

DIARY OF AMELIA MOILLIET (NEE KEIR)

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“Like leaves on trees, the race of man is found,
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground;
Another race the following spring supplies.
They fall successive, and successive rise:
So generations in their course decay,
So flourish these, when those are past away!” (Homer)

1819

In the spring of 1819, Emily and I attended regularly very interesting lectures on Poetry delivered by the poet Campbell, Miss Edgeworth visited us on the 2nd of March with her two sisters, Honora and Fanny, and spent three days with us. They attended one of the lectures. Mrs Brooke was frequently a guest at Smethwick Grove in the spring of the year.

March 26th

First visit from M.. Malan. My time during this period was much occupied in going to Hill Top to see my Father: our intercourse afforded me little pleasure though often intense and painful feelings of interest were awakened from seeing his superior mind gradually departing and his body suffering.

April 21st

Parted with James, who set off early to the Rev Mr Bushell's of Newent in Gloucestershire, the school recommended by Mrs Brooke.

April 27th

Departed for Godmanchester with Mr. Moilliet, Susie, Theodore, and Albert (1 year and 9 months old). We arrived the same evening – my beloved child in my arms during all the day. We spent ten days with our dear friends (the Baumgartners) at Godmanchester. During our absence Emily and Miss Bernard visited Mrs Townsend.

May 8th

A few minutes after our return home, while drinking tea in the school-room, Miss Edgeworth, Honora, and Fanny entered unexpectedly in the evening. We then formed the intention of meeting next spring end of travelling together to Switzerland. The expectation that this arrangement would be improving to my two daughters reconciled me in some degree to the very painful feelings of leaving my dear Father; but the strongest inducement arose from the hope that it would be beneficial to the health of my husband. Nevertheless the determination was very painful, far more so than I expressed to anyone, being unwilling to strengthen my sorrowful feelings by communicating them to others – my Father having early taught me to distrust the guidance of feelings as delusive and simply to consider and follow the path of duty.

May 14th

I aquatinted Miss Bernard with the intention we had formed of going to Switzerland next spring and that I should no longer need her assistance after the completion of this year. My increasing esteem for Miss Bernard and the pleasing change which was taking place in her character as her faith and knowledge of Christianity increased, rendered the communication painful to me and very distressing to her. Miss Barnard arrived at Smethwick Grove the 9th November 1817, and left us on 8th February 1820.

May 31st

On the last day of May, Mr Moilliet, Emily, Theodore, and I, with Mr Carne, went to Malvern where we had the pleasure of meeting James. Theodore in full enjoyment of liberty ran about the hills as if he had been born among them, and I shuddered to see him at the edge of every precipice, while James was following to save him from danger.

June 21st

Tryce and Percy Baumgartner arrived and spent six weeks at Smethwick.

June 23rd

Miss De Luc joined our family party. M. D'Effingher and the Chevalier Lutti visited us, also Lady Sitwell, and M. DeFaur, M. Michoud, Mrs. Stovin, and Mrs Mt., who read Shakespeare's plays to us in the evenings.

August 4th

Our visitors departed today and Mr Moilliet set off to London to await the expected arrival of John. My thoughts dwelt with strong interest upon his forming character.

August 8th

I suffered much anxiety from receiving a letter from John, who had waited in London several days having missed his Father.

August 11th

Mr Moilliet and John returned. Tears of pleasure rolled fast down from the eyes of John on returning to his family after a separation of five years.

August 26th

We placed John under the care of Mr Townsend.

August 28th

Mr Moilliet and I went to Malvern. The look of sorrow with which Albert saw me depart is still fresh in my memory. It was unlike the transitory expression of sorrow in a child: it appeared to express far deeper feeling, united with remarkable submission. This separation from him – short as it was – was more distressing to me than I could have previously imagined – every flower bud that I saw, every young lamb playing beside its mother on Malvern hill, brought tears to my eyes by reminding me of my dear child, and I discovered almost with pain how very dear he was to me, though I felt at the time grateful for the possession of this blessing.

September 1st

We returned today so that Mr Moilliet might attend the funeral of Mr Watt, who was buried at Handsworth Church on the 2nd September .

Sunday following

An able and interesting sermon was preached by the Rev Lane Freer at Handsworth.

Following day

Mr Moilliet and I called at Heathfield. Upon asking Mrs Watt of her health she replied in words very characteristic of her strength of mind and of her affection, "that she was thankful now to feel constant bodily pain, it was a relief to her mind". In the evening Mr J Watt and Mr Tuffin drank tea at Smethwick.

September 8th

Mr Moilliet, Emily, and I and my dear Aby set off for Okeover where we remained until the 11th and called at Byrkley Lodge on our return.

September 28th

Mr Moilliet was engaged till a very late hour at Aston Hall upon an Arbitration.

October 1st

We dined at Mr Corries' s¹ and met Sir E T Smith, whom I had formerly seen at Dr Beddoes. His simple and cultivated mind interested me. He afterwards dined at Smethwick.

October 16th

John arrived between 9 and 10 o'clock at night, my dear friend Mrs Townsend being very ill. I was also anxious about my father. The following day I went to Hill Top and West Bromwich – my dear Father and Mrs Townsend were both better.

November 23rd

John's birthday. He was 16 years old. Mr and Mrs Townsend, Charlotte and Francis dined at Smethwick.

December 9th

Albert was christened at West Bromwich by Mr Townsend. The prayers offered up on this solemn occasion of the beloved child sprang from the hearts of each person present. Mr Moilliet, Theodore, Aby, and I had gone to West Bromwich the preceding day and slept there. Emily, Susie and Mrs Bernard came early in the morning and were present during the ceremony.

December 10th

We returned home after having enjoyed our visit.

December 22nd

James returned from Gloucestershire to the joy of all the family; and on Christmas Dad the customary dinner to the poor neighbouring children and presents in the evening. The table was richly and fully decorated, drawings, etc. better than on former years. Miss Adele Galton² spent Christmas with us.

1820

January 1st

In my annual pocket-book of this year a few lines of poetry were written by my dear Emily. Mr Blair assisted in the usual evening amusements which were all more correctly and better performed and the decorations more appropriate and elegant than formerly. The amusements concluded with a few lines written and spoken by Mr Blair "Clos'd is the year etc"

¹ This Mr Corrie was of an ancient family from Dumfrieshe. His Grandfather emigrated to South Wales and married an heiress. John Currie was born at Kenelworth in 1769. He was sent to Daventry College in 1783, then to the great Unitarian College at Hackney where he greatly distinguished himself. On leaving, he accepted an invitation from the Unitarians at Bromsgrove. In 1796 he married and removed to Birches Green near Birmingham, where he opened a school. He relinquished this profession in 1830 and removed to Woodville near Birmingham. When the Irish Poor Law Commission was established in 1833 he was appointed one of its members through Lord Hatherton. In 1836 on the dissolution of the Commission he returned from Ireland to Woodville where he passed in the calm enjoyment of literary pursuits the few remaining years of his life. His daughter Susan was an intimate friend of Mrs Moilliet and the friendship endured to her death. Mr Corrie, the father, died on 16 August 1839. Miss Susan Corrie lived at Kidderminster and afterwards married the Rev Melsop Hill of Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcester. *James Keir Moilliet*.

² Adele Galton was the daughter of Samuel Galton Jn. She was later to marry Dr Booth of Brush House, Sheffield and become aunt to James Moilliet through his marriage.

February 7th

Miss Bernard left us. She was accompanied by Mr Moilliet and Emily as far as Windsor. Emily visited Miss Deluc and Mrs Blair.

February 13th

Emily and her father returned in a new travelling-carriage which Mr Moilliet purchased for our proposed long journey. During their absence I enjoyed spending a few days quietly with my dear Susie. At the beginning of this year, as the time of our departure was approaching, I suffered much on my dear Father's account whom I saw frequently, but he rarely recognised me, and my presence seemed to afford him no pleasure. It was a great comfort to me to see him attended by two conscientious and good servants who waited upon him from affection and from duty. The remembrance of their disinterested and faithful conduct is always consolatory to me. The harassing anxiety I endured from conflicting feelings – not seeing clearly my path of duty – at last produced fever and from March 12th I was entirely confined to my bed during several days and attended by Mr Baw and afterwards by Dr Baumgartner as Mr Baw was preparing to leave the neighbourhood. Mr Moilliet wishing to claim for his children the privilege to which they were entitled of being Citizens of Geneva, it was necessary to obtain registers of their Christening, and it was then ascertained that Theodore's name had been omitted in the Register-book at West Bromwich Church: he was accordingly christened there a second time on the 26th March by Mr Townsend.

March 31st

We parted from Theodore, which was very painful to me, and he was accompanied by his Father to Newent. I sent a letter to James entreating him to watch over his brother also to Mrs Bushell to request her care of both during our absence.

April 10th

I saw my dear Father. While sitting beside him he recognised me and permitted me to kiss him for the last time on parting. He appeared calmer than formerly and his countenance expressive of serene benignity. I was overcome with sorrow.

April 13th

Miss Edgeworth arrived with Fanny and Harriet and remained until the 18th.

April 19th

We departed for Switzerland leaving "Alec" (Blair) and John standing at the hall door. I felt the most perfect confidence in leaving John under the care of Mrs Townsend and feel thankful even at this time, 1831, that he was permitted to have the advantage of their instruction and society. My dear Aby was in my arms and soothed my sorrow.

April 22nd

We sailed from Dover to Calais, passage five hours. I remained upon deck the whole time. We drove round the walls of Paris, intending to see this city on our return, and arrived in Prêgny³, Geneva on the 30th glad to have completed our wearisome journey. My dear child gave me no trouble, from the sweetness of his temper, and cried only once in descending the Jura, probably from over fatigue.

³ Mr Moilliet's father lived at the "Maison Rival", rue de la Croix d'Or, No 22. The "Chateau de l'Imperatrice" at Prêgny was bought by Mr Moilliet from Eugene Beauharnais. The ci-devant King Joseph, and Eugene Beauharnais, Viceroy of Italy, and the Empress Josephine, were all at Prêgny. (M.. De Bonstetten told me that a few years ago he saw this drawing-room at Prêgny full of crowned heads). Beauharnais was a son of the Empress Josephine by her first husband. The notorious Lola Montez was at one time in this house.

May 5th

I first entered the town of Geneva which was interesting to me as the birthplace of my dear husband and from many early associations. The letter acquainting me of my dear Father's health were more favourable than I had ventured to expect. He continued serene and calm but never enquired for me. I gradually became less anxious, and enjoyed more and more the beauties of nature in Switzerland which far exceeded my expectations. I was disappointed in the Society however. The influences of French philosophy had been more powerfully felt than in England. Geneva had been under the French yoke many years; and during that time the lower classes of Society were completely demoralised. Though Intellect was highly appreciated and cultivated by the higher orders, the spiritualising influence of Christianity was neither acknowledged nor felt; hence the tone of morality was low, generally – self-interest being the main spring of all conduct. The writings of Mme de Staël tended to induce a change of opinion, but they were not understood on the Continent, her genius being first discovered and appreciated in England; and though her writings contain some false opinions they have contributed to prepare our minds of her countrymen for the reception of higher truths by reviving that glorious faculty – the imaginations – which French Philosophy had almost extinguished in the human mind, wherever its baneful influence spread. We attended the very interesting lectures by De Candolle on Botany and afterward a course on Mineralogy given Mon De Luc, solely for the instruction of Emily and Susie, which was very improving to them.

July 17th

Albert's picture was begun by Miss Romilly: his infantile grace and beauty, and the union of sensibility and intelligence in his countenance attracted the admiration of all who saw him. I rejoiced to perceive his unconsciousness of it and that he received admiration as love.

July 18th

There was a storm accompanied with the largest hail-stones I had ever seen, all the same form and resembling crystals. The appearance of the distant mountains was uncommonly beautiful – the clouds moving amidst them presented many fantastic forms encircling the Mole like a zone, its conical top rising above them. Afterwards the sun burst forth and the lake reflected a variety of splendid colours like Mother of Pearl.

July 22nd

There was another awful storm of thunder and lightening at midnight, the thunder clouds seemed to burst over our heads.

July 29th

Miss Edgeworth and her sisters arrived at Prêgny.

August 1st

Susie was taken ill with the thrush – a disorder which is not confined to infants in Geneva. I was anxious and gave up my intention of accompanying Miss Edgeworth and the other to Chamouni, remaining with Susie. Dr Marcet was very kind in attending her.

August 7th

Miss Edgeworth and her sisters and Mr Moilliet and Emily returned, by which time Susie had recovered. We then entered much into Genevese Society who were attracted to Prêgny by the celebrity of Miss Edgeworth whom everyone seemed highly to appreciate. We frequently saw M. Dunant, whose style of conversation and wit was particularly suited to Miss Edgeworth. His mind was powerful and clear, his wit satirical and often directed against the professors of religion, particularly M. Malan, his countenance expressed strongly the disappointment of a man of powerful passions. I was sometimes struck by his perception of the beauty of childhood and of moral character,

which he displayed to me in conversation – and by one seeing him with a kitten in his bosom!
Notwithstanding the warmth of his affections to his friends, and his remarkable powers of amusing conversation, the recollection of his character is to me painful

August 15th

I left my darling child under the care of his good nurse, Hannah, and with Mr Moilliet, Emily, Susie, Miss Edgeworth, and her two sisters, set off for a tour in Switzerland. We breakfasted with the Baron de Staäl (at Coppet) with whose unassuming and gentlemanly manners I was much pleased. We kept a journal of the incidents which occurred during this tour and our impressions.

September 4th

We returned to Prêgny.

September 7th

There was an eclipse of the sun, the light becoming gradually softer, and afterwards gradually brightening produced a most beautiful effect on the grass, the lake, and the mountains.

To Emily Moilliet by Miss Maria Edgeworth, October 1820.

Blest with the pencil's ready ease,
Blest with affection's power to please,
Dear Emily, with magic art retrace
The lov'd remembrance of this happy place,
Nor bashful with that timid smile reply
"The powerless hands will not obey the eye."
Full well I know that Nature's proud sublime
Displaying vast of Space and vast of Time
Cannot by petty art or petty Man
Be straight compress'd and dwindled to a span.
I know yon lake's deep dark unrivall'd blue,
Reflecting in its glass smooth mirror true,
The smiling villas richly social scene,
The passing cloud, the soft grove's tender green,
And that gay skiff that smile before the wind,
And the broad track of silver light behind,
And that aquatic bird's white flapping wings
Crossing the mossy shade the mountain flings,
Cannot be all by mimic skill portrayed –
Such varying beauties mortal art evade.
But, Emily, what cannot be by art express'd
Your happy touches shall with skill suggest,
Give but a sketch, a soft, a faint outline,
The mind shall furnish forth the scene divine.
Delighted Memory waking, working still
Each pencil's trace affection's power shall fill.
Oft have we known a word, a look, a sigh
Waken more thought than in a volume lie;
Oft have we felt a single fragrant grain
Recall long yeas of pleasure and of pain;
Oft have we known one soft according note
Raise up a world of feeling in a thought.

So Prêgny from your sketch shall rise to view,
 And I shall see its dear Possessors too;
 Shall see the happy Mother, friend and wife,
 And all the scenes of dear domestic life,
 The tender daughters and the playful child;
 The Father's manly Soul, and manners mild;
 Shall feel again their cordial friendship's pow'r
 To charm the silent, fill the social hour.
 And I shall live again those happy days
 When Taste, when Science, Learning, Wit's bright rays
 Joined round the festive board, the social hearth
 In letter intercourse or polished mirth,
 With all Geneva's native mind supplies,
 And liberal Fame attracts from other skies,
 – Prêgny, thy recent destiny how changed!
 Since here the forms of royal grandeur ranged,
 Since here the Empress of the heartless man,
 Whose prosperous fortunes in her love began,
 Retired from abdicated Grandeur's thought
 In Nature's charms relief from sorrow sought.
 But Nature's charms, so powerful, and vain
 To draw the soul from root sense of pain.
 Vain the blue lake! Ev'n Mont Blanc's form unseen,
 While still the inward grief obtrudes between.
 'Tis for the mind unspoiled by worldly care,
 That never knew Ambition's mad despair.
 'Tis for the blameless conscience, calm of soul,
 True to high honour, Reason's firm control.
 'Tis for pure hearts, in Love's soft union free
 To taste these scenes in happy sympathy.
 'Tis for simplicity, with sense refined,
 'Tis for the tender, generous, pious mind
 To feel with genuine, unalloyed delight
 Romantic, grand, benignant Nature's sight.
 If those can paint it who can feel it best,
 To you, dear Emily, I leave the rest."

October, latter end

I received a letter from Dr J Johnstone informing me of the illness of my dear Father. Miss Edgeworth and her sisters left us. My spirits were much depressed. During this melancholy period of my life I was consoled by the sympathy and friendship of Tryce Baumgartner. The information of the event I so much dreaded arrived soon afterwards.

October 11th 1820

My dear Father expired on this day, at the age of 85. Although he had suffered severely and often from irritability caused by bodily infirmity during his last illness, he preserved a remarkably calm and benign expression of countenance arising from a serenity of mind which increased as his life drew towards its termination; he then often expressed the wish that he might die without pain in his sleep, and this prayer was granted to him. He was buried in West Bromwich Churchyard. My husband and I were precluded from erecting a monument by his particular desire, but the remembrance of his virtues, his talents, and his affections are deeply engraved upon our hearts. I became very desirous to return to

England, and longed for the consolation of being re-united to my dear sons. This wish was increased by my having received letters from James and Theodore which did not satisfy me. They were written in a constrained manner, and I began to fear they were neither improving nor happy at school. We were however detained at Prêgny until the 29th of November. For my sake the intention of seeing Paris was relinquished, and we again drove around the walls of the city without passing through its gates. Our passage from Boulogne to Dover was tempestuous and lasted during eight hours. We were then removed from the ship into an open boat which running aground, we expected to pass the night in this frail vessel in utter darkness. I had formed no adequate conception of a storm at sea – the height of the waves, and the effect of their breaking over us, until I then saw it. So feeble is Imagination! I was very anxious for Albert. An English sailor carried me through the sea, and I was the first of the party to land upon the shore of dear England, where I stood alone and in utter darkness while those who were most dear to me in the world were still exposed to the tempest. The sailor who had inspired me with confidence returned for the rest of the party – my husband not leaving the boat until all our dear children were safely landed.

December 14th

We safely arrived at Smethwick Grove.

December 20th

I went to Hill Top and was gratified by the pleasing attention of Mary Smith who had kept a journal of my dear Father's state during my absence, which was extremely interesting to me. I had the consolation of knowing that he died peacefully. The conviction that he had been kindly and faithfully treated was strongly impressed upon my mind. Mary Smith had kept all the furniture in the room where I had last seen him exactly as it had then stood, and from this time I felt more resigned to my loss.

Christmas Day

Mary Smith and Anne Knowles removed to Smethwick Grove.

The sorrow which filled my heart prevented me from noting down the time of my re-union with my sons, or even any of the events of the ensuing year. I recollect that I was painfully struck with the alteration in Theodore's appearance. He had been neglected and unkindly treated at school. His health suffered and he remained at home for a year in order to recover it.

1822

February 18th

Theodore was placed under the care of the Rev. Mr Morgan, to come home every Saturday night, spend the Sunday entirely with his family, and return to school the Monday following.

Early in the spring the indifferent health of Mr Moilliet caused by much anxiety. I read regularly with Emily and Susie which was a great pleasure to me.

March 19th

Mr and Mrs Knight visited us and remained at Smethwick until the 1st April

May 1st

Mr Moilliet and I proposed to take Emily and Susie to London during the spring in order that they might have the instruction of better master in Drawing, Music etc. Susie was indisposed with a cough, Mr Hodgson recommended change of air, and accordingly we set off today. We passed a day or two at Oxford

May 4th

Arrived in Town in Holies Street where Miss Edgeworth had taken a house for us. The day following Albert began to cough.

May 12th

Albert became alarmingly ill. The disorder proved to be whooping cough which Emily and Susie had so slightly that they were able to pursue their various lesson. My time during the night and day was devoted to the nursing of Albert.

May 24th

Albert began to amend. Soon afterwards I accompanied Miss Stovin to see Chantry's Monuments and was painfully reminded of the mortality of Childhood by looking at the delicately rounded and beautiful forms of children in marble, which reminded me of my own beloved child. I was struck with the busts of Sir Walter Scott and the Poet Wordsworth.

July 5th

I reluctantly left Albert for a few hours to spend with Mrs Blair at Fulham, though I loved and valued her.

July 6th

We spent today at Twickenham with our relations Mr and Mrs Francis Lind.

July 8th Saturday

We left London and proceeded to Windsor where we were kindly welcomed by Miss De Luc. The following Sunday Miss De Luc conducted Mr Moilliet, Emily and Susie to the Chapel where they saw King George IV, and heard an excellent sermon by Dr Sumner, while I remained with Albert.

July 10th

We left our warm-hearted, Miss De Luc, and slept at Oxford. I had the pleasure of seeing my darling child recovering as we travelled homewards.

July 12th

We arrived at Smethwick. John having expressed a wish to resume his studies, we were advised by Mr Knight to place him under the care of Mr and Mrs Gurney, who with their large family arrived at Smethwick between 11 and 12 at night.

July 14th

Sunday, I laid aside my mourning dress for my Father. For several weeks my new dresses lay ready in my wardrobe before I had resolved to wear them. I accompanied Mrs Gurney and her daughters to St Mary's Church where Mr Burn preached a funeral sermon which, according to my own feelings, I could not restrain my tears in the Church and during the day my spirits were much depressed.

July 16th

Miss Edgeworth and her sisters spent a day with us on their way to Ireland. We had little intercourse with them during our stay in London. Count Balbi, who was a very agreeable and interesting man, visited us, and afterwards the Marquis Ferrari.

July 19th

John departed with the Gurneys.

July 24th

M.. Boissier visited us.

August 7th

Mr Moilliet being indisposed we went for a change of air to Malvern.

August 14th

We returned home. I was fatigued by attending Mr Moilliet during fourteen successive nights. My left eye became painful and from that time the iris turned involuntarily. I consulted Mr Hodgson. He foretold truly that it would never recover.

September 14th

Dear James returned to us from Ireland accompanied by Francis Edgeworth. I saw with pleasure his joy and affection on returning to his own family.

September 22nd

Dr and Mrs Marcet spend some days at Smethwick. At this time I suffered from indifferent health and still more from anxiety respecting my husband's and Albert's health.

October 8th

We left Smethwick to visit Mr and Mrs Knight near Danbury, Essex.

October 23rd

We arrived at Godmanchester.

October 27th

We were very shocked to hear of the sudden death of Dr Marcet from whom my husband received an unfinished letter.

October 29th

We left Godmanchester accompanied by dear Tryce Baumgartner who remained with us till

November 11th

Soon afterwards I was informed of the distress of the Jordan family, the father having abandoned the children who were already deprived of their mother. I called upon them and found them in poverty wanting food and clothing. I was perplexed how to relieve them and wrote accordingly to Miss Hopkins who sent me a liberal supply of money. We agreed to meet.

November 27th

The meeting was the commencement of an acquaintance which has given unmixed pleasure to me and my family. My esteem and affection for Miss Hopkins has gradually increased and grown into friendship. Miss Hopkins then undertook to pay the expenses of Eliza Jordan's education – my husband kindly allowing me to contribute five guineas towards it. This sum he soon after increased to ten guineas annually.

Mr Blair, Mr Chancey Townsend and Charlotte were visiting us at Smethwick about this time, with George Farish, and the young people were very merry together.

December 23rd

Francis Edgeworth arrived. Miss Adele Galton and Mr Blair joined the Christmas party. The poor children and old women were again invited to Christmas dinner. Afterwards the tables in the drawing-room were richly spread over with presents for the family.

1823

January 1st

At the beginning of this year Mr Moilliet had frequent and alarming illnesses, also Susie, Albert and were ill.

May 1st

The birthday of the Bank in Birmingham under the form of Moilliet Smith and Pearson – formerly Wooley Moilliet and Gordon.

May 3rd

In this day's London Gazetteer notice of dissolution of the old firm of the bank appeared.

May 12th

We set off at half past six for London on Monday morning and by six in the evening arrived at Barnett and were in Hollies Street at half past seven. Emily and Susie began their lessons with spirit and with determination to make the best of the opportunity for improvement. We were in town Mr and Mrs Knight, Mr Samuel Knight Jnr, Miss De Luc, W. Edgeworth and many others.

May 16th

Mr Moilliet, Emily, Susie, and I attended an "African meeting" at the Free-Masons hall for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. The Duke of Gloucester was in the chair. This meeting was extremely interesting and was attended by many eminent men whom we had the opportunity of seeing and hearing speak. When Mr Wilberforce entered all persons present arose from their seats, and he was enthusiastically cheered. We united cordially in this feeling of respect. Our love for our native country was sensibly called forth by the universal applause bestowed so justly upon the aged and perseveringly benevolent Mr Wilberforce, whose personal appearance was insignificant, but the tones of his voice in speaking were peculiarly sweet and his language pure and forcible. His heart seemed to overflow with kind Christian feelings towards the suffering degraded Africans. We heard many other able speeches – from Mr James McKintosh, whose language was at first simple and by degrees rose to great eloquence – from Mr Fowell Buxton – from Mr Stevens – and from Lord Lansdown, who spoke clearly and sensibly. Mr Moilliet was introduced at this meeting to Professor Gautier, the Agent of the Geneva Bible Society and Professor of Astronomy. I was surprised and interested by hearing the thanks of this meeting voted to Sir William Keir (Grant), with whose recent return from India I was unacquainted. He was the first person who in a situation of authority publicly came forward to restrain the traffic in slaves. After conquering the Wahabe tribes near the Persian Gulf, he made it a condition of peace with the Arabian princess that this traffic in human beings should for ever cease, and this condition was afterwards confirmed by the Government.

May 17th

Emily received her first lesson in flower painting from Miss Byrne, who gave her such encouragement. Afterwards we called upon Mrs Keir and were welcomed with the accustomed courtesy of her friendship. Mr and Mrs Hubert Galton were then in Town, and we saw them frequently.

May 18th

Sir William Keir Grant called with his pretty little daughter, Isabella.

May 20th

Mr and Mrs Hubert Galton took Emily and Susie to the Italian Opera for the first and last time of their lives. We frequently saw John at Brompton.

May 25th

We went to St Clement Danes Church where Mr Gurney preached extempore and received the Holy Sacrament with dear John.

June 2nd

WE attended a Prison Discipline Meeting, and heard many interesting and able speeches – met there lady Sitwell.

June 6th

Mr Moilliet and I took Emily to an evening party and dance at Mrs Bevan's.

June 9th

After seeing many sights and people I rejoiced to leave London.

June 10th

We returned home.

June 13th

Theodore returned for the mid-summer holidays.

June 23rd

Hay-making began. The children very happy.

June 26th

M.. Say, who wrote on Political Economy, dined at Smethwick. We were pleased with his choice expressions. While Mr and Mrs Galton were drinking tea with us, Mrs Campbell and Miss Mowbray arrived. At this time, though I was often diverted by daily occupations and the interest of a large family, I thought with uneasiness of dear James – feeling strongly the impropriety of his remaining at the counting-house at his early age without the superintendence of his Father. I believe I have been endowed by nature with a remarkably quick insight into the minds of my children, which led me to foresee the evils to which they would be exposed as springing from their peculiar characters. This almost prophetic spirit, strengthened by maternal love, often caused me intense anxiety – though I hope it occasionally saved my children from moral danger especially when I had the control of circumstances. This mournful gift of mine was happily attended with a prophetic power, which also distinguished the germ of rising beauty and strength of character.

July 8th

Mr Moilliet yielded to my importunities and sent James to the Rev. Mr Moore of King's Bromley. This gentleman however took but little interest in his charge.

July 13th

M.. Joly at dinner.

July 25th

A party of neighbours

July 26th

Professor Gautier arrived.

July 28th

Mr and Mrs Spooner came to dinner and in the evening Mr Galton, Sophia and Adele, and Mr Hubert Galton. Late in the evening Mr Samuel Knight arrived and M.. Gautier departed. Prayers were read by Mr Spooner.

July 29th

The Spooners left us after breakfast. M. Joly and a party at dinner.

July 30th

Mr Moilliet, Emily, Mr Samuel Knight, John, and I went to Lichfield and called upon Miss Hopkins who had kindly invited James to meet us. He accompanied us to see Bellamore. On our return James parted from us at Lichfield – arrived home at Midnight.

July 31st

M.. Fronchin at dinner, who amused us by his vivacity.

August 2nd

Mr S Knight departed. Visitors, or going out, every day during this week.

August 16th

Mrs Campbell and Miss Mowbray departed, accompanied to London by John, who proceeded alone to the Gurneys.

August 17th

My dear Aby's birthday – six years old! Alec at dinner.

August 19th

Mr Townsend, Mr Moilliet, Emily and I called at Elmdon, where we met Mr Wilberforce who conversed cheerfully and most pleasantly.

August 22nd

I felt fatigued by constant visitors, and today became quite ill. We determined to go the sea for a change of air and quietness.

August 28th

Mr Moilliet, Emily, Susie, Aby and I, set off for Barmouth and slept at Heygate, breakfasted at Shrewsbury.

August 29th

Slept in the vale of Llangollen.

August 30th

Arrived at Barmouth after passing Bala. The Lake reminded us of Switzerland. I was surprised during this journey by Albert's accurate knowledge of the names of small rivers as we crossed them with which we were all unacquainted except himself. We met Mr and Mrs Howard Galton at Barmouth whom we saw frequently. Howard amused us and we were pleased to become more acquainted with Mrs Howard whose simple character had always interested me, and we were pleased

to discover by degrees her cultivated mind and various tastes. Mr Moilliet left us soon after arriving believing that the place did not agree with him.

September 7th

Emily, Susie, Aby and I heard a very interesting sermon from Mr McGhee which was delivered in a room for the accommodation of the visitors at Barmouth, the Church being distant. This room was built over a boat-house, and dark, being lighted only by one small window, the waves of the sea dashed against its walls. It reminded me of the description I had read of the places where the early Christians first assembled. Our seats were rough planks supported by barrels. We met Mr Wilberforce here and recollected the pleasing tones of his voice in the responses. We were all sensibly struck by the beauty of the whole service.

September 8th

Susie attempted to draw from nature; the country appeared to me wild and romantic. We attended a Bible-meeting where Mr Wilberforce and Mr McGhee spoke.

October 2nd

We left Barmouth and slept at Shrewsbury, and on the following morning we breakfasted with Dr Darwin, arriving home to tea.

Following week

There were Oratories at Birmingham. James returned home from Mr Moore. Mrs and Miss Stovin visited us. Charlotte Townsend accompanied us to Birmingham to hear the music.

October 12th

We heard an affecting sermon preached at West Bromwich Church by the Bishop of Oxford very soon after the lamented death of Lady Dartmouth who had requested him to preach this charity sermon for the benefit of the West Bromwich children in whom she felt great interest.

October 15th

Mr Moilliet went to Cambridge to see John.

October 18th

Albert ill with sore throat, next day better.

December 20th

Theodore returned from school with Mumps. I took the disorder. We lived apart from the family in the drawing-room and when free from pain were very happy together.

December 24th

Francis and Pakenham Edgeworth and Miss Adele Galton arrived today when Theodore and I dined downstairs.

December 25th

Dinner for poor people and presents as usual.

1824

January 1st

New Year's day, customary dramatic performances and repeating of poetry, Mr Townsend and Miss Adele Galton being the spectators. Alec was a performer and the bard for the occasion. Theodore repeated his part more correctly than the other boys.

January 3rd

We called upon Mr and Mrs Barr, who were visiting at Heathfield old Mrs Watt.

January 5th

John left us; the young people were busy making balloons.

January 7th

We went to see a house and estate which was on sale at Leicester – Tooley Park. We found the situation dreary and the house comfortless, and consequently gave up all thoughts of this place as a future residence. Francis and Pakenham Edgeworth departed, but returned again with their sister Honoria who stayed with us till the 17th.

Following week

Mr and Mrs Barr visited us. They introduced us to Mr Simcox's family.

February 17th

Mr Moilliet, Emily and I, went to the first evening party given by Dr Delys on his marriage. (Dr Delys with his friend founded the Edgbaston Deaf and Dumb Institution). About this time the Reverend Daniel Nathaniel Walton of Heathfield, Handsworth, was recommended to us by Mr Barr as a proper person to read with and instruct James.

February 20th

Mr Pain at dinner. An evening and a night of sorrow.

February 26th

We heard that Theodore was taken ill of the measles. He had the disorder slightly, and was kindly nursed by Mrs Morgan. I heard of him daily, but was afraid of having him at home on account of Albert, who was very delicate. Susie and I went occasionally to see him. Emily and Susie early in the spring spent alternatively a few days at Mr Galton's at Dudston. My thoughts were at this time occupied with painfully intense interest in considering what would be most advantageous to the forming characters and future happiness of John and James. John stood high at Trinity College, Cambridge, yet how painfully true are the sentiments of Wordsworth: "Years to a mother bring distress, but do not make love the less."

March 26th

Antoine Moilliet (her husband's brother) arrived at night. He relieved me of the constant anxiety I endured with regard to James, who I believed would find a true friend and faithful guide in his Uncle, and be no longer exposed to the daily influence of low-minded companions at the counting-house. I have great reason for thankfulness at this time, 1831, to see dear James what he is.

April 23rd

Ann. After living with us for seventeen years left us to our great regret and was married to Mr Hill.

May 1st

I was sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Keith, the mother of Sir William Keir Grant, who with the courtesy of manner of high bred ladies of past times, had preserved genuine kindness of heart. Her maiden name was Jane Bruce of Kinlock. She had married Archibald Keir esq. of Calcutta, son of William Keir, the younger brother of John Keir, who was father of James Keir FRS.

May 6th

I was obliged to defer a visit to Miss Hopkins in consequence of illness until

May 18th

Emily accompanied me and Mr Moilliet to Stonehouse. WE proceeded through Beaudesert Park to Stonehouse, and the following morning drove in Miss Hopkins carriage into Lord Anson's Park where Emily sketched a bridge said to have been built by order of Queen Elizabeth for the convenience of her favourite Minister, Leicester. We saw Bellamour, and after an agreeable visit returned to meet Dr Baumgartner and Tyrce at Smethwick.

May 21st

I was informed of the dangerous illness of my dear friend Mrs Beddoes.

May 22nd

In the evening there was a large party at Smethwick. I heard with sorrow of the death of Mrs Beddoes at Florence. She will always be associated in my mind with very pleasing recollections from the time when I first saw her in the year 1793 at Clifton – and preferred her to all her sisters. She was peculiarly pleasing from her intellectual vivacity, the quickness of observation peculiar to the Edgeworth family, and an originality of thought inducing inexhaustible variety of amusement in conversation, united with feminine tenderness and delicacy of feeling. How great will be the loss to her young family!

June 2nd

We set off to Godmanchester where we met Mr and Mrs Knight. On Whit Sunday I, not being able to go to Church, was engaged in reading the letter informing Mrs Knight of the peaceful end of her sister whom I had met at Cheltenham. She died of measles which was very fatal this year.

June 8th

Lady Olivia Sparrow called. Her countenance and manner evidently showed that her natural vivacity had been subdued by sorrow, even though that sorrow had been alleviated by Christian Faith. the

June 9th

Mr Moilliet, Susie, and I left Godmanchester early, leaving Albert, who was always happy there with little Georgie, under the care of Emily, and arrived at Welwyn the same evening at six. We walked to see St John's Lodge. The house was prettily situated with flowering shrubs around it and a distant view of rising ground, but there were no fine trees on the estate.

June 10th

Mr Moilliet left Susie and me at the little inn at Welwyn and proceeded to London. The rain fell continually until seven in the evening, when we walked out to see the tomb of Young in the Church there. Late in the evening Mr Moilliet returned to us.

June 11th

We were glad to rejoin our friends at Godmanchester, after passing through St Neots, and calling upon Mrs McKenzie whom I had not seen for years.

June 12th

Chancey Townsend was at dinner.

June 14th

Mr and Mrs Tillard came.

June 15th

We went to Cambridge. Mr Chancey Townsend accompanied us to see the Fitzwilliam Museum, the beautiful Chapel of St John's, the statue of Sir Isaac Newton, and the Colleges and their libraries. We afterwards dined at his house with his young friend George Farish, and returned to Godmanchester in the evening, having spent the day agreeably.

June 16th

We called upon Mr and Mrs Knight at Milton where Mrs Nichols had prepared a cold dinner.

June 18th

We departed sorrowfully from Godmanchester and slept at Lutterworth.

June 19th

We went to see the Church in which Wycliff had preached and in the vestry saw the chair in which he had died, and the old pulpit from which he had boldly and conscientiously declared the true world of God. We returned home to dinner and were welcomed by Uncle Antoine, James and Theodore.

June 20th

We were very sorry to hear of the death of our old, valued, and warm-hearted friend Miss De Luc, whose spirit departed on the 17th June last.

July 1st

I accompanied Mr Moilliet, Uncle, James, Theodore, and Aby, went to Skilts and enjoyed the beauty of the country and the fine day spent in the open air.

July 9th

Mr Wing slept at Smethwick having completed the deeds for the purchase of Skilts. This property bought by Mr J L Moilliet, was on his death left to Mr Theodore Moilliet (who lived there many years, selling it in the year 1875).

July 13th

We attended a Bible-meeting, and afterwards dined at the Townsend's.

July 16th

We dined at Aston Hall – the children being invited by Mr Watt to eat strawberries. We met Miss Boulton and Miss Alston.

July 21st

We drank tea at Dudston. Many visitors this week.

July 26th

M.. Andre, the Paris banker, at breakfast, and a party at dinner.

July 31st

Dear Theodore's birthday. Mr and Mrs Morgan at dinner.

August 4th

Mr Tillard and his nephew at tea.

August 17th

Emily broken out with measles caught from poor children whom she and Susie taught and read every Sunday. Ritchie came as Lady's maid, being recommended by Mrs Hubert Galton.

August 23rd

Miss Campbell and Miss Towers arrived this morning. The Baron Pasquier, and two other conversable and intelligent foreigners at dinner who pleased me by their acquaintance with Butler's Analogy and other English works which I scarcely imagined they could have known.

August 24th

Mr Moilliet and James went to Sheffield. I was extremely fatigued by nursing Emily.

August 28th

I began to be ill – and the following day was confined to my bed with measles. While laying in my darkened chamber I heard the door gently opened and immediately after I felt the little tender arms of my darling child around my neck; he whispered to me “Dearest Mama, I have been praying for . I was left alone in the drawing-room and I longed to see you though I have been desired not to do so.” These words sunk deep into my heart, and often recurred to soothe me during my sufferings when I became afterwards so ill that I scarcely expected the prayers of my beloved child for my recovery would be granted. The day following I was broken out with measles. My dear Susie devoted herself to nursing me with unremitting attention day and night. She knew how fatal this complaint had been to persons advanced in life this year, and felt the most intense anxiety for me. Emily who had in former illnesses always attended me and cheered me with her filial love was not sufficiently recovered to afford me any assistance, and vexed by her inability and debilitated by illness was so overcome by sorrow that she unceasingly wept. From his time I date the weakness of my dear Emily's sight which has since occasioned her to endure many distressing privations. Susie deeply felt the responsibility of her situation. My maid, Mrs Wright, partly useless. Susie could not give her confidence to the new servant, Ritchie – therefore the direction of the family, the weighing and administering of medicines, all the domestic duties, fell for the first time upon Susie whose light heart a few days ago was overflowing with gaiety and young unbroken spirits. The new and difficult situation in which she was placed and her filial love, called forth new powers and greater strength of character. She divined my wishes when I ceased to have the power of expressing them and in the night as well as the day she always gave me my medicines at the right time, and knowing that I should be anxious for her she partly undressed and lay down on a small bed which she had ordered to be carried into my dressing room. Her tenderness in nursing me, her judicious conduct and forethought solaced me during my sufferings and tended to reconcile me to the thought then ever present in my mind of the probability of my soon leaving this world. At this distinct time I recall with satisfaction the calm and resigned feelings with which I was blessed while lying on my bed of sickness. A few days afterwards Aby was taken ill of the same disorder. Susie knowing that this child was far dearer to me than life and how desirable it was to save me from all anxiety, sent for a person in whom she could confide to nurse me, and then came to my bedside and told me she was going to leave me and stay with Albert who was taken ill, while I should be attended by Mrs Field whom I had known from childhood to be a good and sensible woman. From the experience I had had of dear Susie's nursing this arrangement was the most satisfactory to me that could have been found, and the confidence I also felt in Susie's truth when she told me the state of my child kept up the tranquillity of my mind. We began to amend about the 5th September.

7th October

Emily, Susie, Albert and I departed to Leamington, where we spent three weeks to re-establish our health.

10th November

We received the engravings of my Father's portrait with which I was greatly pleased, and felt grateful to my dear husband for this proof of affection to me and respect to his memory.

1st December

I went to West Bromwich and spent a few days there.

6th December

Mr Moilliet, Mr W. Edgeworth and dear little Aby came to fetch me home.

7th December

A party of fourteen to dinner.

8th December

A party of fifteen including Mr and Mrs Howard Galton.

20th December

I accompanied Mrs Townsend into those streets of Birmingham that were inhabited by Jews, when she entered some of their houses and conversed with the women who received her with civility, and she lent to some of them the New Testament, and they offered to her in return some of their books, which she accepted. They were in Hebrew and translated, also, in English, containing beside their daily ceremonial injunctions many excellent moral precepts expressed in powerful and simple language.

1825

27th January

The Marquis Potenziani from Rome visited us and remained until the 2nd February. He was struck with the industry of our neighbouring population, which he fancied secured their property. He gave a deplorable account of the state of Italy which he imputed to the mistaken policy of the Government in repressing industry and all mental cultivation even in the higher classes. From the manner in which this intelligent foreigner spoke of the undue power of the Priests, kept up by deception, I was induced to show him a translation of the New Testament, asking him at the same time if it were well translated. The expression of his face changed immediately from that of gaiety to seriousness. He closed the book with decision, and said, "No person ought to read that book without proper explanation". So powerful is the influence of early education, though the evil induced by the exclusion of the Word of God was perpetually before him!

15th February

Mr Moilliet decided that we should spend the ensuing summer at Prêgny.

21st February

The Rev. W A Shirley dined with us, bringing a letter of introduction from Theodosia Stovin.

24th February

We had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Hopkins, who with Emily, Susie, and Mr Blair went the following day to see the Institution for Deaf and Dumb children. The young people at this time amused themselves in making balloons, and Emily was employed in accurately describing the process

while James described the method of sending them, which Alex wrote down for Miss Edgeworth – as published in “Harry and Lucy”.

April 8th

I, with Emily and Susie, attended the first meeting of Ladies at Mrs Townsend’s to form a society for the amelioration of the condition of Negro Slaves, particularly that of females. I rejoiced to see my dear friend on that occasion supported by the Christian duty when was fulfilling – and this simplicity of purpose appeared most pleasingly in her candour and humility, listening to the objections and suggestions of other, many of whom were far inferior to herself in intellect and comprehensiveness of mind. She seemed to lose all thought of herself in the interest she felt in this work of mercy towards the suffering Negroes, and her Christian influence seemed to be diffused throughout the assembly, which consisted of ladies of different religious opinions, principally of Quakers, who were well informed upon the subject.

The following week was spent in taking leave of our neighbours.

May 14th

I was fatigued and harassed by various preparations, when I received a note from Mr Moilliet informing me of the unexpected arrival of M. and Mme Turrettini, M. and Mme Neville, and M. Saladin, who all dined at Smethwick Grove. My feelings in leaving England were far less painful than when I had last quitted it; but I had few pleasing associations with Geneva, excepting those which arose from the beauty of the country. The expectation of seeing my dear friend Mme Baumgartner was however very pleasing to me.

May 18th

We set off today, leaving James, Uncle, and Alec at Smethwick. The first day of my journey I was fatigued from agitation of mind, but consoled by the affection of my dear sweet-tempered Aby. We slept at St Albans and the next day saw “Porter’s Lodge”. I was refreshed by our turning from the high road to green-lanes, and passing through a beautiful country which formed an extensive view of the house. It was too large for an agreeable residence. We arrived in London in the evening, and I consulted Dr Farre respecting Emily’s eyes, whose opinion coincided with that of Mr Hodgson.

May 20th

We left London and arrived at Dover at the Shop Hotel. The following morning we sailed in the “Spitfire,” a steam-vessel recommended to us by Mr Wall, her engines having been made at his foundry. We arrived at Calais safely in two hours and forty minutes only, remaining all the time in our carriage upon deck. We passed the walls of Paris for the third time without entering this capital.

May 25th

I felt refreshed by walking in the garden at Ville-neuve, sur Yonne.

May 29th Saturday.

Having slept at Poligny we arose at 3 o’clock in the morning, crossed the Jura, and to our great joy arrived at the gates of Prêgny soon after eleven at night. Sunday we were welcomed by my sister whom I had not seen since her affliction in the loss of her daughter, to see us – not believing it possible that we could have travelled so rapidly. They had walked over the Prêgny to see if the house were ready for our reception. The following week I felt the consequences of our rapid travelling.

June 1st

The weather was extremely cold, and we all drew our chairs round the fire at Prêgny.

June 6th

We were glad to see Miss Bernard and her pleasing young friend-pupil Natalie. I requested Miss Bernard to instruct Albert in French.

June 11th

We spent the evening at Professor Provost's, where we talked till late – met there Lady Davy, Mrs Wedgwood, and many literary Genevese. Fanny Edgeworth returned with us to Prêgny.

June 13th

Captain and Mrs Barry Fox, Fanny, and Ms Dunant, De Luc, and Gautier at dinner.

June 18th

We called upon Mme Benyon, and saw her and her pleasing daughter.

June 27th

We joined a large party at Mme Maurice's. Mme Collier gave singing and music lessons to Susie.

June 28th

Called on Mme Neville and Mme Turretini.

June 30th

Spent an agreeable day with Mme Saladin at Crans.

July 19th

We had an evening party at Prêgny – among others were the Marcet's, Prevost's, Sismondi's, Baumgartner's, and Wedgwood's.

July 20th

The drawing-room again filled with company – Mme Piggott, M Dumont, M. Boisier, Mr and Mme Revilliod, and Capt. Boyce.

July 29th

A party at dinner, Mr and Mrs Entwistle, etc, etc.. I sent a work-bag and pamphlets from the Ladies' Society for the Amelioration of the condition of the Female-slaves, with a letter, to Mme la Duchesse de Broglie, through the Baron de Staël, whom afterwards I met at Paris, and rejoiced to hear of his exertions to promote the same object of slave-emancipation.

August 9th

We set off to Chamouni, and while our horses were resting we saw two chars-a-banc arrive consisting of Dr Baumgartner's family. We all dined together, and the young people full of health and spirits enjoyed this happy meeting. We attempted to sleep at Salenche, but were disturbed by the noise of women successively thrashing corn.

August 10th

We departed the morning in a four chars-a-banc, and after seeing Cascades of St Gervais arrived at Chamouni by 6 o'clock table d'hôte.

August 11th

It rained until 12 o'clock, when Mont-Blanc became visible to us from the same window whence Mme de Saussure, in times past, had watched the successful ascent of her husband.

August 13th

After a painful drive arrived late at home rejoicing to have accomplished this expedition.

August 17th

Dear Aby completed this 8th year. We had a party at dinner to celebrate his birthday and twenty one sat down to dinner all of whom were relations except Miss Bernard and Natalie.

August 20th

Dined at M. Baumgartner's with an English party that included Admiral and Lady Bickerton and Dr and Mrs Wilkinson.

August 21st Sunday

The Fete of "Navigation".

August 22nd

Mr Elphinstone and Mr Lubbock called.

August 23rd

Mr Twining and his young son dined at Prêgny. The son interested me much from his having refused the temptation of seeing the Fete last Sunday to which he had been invited, - and it was peculiarly splendid and attractive to a boy of his age - but he said he thought his absent Mother would have disapproved of the amusement on Sunday. At dinner also the same day, were Dr Gosse and Mr Parsons.

August 24th

At dinner - Mr Lubbock, Mr Elphinstone, Dr Coindet, Charles Hoofstetter, his friend Mr Logan, and Mr Wright.

August 25th

We left Prêgny with the intention of spending a few weeks travelling about Switzerland. On our way we called upon M. and Mme Delessert, who received us with kind hospitality, introduced us to Mme Gautier, and induced us to spend the evening and sleep at their house from which there was a fine extensive view of the Lake of Geneva. We met Professor Gautier there and the evening passed agreeably.

August 26th

We proceeded to Yverdon, and from thence to Neufchatel, where we heard an evangelical sermon in French. In the cool of the evening we proceeded to Bienne.

August 29th

I remained alone at the hotel, while Mr Moilliet, Emily, Susie, and Aby went to see the l'isle de St Pierre.

August 30th

We arrived at Basel. Albert was struck with the beauty of its situation on the Rhine, and amused himself by imagining he could communicate with a spirit-friend and supernatural-child to whom he wrote letters and threw them into the river, watching their rapid course until out of sight.

August 31st

We saw the Library, and the never to be forgotten Establishment of M. Blumhart. The quietness of this Institution, the absence of all luxury, the gentle manner and being calm, yet cheerful countenances

of the youths who wished to devote themselves to this noble object of spreading the Gospel, regardless of their lives and of every earthly comfort, touched my heart. I thought of my own sons, and could not restrain my tears.

September 1st

We left Basle and arrived at the Castle of Shaunaw (Schönau?), where we were welcomed with a hospitality that exceeded the limits of politeness.

September 4th

We saw the beautiful falls of the Rhine, and afterwards dined at Colonels Fischer's.

September 5th

I was attacked with symptoms of the fever – the consequence of having approached too nearly to the spray of the Rhine, which had wetted me without my perceiving it. I was confined to bed at Constance during four days.

September 10th

We all rejoiced to leave Constance, and arrived the following day at Schinznock, where we met Mr Wright, and from thence proceeded to Olten, Burgdorf, and Berne.

September 15th

We reached Fribourg, and were advised to pass through Roman on our way to Lausanne. As we approached Roman darkness came on and torrents of rain fell. With difficulty we found a miserable inn, where we spent the night, ascending to our chamber by a step-ladder. The close, suffocating smell of the beds induced me to sit up all night, and towards morning I had a return of fever, and was haunted with the fancy that I should never leave this place alive. Our horses were too much fatigued to proceed, but Mr Moilliet hired some cart-horses who conveyed us safely to Lausanne. I suffered so intensely with thirst, fever, and pain in my limbs, that I wept with joy upon first discovering the Lake of Geneva.

September 17th

We arrived at Prêgny, but I did not recover until the beginning of October.

October 6th

Mr Gibbons, M. Elliot-Cresson, and Capt. Leonard bought letter of introduction from Mr Pearson.

October 8th

I heard with great pleasure of the safety of dear Mrs Baumgartner and the birth of her baby-boy, Charles, Susie's godchild.

October 10th

We had a large party of English to dinner, - Mr Burgess, Mr Risson, Mr Gibbons, and others. We were all interested in the varied and intellectual conversation of Mr Burgess.

October 12th

We again had a party to dinner, consisting, among others, of M. and Mirabeau, M and Mme Duval, Mrs Pigott, Mr and Mrs McCaire, and Mr Burgess, who equally adapted his agreeable and improving conversation to this Genevese company.

October 13th

A quiet day; M. Prevost, M. Pictet and his son at dinner.

October 14th

I rejoiced to see dear Mrs Baumgartner and her baby. We continued to see much society daily.

October 22nd

We all, excepting Aby, joined a splendid evening dancing party at the Duchesse de Cleremont-Tonnere's. The salon in which the company assembled was very elegantly fitted up in the Parisian-style. The ladies all wore new dresses and the scene extremely pretty. Emily and Susie danced, and the evening passed agreeably as we met twenty to persons of our acquaintance.

October 24th

We joined an evening party at M. Mirabeau's and heard an extraordinary performance by two violin-players of eminence-extempore.

November 6th

We heard M. Malan preach, and afterwards conversed with him. He led the conversation to the doctrine of "Assurance". Mrs Baumgartner spent a few days with us at Prêgny, with her baby, and afterwards we paid many visits to our friends.

November 24th

We departed for Paris. Susie kept a regular journal of our engagement there. We entered into various Societe's, and were entertained splendidly in the houses of some of the members of the Chamber of Deputies, meeting ladies of high rank and title. We might have left Paris with an unfavourable opinion of the state of female society there, if we had not been introduced to a lady of the ancient nobility, whose polished manners and character, probably raised and strengthened by adversity, rendered her very pleasing. We were equally happy in our introductions to many Protestant families, where we found Mothers watching over their children and educating them as carefully as in England, and with minds highly cultivated and able to fulfil this pleasing duty. On Sunday we attended the English Church quietly and elegantly fitted up for the benefit of the English at Paris through the Christian exertions of one gentleman – Mr Way.

December 13th

We rejoiced to return to England, dearer to us than ever, whence we heard of the failure of many Banks in London.

December 14th

We arrived in London. On the following day James met us there.

December 18th Sunday

We all travelled home together, carrying with us money to a large amount for the Bank in Birmingham, and arrived home at 12 o'clock

December 28th

All our family were again reunited.

1826

January

Horace Revilliard was our guest at Smethwick Grove during the Christmas holidays and having been too severely treated in his childhood had never learnt to restrain himself from any motive but that of fear, and was consequently too wild to be agreeable.

January 19th

I saw Hampstead for the first time, and though the ground was covered with snow, I was struck with the beauty of its situation, and hoped that my husband might be induced to fix upon a place where we should not be separated from our sons – particularly from James, who was applying himself to commerce, but too young to be abandoned by his parents.

January 25th

John returned to Cambridge.

Early in the spring Albert drooped and suffered from successive colds and coughs, while I endured painful anxiety which was always followed by spasmodic attacks.

February 16th

I was glad to part with my discontented, ill-tempered, servant Ritchie, and felt the comfort of placing Ann Knowles in the situation of my maid, from obliging disposition and fidelity. During this spring Susie read aloud to me and Emily, Locke's Conduct of the Understanding, Bacon's Essays, and Sir Charles Grandison, which led to many discussions on moral subjects and manners of Society, according to the recommendation of my dear Father who advised that young women should not be introduced into Society without previous knowledge of its various dangers, though this knowledge should not be unfolded to them at too early an age, otherwise it might blight the enjoyment and purity of childhood.

March 5th

Mr Moilliet received a letter from Lord Dartmouth's Agent agreeing to the proposal respecting Hamstead.

March 10th

Mr and Miss Bacchus and Mr T B called to see Smethwick Grove. They afterwards tenanted the house until 1830, and I was pleased for the sake of our poor neighbours that the house would be inhabited by a family, religious and charitable.

April 11th

We removed to Hamstead; Emily, Susie, and Albert, delighted in their more extended space for walking, and in playing on the soft green turf of the Park, and in the beauty of the fine trees and sloping grounds, the river and the safe boat, - while my enjoyment of the place was heightened by theirs.

April 18th

Signor Modetti from Rome was our guest at Hamstead for a few days; The following week we were visited by our new neighbours as well as by our former friends, which greatly extended the circle of our acquaintance.

May 11th

Dr Baumgartner arrived late in the evening and spent four days with us.

May 15th

I lamented to read in the newspapers the death of my kind-hearted Aunt Mrs Freeth, and the following day I received a letter from her son acquainting me with the particulars of it.

May 22nd

Theodore went to school to the Revd D N Walton. Prece Resser (a Russian) and his tutor, M. Malan, dined with us, and told us many interesting anecdotes of his brother, the Minister in Geneva.

June 19th

M. Iselin of Basle (whom we found agreeable and gentlemanly) with M. Faesh, and M. Long, of Geneva, dined with us. They returned the following morning to breakfast, and after seeing iron-foundries and collieries, spent the day with us, and M. De Paget – a pupil of Pestalozzi and teacher of the Institution for Deaf and Dumb children – who entertained me by relating his methods of teaching these unfortunate children. These methods were very ingenious, and I was glad, for their sakes, to perceive that he considered their religious education as the most important object of the Institution. While Albert was building “St Grouse”, Richard Blair, who had never seen him before, came and addressed him, forgetting for a few moments the years that had passed, and imagining that he was Theodore. I was glad to see Richard after his long absence from England.

July 1st

Albert was taken ill. On the following day, when I was very anxious about Albert, and sorry to be separated from him, Mr and Mrs Heath from India came and dined with us. Emily and Susie alternatively sat by his bedside.

(Insert by James Keir Moilliet: “St Grouse”. This model-church, designed and built by Albert, was carefully taken down and rebuilt at Abberley Hall to which the family removed. When Abberley was sold, it was again removed to Shelsley Grange, the seat of Mrs E Cameron Galton, second daughter of Mrs Lucy H Moilliet.)

July 3rd

Albert better. We lived daily in Society. I saw with regret that John had no inclination to enter the Ministry of the Church and proposed to him to make a trial of the Bank.

August 28th

Sir William Keir Grant unexpectedly arrived. Mr Moilliet being absent I invited James Clarke to meet him at dinner. Mr and Mrs Benyon called.

August 31st

Sir William left us. Argus, the dog, was shot at by Lord Dartmouth’s keeper. I heard the gunfire very near to the house, and was startled and alarmed by it, knowing that Albert was playing about and might be concealed underneath the trees. I was however thankful to see him in safety, while poor Argus was crawling to him for protection, and the next moment staggered and fell at his feet. When Albert saw the blood gushing from the wound he cried out and we all partook of the same feelings for Argus, who was carried to the stables and carefully nursed by “Thomas” the coachman till he recovered. Mr Jas. Clarke slept at Hampstead that night in order to accompany the gentlemen to shoot at Skilts on the next morning.

September 11th

Sir William and Lady Keir-Grant, with pretty little Isabella, arrived at 4 o’clock – we had much company daily.

September 16th

We dined at Sandwell (Lord Dartmouth’s) and met Sir Edward and Lady H Paget.

September 18th

Sir William and Lady Grant departed, accompanied by Mr Moilliet to Manchester, leaving little Isabella under our care until the 20th when they returned and soon after left Hamstead.

October 29th

I received a letter from Colonel Pitman, and John received orders to join his Regiment. The sword which seemed long to have hung over my heart fell! I continued to live in Society with repressed anguish of heart. John's friend, Mr Warongow Greig spent a day and night with us. John before his departure gave to me his poem on Venice which showed a mind sensibly gifted with poetic talent:

On Venice

Cradled an ocean, rocked upon the storm,
Fair Venice, swan-like rears her airy form.
Tho' seared by tempests, still serene she smiles
The sea-girt city of a hundred isles.

She looks enchantment while the ocean raves,
And seems to still the tumult of the waves.
Abode of valour, freedom, love, and arms,
Long have enraptured minstrels owned thy charms!

Submissive Europe's lords have bent the knee
And proudest Nations learnt humility.

Tho' now no more with undulating swell
Thy pennons proudly sway the citadel –
Tho' fled the soul that Freedom worshipped there –
A veil of beauty wrests thee from despair.

So lies the victim prostrate on the ground,
With trappings covered, and with fillets crowned,
The life fast ebbing, and the rayless eye
Fixed, without sight, in gloomy vacancy.

Tho' nature sinks, tho' sunny life is gone,
And bondage lingers erst where freedom shone,
A spirit still seems hovering o'er the dead
And circling in a halo gilds her radiant head.

November 19th

Took leave of John late at night in my dressing-room – alas, for ever in this world! – being unwilling to distress him with my tears the following morning, when he departed with his father to the depot at Maidenhead.

November 28th

James returned home sooner than usual, from illness, which increasing, he was attended by Mr Hodgson.

December 25th

James came downstairs and rejoined his family – but the house-hold wreath was torn asunder, never to be united again on earth!

1827

January 25th

The Ladies' Anti-slavery meeting was held at Hamstead, when there were assembled between 60 and 70 Ladies of influence in the drawing-room. Only £52 was collected.

March 11th

M. Francillon spent a few days with us. He had been a pupil of Pestalozzi.

March 26th

We set off to Bath, and arrived in the evening.

March 31st

Dined at Lady Grant's, and met Miss Keir and Isabella.

April 3rd

Dined with Mr and Mrs Stovin and were pleased with their pretty children.

April 5th

We saw Mr Beckford's paintings and Library, and in the evening Emily and Susie danced at a Public Hall for the first and last time.

April 7th

Dined at Sir William's, and met Lord and Lady Duncan.

April 17th

We left Bath and proceeded to Clifton.

April 18th

We travelled to Oust and crossed the Bristol Channel in a quarter of an hour. We passed through a beautiful country along the banks of the Wye, saw Tintern Abbey, and slept at Monmouth. From thence we proceeded to Malvern after seeing the churches of Ross and Ledbury, - the latter delighted Susie and Aby so much that we could scarcely persuade them to return to the Inn to dine.

April 20th

We spent the morning in the fields at the foot of Malvern -

April 21st

We arrived at home, after passing an agreeable hour at Hadzor with Mrs Howard Galton.

May 23rd

The Marquis Dalmatie, son of the celebrated Soult, and the Viscount de la Deboubte dined with us today. Mr Moilliet did not return until a late hour.

June 25th

Mr and Mrs Howard Galton came to stay at Hamstead for a few days. Emily and Susie accompanied them to the Roman Catholic College at Oscott.

June 26th

This night a needle pierced deeply into my foot, and the next morning, the inflammation increasing, Emily received the company at dinner. Dr Delys visited me.

July

During the second week of July I had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Stovin, who remained with us until 19th July, when Emily, Susie, and I accompanied her to Matlock, where we intended to stay a short time. Mr Moilliet previously requested Mr Walton to receive Theodore and Albert during our absence. We passed through Rugeley and spent an hour happily at Miss Hopkins, afterwards we slept at Uttoxeter, travelling slowly with our own horses.

July 20th

We preceded before breakfast to Ashbourne, where we remained some time to rest the horses. The Rev Mr Shirley was met accidentally with by Emily and Susie out walking, who took them to Church where there happened to be a service, and afterwards we called upon Mr Shirley. Mr W A Shirley accompanied us to Okeover where, after Emily had seen the Church, and we had again looked at the house and paintings, we proceeded to Matlock. I enjoyed the quietness and beauty of Matlock. Theodosia and Susie visited Mrs Nightingale. Note. The Mrs Nightingale I spent a day with Matlock, afterwards was the mother of Florence and Parthenope, a younger sister of hers, who was born at Naples. Florence was then a tall elegant sweet-looking child of about eleven or twelve, and came in to desert with her little sister. Susannah Smith. Mr Moilliet arrived in the evening.

July 23rd

Mr W A Shirley spent the day with us and accompanied us on the river. He very kindly gave to us many letters of introduction for James to take to Rome, with useful directions and advice, which I took down and valued for the sake of dear James.

July 24th

We left Matlock, saw Haddon and Chatsworth, and arrived at Newbold rather late for dinner and met Mr Shirley. We spent the next day agreeably at Hardwick with Mrs Stovin, Mrs Mt Theodosia, and Mr Parker's family.

July 26th

We left our old friends soon after breakfast, saw Belper and slept at Derby, and on the following morning saw the Strutt's collection of paintings, and arrived at home, late.

August 15th

Dr Colladon from Geneva at dinner, and Miss Alston. In the evening a party of thirty-one persons – a dance and supper. The young people were accompanied by their parents.

August 18th

M. Colladon left Hamstead. I was engaged in preparing for the departure of Mr Moilliet and James for Switzerland. We intended during their absence to remain quietly at Eastbourne.

August 23rd

We all, excepting Theodore, who remained with Mr Walton, departed, taking Fido with us.

August 25th

We procured a comfortable house – No 25 – at Eastbourne, into which we removed, and on the following day the painful separation from my husband and James took place. We remained at Eastbourne six weeks, till 8th October. We became acquainted with Dr Brodie, the Clergyman, and attended his Church. Mrs Pearson spent a fortnight at Eastbourne and we saw her daily.

October 8th

Monday, we met Mr Moilliet at Kirkham's Hotel, where he had been awaiting our arrival, and I rejoiced to see him perfectly recovered. My pleasure was however clouded by hearing of the death of Mrs Blair whom I had hoped to have seen on my return home. I received by her desire a small golden cross which she had worn, and which contained the plaited hair of her children.

October 10th

We dined at Mr Doxat's

October 11th

We called at Mme Lousada's to see Mrs Baumgartner, and there we also met Mr S Knight.

October 12th

We returned home.

October 24th

Mr Moilliet attended the funeral of Mr Alston.

November 16th

Mr Samuel Knight arrived late in the evening.

November 26th

Lady D and Lady C Legge called, bringing an invitation to dine at Sandwell.

December 18th

We were engaged to dine at the Austin's when Mr Moilliet, returning home and driving too rapidly, was thrown out of the Phaeton with violence and taken up senseless. Mrs Crice, hearing of the accident, which happened to be near her house, ran to his assistance, when, after sending his servant (who had not been injured by the fall) for a surgeon, walked as quickly as she could to Hamstead..... Hope gradually returned..... though I sensibly felt the uncertainty of life. We rejoiced to see Mr Moilliet downstairs again on 28th December. The long and interesting letters which we frequently received from James during his absence in Italy were a great pleasure and comfort to me.

1828

May 8th

Emily was married on this day to Samuel Knight esq. of Milton, Cambridge.

May 29th

I was cheered by hearing good news of John, through Mrs Nicholls – alas, at that time his spirit had departed!

December 23rd

My spirits were depressed by entering again into Society, but I thought it right to do so for the sake of my family.

Uncertainty and Change to Earth belong,
In Heaven alone is bliss, and Glory's endless song.