous prosperity. Mr. Baird from Port Glasgow was very nice in the evening. Have finished 'The Unseen Universe' at last. I like it better in the

end, & underst& it better.

Today Monday is again very hot. There was thunder & lightening all through Saturday night, & very heavy rain at intervals yesterday.

Today is lovely & bright. Have pulled enough rasps for jam & bought black currants.

Mrs. Kruger is dead. So - today's paper. I wonder what old Kruger thinks of himself.

Tuesday 23rd July. Willie Parker & I went down to Duchal in the afternoon with Fanny C. Isaac Chalmers & James Smith were there & Willie took three photos - one of us eating strawberries & cream.

When i came home Mrs. Holmes & May were in having had tea with Maggie & Jessie. Mother & Father came home at 6.33 p.m. from Sandbank where they had been to see Uncle Laird.

Wed 24th July. Willie Parker & I went out to Jordanhill to see Mr. & Mrs. Fred Binnie. We arrived about 4.30, found two Misses Sutherl& there, & had a very enjoyable visit. they have a very nice house, beautiful flowers in front, & they do everything

possible for their visitors. We came hom by 10.5 train.

Thursday 25th July. Father, Mother & Maggie went to Glasgow to dine & go to the Exhibition with the Alexanders. In the afternoon, Jessie & I had Mrs. Lang & her daughters from Greenock, friends of Papa's. At first we could not think who they were, but discovered when they spoke of the shop in Nicholson Street.

In the evening we had a visit from Pastor Geyer & his daughter, Hilda, on thier bicycles. Jande Laird brought down a basket of beautiful black currants.

Friday 26th July. Busy making jelly & jam, washing, etc.

Saturday 27th July. We all drove to Dampton in the afternoon, leaving Jean Laird in charge of the house. They were busy stacking hay. Thunder rumbling about & some rain. We had a splendid drive - enjoyed it thoroughly. Willie Parker came down in the evening, also Mrs. MacLell & Mrs. Yates.

Sunday 27th July. Went to church in the morning, read & wrote in the afternoon & evening.

Monday 28th July. We had Martha & Mary Neilson, Miss Lizzie Barr & Marie Laird to tea. We girls had a stroll round by the tennis & the park in the evening.

Tuesday 29th July. We made jelly with the last of the currants, & I am glad they are all pulled now. Agnes & Helen Kinloch came down in the afternoon & stayed for tea. Mrs MacEwan (Barbara) came in after tea to get the pattern of some drawn thread work. Willie Parker came down in the evening.

Wed 30th July. I had a splendid ride with Willie Parker in the afternoon. We went up by West Glen, down near to Bishopton & home by the Langbank Road. Gathered some blae-berries, the first I have had this year. After tea, Willie & I had a game of chess & I managed better than I ever did before, keeping him off longer. We did not finish as Fanny came in. She sat for a while with Jessie who has been in bed these two days.

Thursday, August 1st. Father, Willie Parker & I cycled to Largs today, going by the moor road & home by the shore - Inverkip, Greenock & through Port Glasgow. We had some rain going, but had a lovely

afternoon coming home. I enjoyed it very much, especially the shore road from Largs to Greenock, which with the wind on our backs was grand. Coming through Port Glasgow was anything but pleasant. They are preparing the streets for electric cars & in some places it was possible but no more to get along.

We arrived home about 5.30 & Sydney Smith & an Indian friend of his, a Mr. Gordon Roy, came by 5.10 train from Glasgow to stay overnight. Sid looks just the same as he did before he went away to South Africa. He is just about a month home from the front.

Mr. Roy was most interesting & cultured. He is a Parsee, has been in London for ten years, & speaks English very well. He seems to have travelled a very great deal & can converse on any subject.

Friday, August 2nd. Sidney & Mr. Roy went by 10 o'clock train. We enjoyed their company very much.

Mr. Roy was so interesting & splendid company. Bessie Craig & Agnes Kinloch came down in the forenoon for a little & in the evening Maggie K & Bessie came down & arranged that Bessie is to come here on Monday

& stay for a while.

Saturday August 3rd. I went to Fairfield in the afternoon to see Miss Nellie Lang, but she is not there at present. Had a chat with Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lang. Poor wee Arthur has a sore throate & they were sending for the Doctor for him.

Wed. September 4th 1901.

It is a whole month since I wrote in you, my dear old diary, & I have spend the greater part of that month in bed.

Well on Monday the 5th August Bessie Craig came to stay for a week, & on Tuesday the 6th, Sydney & Lil Smith & Edith Dansie (?) came & stayed till Saturday. They wanted to see the Exhibition, so went up to it on Wed. during the day, but none of us went with them as we expected John Craig & two friends of Mr. Bawden & Mr. Whyte. they came in the afternoon, & Bessie, Willie Parker, Maggie & I walked with them to Old Duchal, at least Bessie & Mr. Bawden did not get the length of Old Duchal.

they got lost. Lil, Edith & Sid got home in time for tea, & we all had a jolly evening together - the boys waiting till the 10.45 train.

On Thursday, we all (en famille) sailed through the Kyles & back arriving home about five for dinner. Our maid (Mary) came on the Tuesday so that we could all get away with our friends.

Fanny & Isaac Chalmers came up to spend that evening with us & James Crawford (Townhead) came in also.

On Friday Maggie & I went with the three Dundee friends to the Exhibition, leaving here at ten. We did as much as possible in our day, saw the pictures pretty well, & had a walk through most of the other parts, except where they were closed up because of the Lord Mayor of London's visit. We got home at five, had tea, & left again at 6.45 for an evening cruise, Bessie coming with us & Lil remaining at home as she had a headache.

Sunday, Sept. 8th.

To continue:— John Craig & Mr. Bawden met us at Princes Pier. The "King Edward" - the new turbine steamer, took us up just to the entrance of Loch Long &

then, as it became very wet, turned. I stayed down stairs nearly all the time so that I cannot have got a chill there. I think the damage must have been done at the Exhibition, as I felt bad enough when we got home. Next morning I had a dreadful pain in my chest, but got up to see Lil, Edith & Sid before they went away at nine. However I could not stay up, but had to go back to bed before they went away, & just said "Goodbye".

It was nearly three weeks till I was out of bed again. I had a slight touch of pleurisy, happily pretty slight as I would not like to have it any worse, and it has taken long enough "in all conscience".

Bessie Craig left us on Monday the 12th Aug to go to Arran, & Maggie, Willie & Alex Clark also left that day, having spent the week-end here. We had a quiet three weeks, & then Eliza Begg last week-end.

Yesterday I got our for the first time, but today has been dreadful - rain & wind.

Mamma & Papa went over to Dampton yesterday to stay till Monday or Tuesday. I am sorry they have not better weather. Winter seems to be coming in now.

the nights get so early dark: schools are opened. Mr. Paterson home from his holidays etc.

Whilst I was in bed we had a visit from Dr. & Mrs Young from New Zealand. Bessie is the same as ever. They are on their way home now.

I have had lots of time for reading & thinking this last month. I am afraid I have not profitted very much by the thinking. Have read & enjoyed "Sartor Resartus", "Concerning Isabel Carnaby" (Miss Fowler), "Rob Roy", most of "Pictures from Roman Life & Story" besides numerous magazines "Great Thoughts" etc.

Tuesday 17th September.

How the time is flying! — I don't seem to be getting on very quickly. Was out quite a lot Mon. Tues. Wed. & Thursday last week, & then had a slight cold, & have not been out since. We have all had cold slightly, Jessie having to go to bed with it. Cecil Thoms came on Saturday, & has gone to stay in Port Glasgow. — a short visit, but I enjoyed it thoroughly, although able to do so little. She is looking splendid & her singing has improved much, I think. Fanny came up for a short time on Sat. & Willie Parker for a little in the

evening. Everyone is so kind when one is ill.

Janet Holmes brought me a beautiful bunch of grapes, & I got another beauty from Uncle Laird at Sandbank.

Papa & Maggie were down one day last week helping to pull plums. Miss Agnes McGeachy brought down "The Farringdons" on Sat. for me to read. We have had a lot of visitors too in a nice quiet way. Maggie is at Greenock today, & going to see the Prentices.

Friday 20th September

On Wed. afternoon Mrs. Lang & her daughter from Greenock (old friends of Papa's) came up. Willie Parker came in to see me in the afternoon but went away before tea. Willie Thoms & Joe Anderson arrived in the evening to stay overnight. We had not expected them till Thursday - there was some misunderstanding, but of course it did not matter. Mrs Lang & her daughter are very nice. They went at 8.45.

Thursday, it was very wet & stormy. Willie Thoms & J. Anderson drove round the country in the afternoon in spite of rain & wind. Came back here pretty wet, &

left about five, to go to Mrs. Herbert's for tea, & later on to Port Glasgow where they were to stay all night, & go home with Cecil today.

Today is still stormy, but with only an occasional shower. Mamma went to town at ten, to meet Jessie & Mary Clark & do some shopping with them. We expected them home for dinner, but it is nearly three & they have not yet arrived. Jessie & Mary are to stay with us for a few days.

Sat. 21st September

Jessie & Mary Clark arrived at 3.19 yesterday. Mary is just the same wee darling as last time she was here. Mrs. MacClelland, Mrs. Yates & Mr. s gillies came in for a little after tea. We had also a visit from Rev. Mr. Beveridge of Port Glasgow. I got out to the garden today (Sat) for a little to walk up up & down. It is nice to get out again. I should surely get well quickly now.

Mon. 22nd September.

We had a nice quiet Sunday. It rained a little in the afternoon. I have finished "Hard Cash" by Charles Reade & enjoyed it thoroughly. Read Lord Roseberry's

speech at the unveiling of King Alfred's statue at Winchester. & finished the part of the "Sidereal Universe" in my book "the Universe".

Today was out in the garden in the forenoon. It is the Glasgow Autumn Holiday. Aunt Agnes & Jennie Chalmers came early & had dinner here. Papa & Mamma went to Greenock to Prentice's by arrangement. In the evening we had a call from Mrs. MacClelland, Mrs. Alex Laird, Mary & Mr. Bob White. I like Mary's "young man" very much indeed, more so each time I see him. Mr. John Laird came in also, & they all went by the 7.33 train. I have finished the pillow cased wh. I have been hem-stitching, & am going to begin some crochet.

Tuesday 24th.

I was out four different times today. It was very warm & bright. Jessie's throat is very sore today - it is badly ulcerated, & she has been in bed all day, poor girl. Papa was in Glasgow today & came home by 5.10 train. Dr. Hadwen came down by same train, & came along.

It was nice to meet him again. His daughter Una is

now teaching elocution in a private school & has also private pupils for French & History. We enjoyed a chat with him again immensely.

He left by 8.53 train for Miliken Park. He gave me "the smallest Bible in the world, illustrated" in memory of his visit.

Wed. 25th Sept.

We have had another lovely warm day & poor Jessie is still in bed, but her throat is much better. Dr. Hadwen saw her last night & cheered her up a bit. I walked round the square by Summerlea in the forenoon, & in the afternoon Willie Parker & wee Mary & I walked round by the post & the tennis. Uncle Adam came over about two, to take Jessie & Mary back to Dampton with him. Uncle A is looking awfully well. He seems better every time we see him. We are sorry to part with Jessie & Mary. Mary is such a good child & very interesting.

Alex Gardner came in when we were at tea & stayed for a little while. Willie Parker came again after tea, then Mrs. Maclelland, & later Tom Kinloch & James Craig, whom I have not seen since they left Kilmacalm.

They paid a short call, & shortly after they left, Mrs. Maclellan left.

While we were at supper, Mr. Thoms came in just to give us a look-in. He is staying the night with Mrs Herbert. Maggie has been making paper poppets for the decoration of the church on Sunday for Harvest Thanksgiving.

Thursday 26th Sept.

A beautiful day. I went up to Rogers to do the messages in the morning, & felt so glad to be able to do even that again. In the afternoon I started collecting for the Cancer Hospital, — the book(s) for which have been lying for weeks. Got two subscriptions, & left two books, so that it is always a start maded. We had Mrs. Affleck & Dorothy, Mrs. Craig & Maggie Kinloch in the afternoon, also Fanny Chalmers for a few minutes.

Willie Parker came in in the evening. We four young people played whist just like winter time again. We must have games sometimes to keep us bright. We as a family are rather given to solitariness — a book & a quiet corner is what we delight in. So that I think it is

good for us to have sociable games occasionally.

Friday 27th Sept.

Papa had arranged to go for a sail on the Clyde with Dr. Hadwen today, but it turned out very wet & very stormy. Berta Campbell came up in the afternoon, & Jessie, she & I had nice quiet chat. It is so nice when an old friend comes, especially when you have not seen her for a long time, & old friends are always the best.

Sat. 25th Sept.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Binnie came down to spend the day with us — their first visit since they were married. After dinner Papa, Maggie & Fred went over to the Park to see a football match in wh. the Boys Brigade were to take part.

Mr. & Mrs. Allison (Maggie Craig that was) arrived about four to spend the week-end here, & Willie Parker came for tea. Pastor & Mrs. Geyer came in just when we had finished tea. They had just set out to shopping, & thought they would take a run down to Kilmacolm. I did not see them at all. They had not long altogether & had to get tea, so we young people sat upstairs, & while the gentlemen smoked, we three girls

had an amusing time listening to the two "wives" discussing husbands, etc. Mr. & Mrs. F. B. & Mr. & Mrs. Geyer went together by 7.33 train. Mr. Allison seems very nice - I had never met him before. Finished "The Farringdons" today.

Sunday 29th Sept.

Got up for breakfast today - first time for seven weeks. I little thought then that I was to have so long of it. They have all gone to church but Jessie & me, & I suppose it to be wonderfully decorated for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Will hear all about it when they come home. — It was beautifully decorated but very hot & stuffy, partly because it was wet outside & there so many water-proofs. Maggie only went out in the evening. Mr. & Mrs. Allison had to stay in for the rest of the day. I have read nothing today.

Monday 30th September

We have a had a beautiful day, & it has well repaid Mr. & Mrs. Allison to stay over till tomorrow. Maggie Kinloch, our Maggie, & Mr. & Mrs. A. walked to Old Duchal in the afternoon, & after tea the four of them went up to Glasgow to see the Exhibition

illuminated. We don't expect them home till 10.45.
Willie Parker came down in the afternoon & Jessie, he & I had a walk.

Mamma & Papa also walked round by the Slates.
Mrs. Latta came in for a little in the evening & I have been studying botany again, & will try to do on with it during the winter — it is so very interesting.

Tuesday 1st Oct.

Mr. & Mrs. Allison left for Liverpool at 8.45 a.m.
Willie Parker came down in the evening. It was very wet & dull all day.

Wed. 2nd Oct.

Mrs. Thomson & Maggie came in the afternoon to stay for a few days. It was a beautiful day, i was out quite a lot. Mrs. T. Mamma & the two Maggies went to an evangelist meeting in the evening where John McNeill preached.

Thurs. 3rd Oct.

Very wet all day. We did not get out at all. Mrs. Holmes called in the afternoon. Mrs. John Laird came for tea & stayed till about eight. Then we played whist

as it had been such a dull day.

Friday 4th Oct.

A beautiful day. It is just turn about. They all went to the Exhibition but Jessie & me — the two Maggies not coming home till eleven. I did some collecting in the afternoon & had a walk to the farm with Jessie (Overton?). In the evening Nigel & May Laird (Torridon?) & Willie Parker came down & we all played cards — whist & newmarket — Jessie & I had a call from Mrs. Jack in the afternoon.

Sat 5th Oct.

The doctor came to sound me this forenoon, so I had to lie in bed longer. I am nearly all right, but still to be very careful. Mrs. Thomson & Maggie left about twelve. I have enjoyed their visit very much

We had Papa's friends (from the Rome trip) to spend the day. Mr. & Mrs. Yound arrived at 12.45. Mr. & Mrs. Taylor did not come till three, as Mrs. T had missed the train. It was showery & stormy all day so that the ladies did not get out at all. They all left at 6.33 & we have had a nice quiet evening.

Surely this is the finish of our visitors now. We have had two months, someone here almost continually & we'll be glad to have a rest now.

I enjoyed Mrs. Young but not Mrs. Taylor particularly.

Sunday 13th October

We have had a fairly quiet week — day about of good weather & bad. Last Sunday I had a walk in the forenoon, met Andrew Smith & had a chat with him. It rained in the afternoon & for the rest of the day

Tuesday forenoon Maggie & I went to Paisley to "Pailanes (?) & Kerr's". On Wed. Mamma & Jessie went to the Exhibition — Jessie's first visit. She enjoyed it immensely. Willie Parker kept me company in the afternoon, while Maggie was out collecting, & Papa at Dampton on his bicycle.

Uncle Laird at Sandbank is seriously ill. Papa & mamma were down to see him on Monday. Thursday was our day at home. We had Mrs. McCrone, Mrs. G. MacDonald, Mrs. Lag, Mrs. Alex Waddell & Mrs. Wm. Davidson. I suppose this is the beginning

of the winter visitors.

Ada Reid came here on her way home from school on Friday. I had not seen her for nearly a yer, & enjoyed seeing her again very much. Willie Parker came down on Saturday afternoon. It rained so that we could not get out. After tea we fixed up both microscopes, & had to get Papa to focus them for us. Saw pollen grains through the big one. It is really wonderful that such tiny things are made so beautifully. Papa tried his magic lantern too, but the light was not good enough. His slides seem to be very good.

I was at church this forenoon - the first time for two months. enjoyed Mr. Paterson's sermon on "Speak to the earth & it shall teach thee" Job xii 8. Have been reading the Book of Job since I came home. I am just beginning to find out that the Bible is the Book of Books, & to know how very little of it I know. the Book of Job is full of poetry compared to which much of the modern poetry I have been reading is but trash. I somethings think I have so little time for reading but if only one could leave out much of the stuff one reads, & only read what is true & noble that little time would be

more profitably spent.

Willie Parker lent me a little book of *Popular Stories & Legends* by Tolstoy which I have enjoyed very much. Last night Mamma gave Willie a copy of Thomas à Kempis' "Imitation of Christ"

This afternoon I had a nice walk with Papa & Mamma out past Water-yetts. It was a glorious afternoon & I do not feel at all tired with it. Mamma & Papa have gone to church again, & Jessie & I are alone. Maggie is at Patterhill with the Beggs till Thursday.

Monday 14th Oct. 1901

Willie Parker came down in the afternoon, & as it rained & we could not go out, we spent the time with the microscope. Willie brought me in a box of slides (botanical sections) from Andrew Smith. They are most interesting. I must persevere in the study of botany. Papa has been sick & went back to bed about one o'clock. We got word in the afternoon that Uncle Laird at Sandbank died this morning early. He was in his 97th year.

Tuesday 15th Oct.

Papa is not very well yet. Maggie came home in the forenoon. I had a nice walk in the afternoon with Willie Parker round Milton Farm & the loch(?). Got one or two specimens of wild flowers, the last of the year. Agnes Kinloch came down in the evening to help Maggie make toffee to send to Mrs. Begg for their church Sale of Work.

Wed. 16th Oct

It has been dull & foggy all day & has rained since two o'clock. I have baked this morning - first time since I have been ill. did some collecting just after dinner. Willie Parker came down to see Papa, but Papa did not feel able to go out to the Camera Club, so Willie stayed for a little. Papa has gone to be chairman at a meeting in the St. Columba Church Hall, when an address on the "Scottish Labour Colony" is to be given. Maggie has gone up to McGeachy's to tea. Have written to Berta, & am going to read Roseberry's at Birmingham on "Political Education"

Thurs. 17th Oct.

We had a lovely forenoon. I was out for quite a long

time collecting. Papa went to Greenock in the afternoon to attend Uncle Laird's funeral. All the grandsons but Alex were there - even Uncle Andrew being taken. Papa & Maggie have gone up to the first Harrison (?) concert tonight - madame Patti is the chief attraction.

Friday 18th October

Rained in the morning, but we had a beautiful afternoon. Finished letter to Cecil which I started last night. Papa went to Grangemouth this morning to stay overnight. We had a nice quiet evening. Maggie went to the choir practice & I got out the microscope, & interested myself in botany. The slides Andrew Smith let me see are very interesting & useful. Aunt Lina came in & had a long chat. I had not seen her for such a long time.

Sat. 19th Oct

Jessie & I went down with flowers to Mrs. MacLell & in the morning. She is coming home from Sandbank today.

Willie Parker came down in the afternoon. We were to have gone to the Exhibition either yesterday or today but

he has a very bad cold. We sat in the house all afternoon & Willie went home early about eight. He starts the winter sessions on Monday, so I hope he will fell quite well before then. Papa came home at six. The doctor came in later & sounded me. I hope for the last time.

Sunday Oct 20th.

It has been a beautiful day, & is now a beautiful evening. I have felt very restless all day — cannot settle to read, & long to go out & gaze at the moon which is in its first quarter — so clear & bright, — & at the sparkling stars in the deep dark blue of heaven. It makes one feel & know that God is infinite, & oh (?) it might help me to find him.

Went to church in the morning. I wish I could see & talk with Willie Parker on Sunday. That is the day I miss him most.

Monday Oct 21st.

A dull day. I did not go out at all. Willie came in at night & I actually beat him at chess — the first game I ever won. I felt quite proud of myself, but as he had a cold, & had been studying all day, it is

perhaps not much credit to me after all.

Tuesday Oct 22nd

I have not got out today either, & I am rather disappointed. Mamma & Papa went to Glasgow to go to the Exhibition, & I was busy all forenoon. Before I could get out Andrew Smith came in, then Mrs. Dr. Laird, then Mrs. Davidson & Mrs. McEwan, & lastly Mrs. John Laird, so that we had an afternoon of it. I should go out every day, so that I am rather annoyed, but still I enjoyed our visitors awfully much.

Maggie & Jessie have gone to tea at Kinlochs, & I am all alone waiting for Father & Mother to come home. I did not expect them to be so late.

They came at nine.

Wed 23rd Oct

I went to the Exhibition with Willie Parker, leaving here at 9.48 a.m. It was slightly foggy but when the sun did shine out it was lovely & warm. We went first to the Russian section, but it was so cold & draughty indoors that we were glad to get out again. Bought for Mamma a thimble & self-threading needles there, &

have since found out that it is quite as easy to use needles without the thimble. & as they charged me 1 shilling for the thimble (really worth a penny) & a packet of needles (3) which they give as a bargain, it is a bit of a fraud.

Saw the Japanese dwarf trees & went through the Japanese section. They have some beautiful screens & vases upstairs. After having lunch we spent about an hour & a half in the Art Galleries. Spend a long time in no. XV where there are some, or rather many beautiful pictures. The "Happy Mother" — a beautiful collie dog with all her pups about her is really lovely. Afterwards saw photographs, which are splendid. I hope Willie will be able to do as well some day. had a drink of hot milk at the farm, & then went into the Concert Hall to hear the Scottish Orchestra, Dr. Cowen conducting. They played beautifully. Afterwards we just had time to walk up to see the Halford Gradient Railway - a new idea - hearing snatches from Sousa's band in passing — & had to leave to catch the 5.10 train. Andrew Smith came down with us, and we did not get home till nearly half past

six as there was an engine off the line at Hawkhead (?). Willie came in & stayed till about nine. Maggie and Mamma also went to the prayer meeting. Papa at a geological meeting in Glasgow.

I enjoyed the day awfully much — was a little tired, but seem to be none the worse of it.

Thursday 24th Oct.

Uncle Adam and Aunt Jeanie drove over today, & Maggie went back with them to stay till Saturday. It rained unfortunately, but as it had been arranged, they just came inspite of it. Have not been out all day. It seems dry and clear now.

Friday 25th Oct

Jessie in bed all day. Papa and Mamma went to Sandbank to see Aunt Mary. They are dismantling the house and it will be sold soon. Everything connected with Uncle Laird will soon have disappeared.

It was a lovely day, altho' showery. Went out to collect after dinner — have finished all bu one place where they were out. Janet and mary Holmes came down and stayed about an hour or more. Janet brought a photo of

herself - very good indeed.

Willie Parker came in the evening. He is going to join the church this Communion. Mrs. Maclelland came in for a while too, staying till ten.

Sat 26th Oct.

Walked with Willie Parker to Duchal in the afternoon to ask for Mr. Chalmers. He is rather better again. Met Fanny driving driving into the village, so did not go quite down.

The trees are beautiful just now in their autumn dress. One rowan tree in the avenue was a perfect picture in itself, so exquisitely and richly tinted. "Who can paint like nature?" Maggie came home from Dampton in the afternoon. After tea Willie and I played two games of chess, both of which I lost. Then we each took a photo of the other, which I hope will turn out well.

Sunday 27th Oct.

It is wet and stormy today. I did not go to church. They had a strange minister.

Monday 28th.

Mother, Maggie and I spend the afternoon as arranged

with Mrs. Dr. Laird. She is very nice indeed; lent me a book to read — "A flower hunter in Queensland and New Zealand."

Tuesday 29th Oct.

Lizzie Hunter and Andrew Smith came to spend the evening. It was not clear enough to see through the telescope. I enjoyed their being here very much. Father and Mother at the Exhibition till 8 o'clock.

Wednesday 30th Oct.

Jessie and I went to see Mrs. Macfarlane in the afternoon. Willie Parker came down in the evening. Father and Mother at Holmes' to play "Ping-Pong".

Thursday 31st Oct.

Maggie & Agnes Kinloch and Lily Wright came for tea & spend the evening. We had quite a lot of Hallowe'en visitors. Three little village boys sang two songs to us splendidly. Then we had two Afflecks — Agnes McCrone as Mr. Mrs. and Miss MacLewhang. They were very good too. June Kinloch came as "Mrs. Kennedy, a widow" & stayed for the evening. There were quite a lot of others too.

They helped to entertain our invited visitors. Mother, Jessie and I were at Greenock in the morning when I bought a big new winter coat.

Friday 1st November

Mary in bed all day with a bilious attack. She was to have gone to a wedding today. The others went to the Ex. - all but Jessie & me. I met W.P. in the afternoon, had a walk & he came in and had tea with us. He is to be admitted to church membership tonight. M. came home at eight & went straight out again to the service. Sorry I cannot go. Jessie in bed now too, feeling sickish.

Tuesday 5th Nov.

Maggie went to Sandbank to stay with Mrs. Thomson till Saturday. Mary in Glasgow to see the doctor. Willie Parker was down on Saturday and also on Monday evening. The communion was held on Sunday, but Papa did not go. We others went.

Wed. 6th Nov.

Jessie and I left here at ten to pay our last visit tot he Exhibition. It was a lovely fresh mild day. Met

Mother in the Art Galleries at 1 o'clock.

During the afternoon Jessie had a chair for an hour with such a nice old man to wheel her. He took her all through the Industrial Hall and round the Machinery Hall, showing and explaining all the things of interest.

Got home at 6.45 with Andrew Smith in train having enjoyed it thoroughly. I was not at all tired, but mother seemed to be.

Thursday 7th Nov.

We had Marion rogers, Miss Braid, Mrs. Afflick and Mrs. John Laird calling. Willie P. in the evening when he & I talked till nine o'clock, & then palyed "Ping Pong" which Papa bought yesterday.

Friday 8th Nov.

Mother and I called for Mrs. Leith and Mrs. Frew. Father at the Exhibition. did not go to see illuminations in the evening which neither I, nor I have seen at all. Had a flying visit from ?id this morning.

Sat. 9th Nov.

Met Maggie coming home from Sandbank at 3 o'clock. Rained all day. Willie P did not come down till about

seven. We all played Ping-Pong & wonder of wonder!
I was champion. But playing afterwards with Jessie
she beat me.

Papa was at church committee meeting. Carnegie has
offered to help us get a £500 organ for our new church.

This was the closing day of the Exhibition which has
proved a great success.

