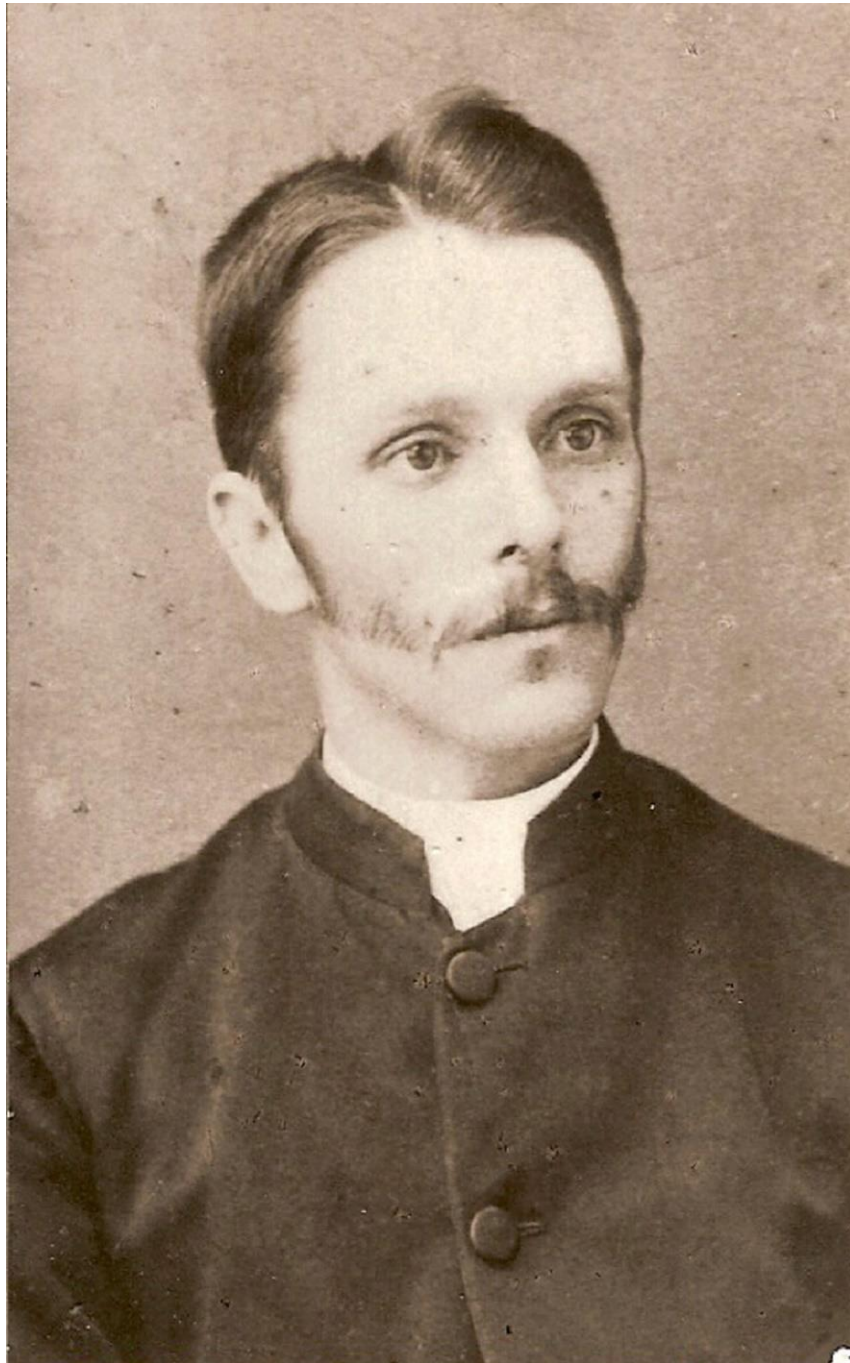


THE SECOND DIARY
of
GEORGE McKAY

Glasgow. 24 November 1853 to 26 October 1854.

Edited by
Graham Burnet



George Gilbert McKay, 1828 – 1896

George in his 20s or 30s, much as he would have looked at the time when he was writing the first and second diaries

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Maps and plans

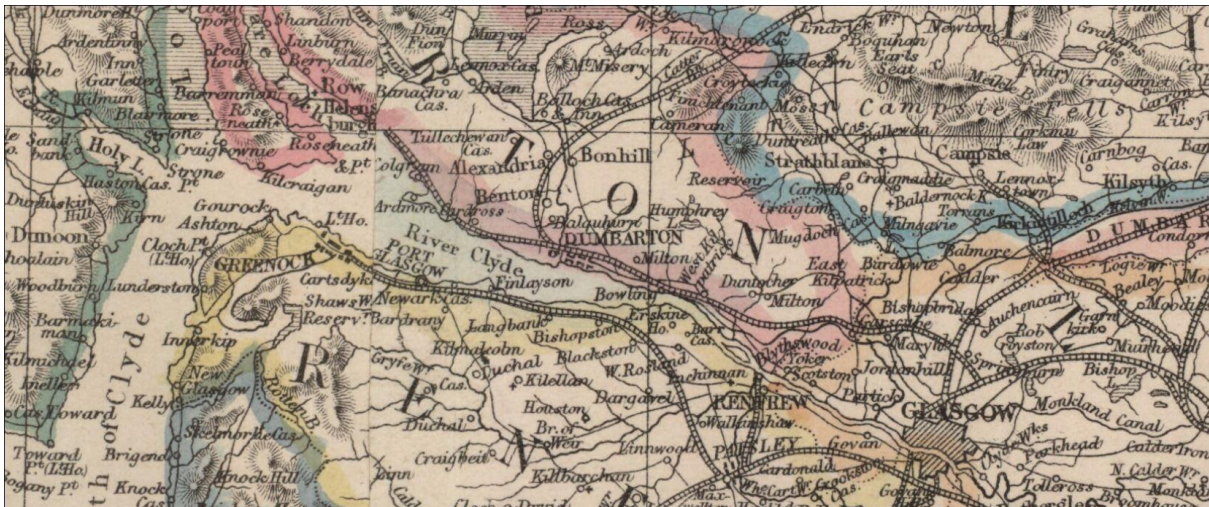


Map 1. Country around Glasgow (Arrowsmith, 1875).



Map 2. Country west of Greenock (Arrowsmith, 1875).

Maps and plans



Map 3. Country north of Glasgow, showing railways (Weller, 1863).



Map 4. Country south of Glasgow, showing railways (Weller, 1863).

NOTE: In digital format, use zoom to make maps and plans easier to read.

Maps and plans



Plan 1. Glasgow east of George Square (Rapkin, 1854).



Plan 2. Glasgow west of George Square (Rapkin, 1854).

Maps and plans



Plan 3. Glasgow north of George Square (Rapkin, 1854).



Plan 4. River Kelvin (top left), Broomielaw (centre right), river Clyde (Rapkin, 1854).



26 George Street, where the McKays were living in 1853-4. At the back, looking east.
Photo c. 1927 (Mitchell Library).

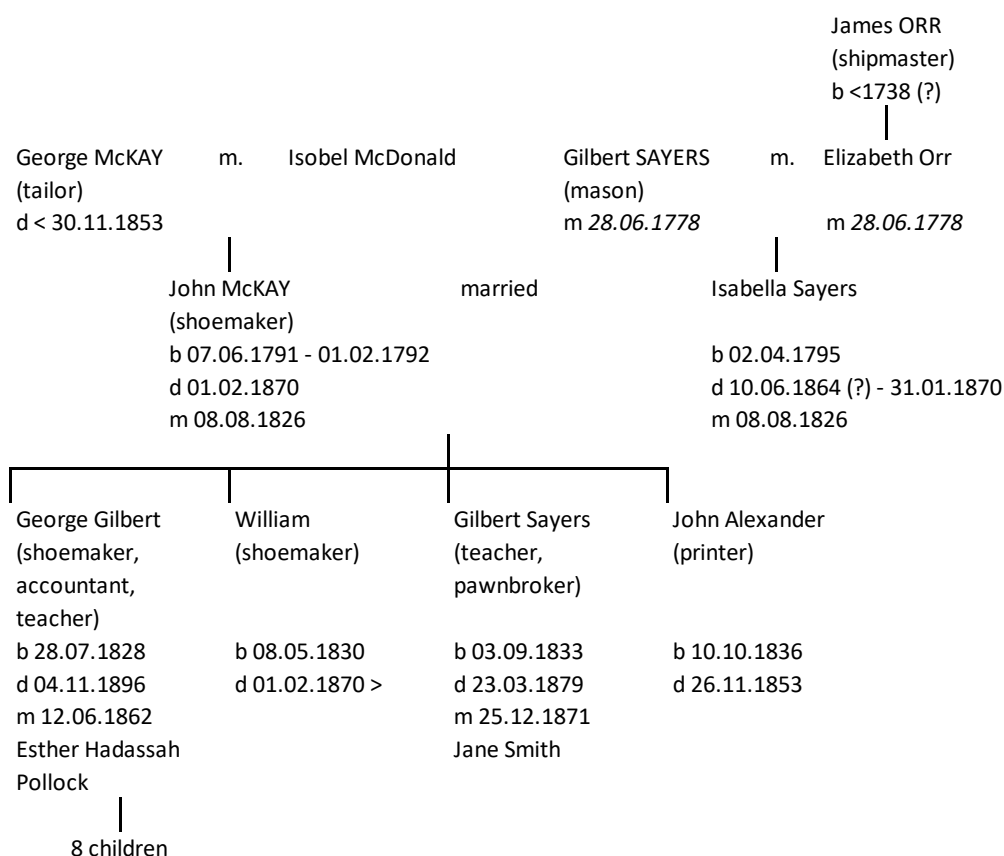


10 George Street, at the back, looking east, c. 1923 (Mitchell Library).

INTRODUCTION

1. The relatives of George Gilbert McKay

a) The family of John McKay and Isabella Sayers



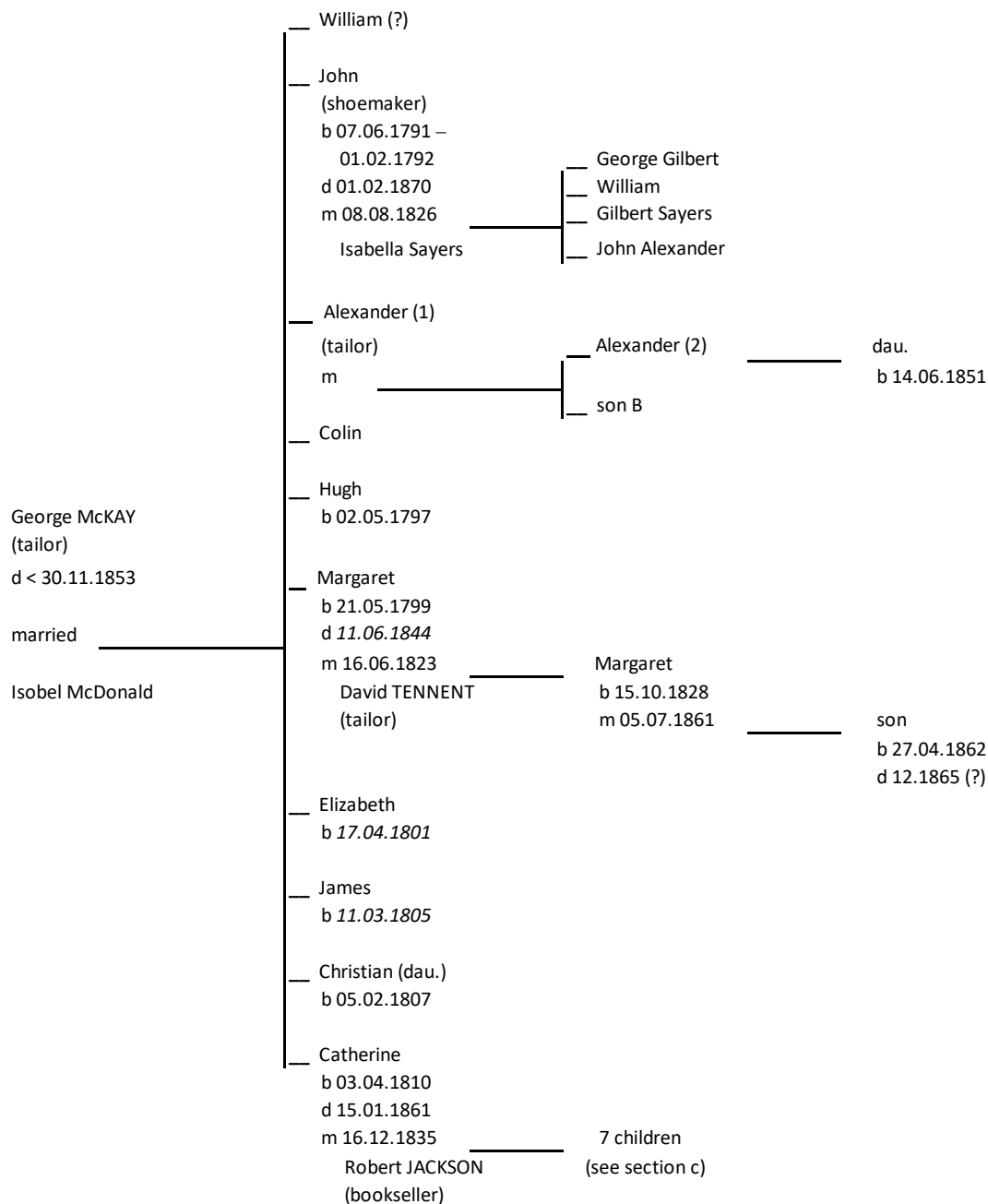
NOTE: Italicised dates in the genealogical trees may be imprecise: a birth date may be the date of baptism, a death date may be the date of burial, a marriage date may be the date of booking or proclamation.

Of the people in the tree, those mentioned in the diary are George McKay (*Grandfather*), John McKay (*Father* or *F.*), Isabella Sayers (*Mother*), William (*Wm* or *Bill*), Gilbert Sayers (*Gib.*), and John Alexander (*Johnnie*).

At the time of the June 1841 census, the family were living in North Portland Street, in central Glasgow. On 26/11/1853, when John Alexander died, they were still in central Glasgow, but had moved to 26 George Street.

Introduction

b) The family of George McKay and Isobel McDonald

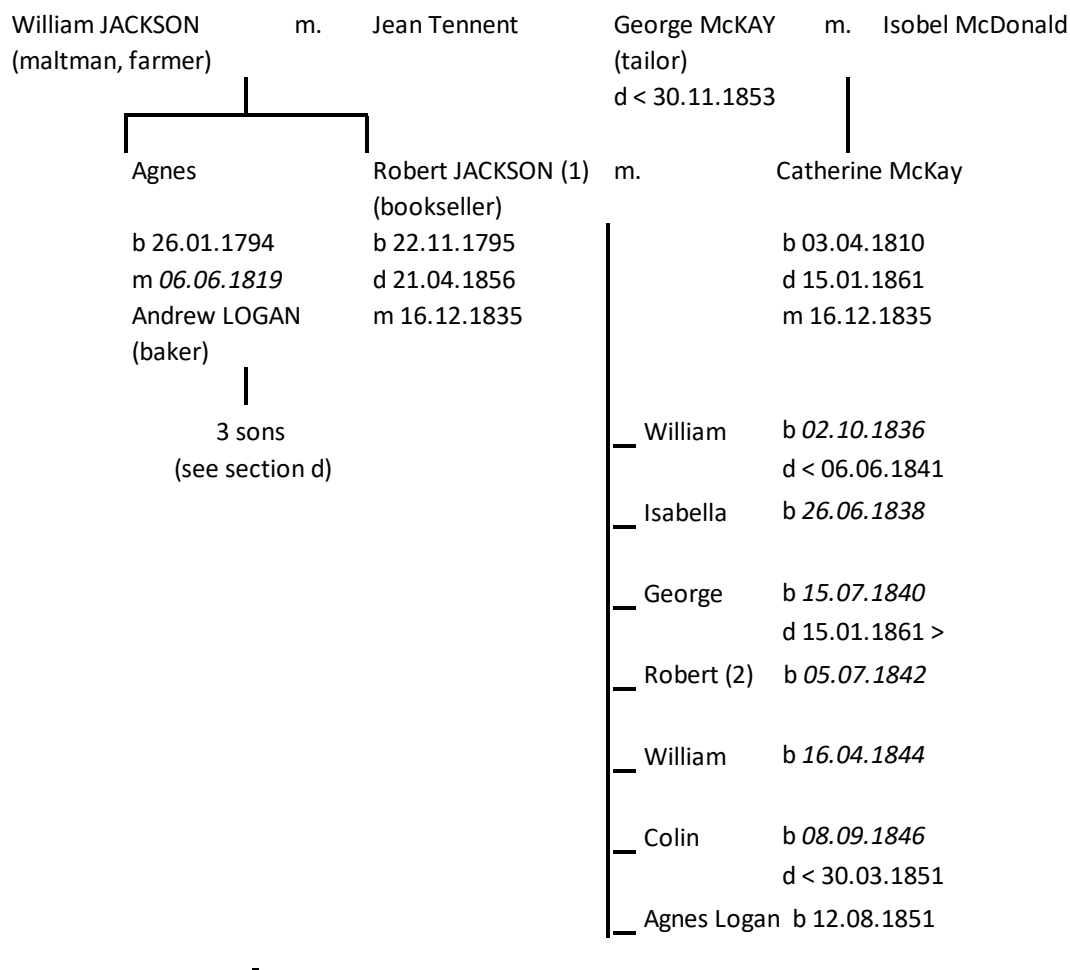


Mentioned in the diary are George McKay (*Grandfather*), John and family, Alexander (1) (*Uncle Alex*), Alexander (2) (*Alex McKay*), Alexander (2)'s brother and daughter, Colin (*Uncle Colin*), Margaret (*Aunt Tennent*), her daughter Margaret (*Cousin Margaret*), and Catherine and family.

In March 1851, George's cousin Margaret Tennent was living with the Jacksons, in Partick. She was still living with them at the time of the second diary, after they had moved to Sandyford.

Introduction

c) The Jacksons



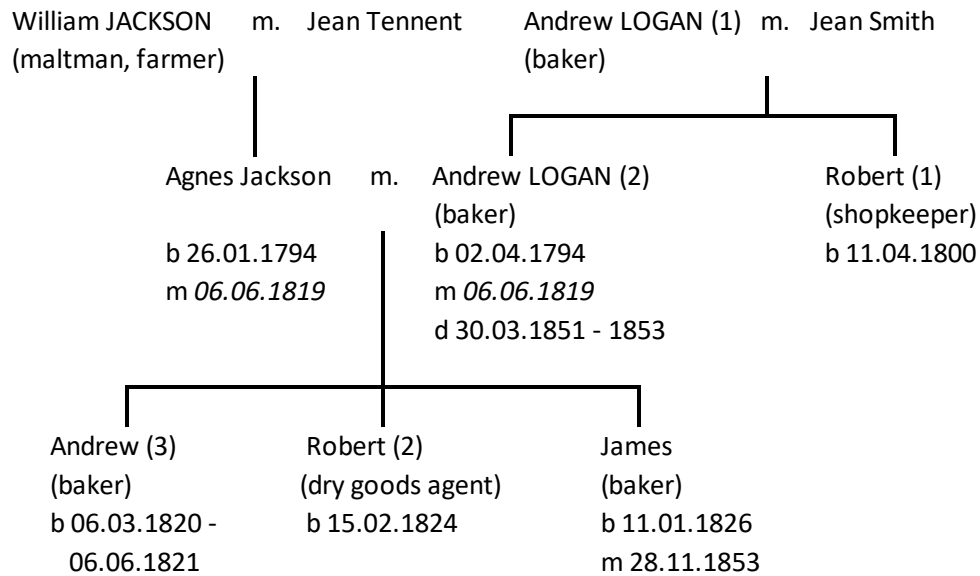
Mentioned in the diary are George McKay, Agnes Jackson, Robert Jackson (1) (*Mr Jackson, Jackson, R.J., J.*), his wife Catherine (*Aunt Jackson, Aunt*), and their children Isabella (*Bella*), George, Robert (2), and Agnes Logan (*Aggie*).

Two Jacksons who are mentioned in the diary but are not on the tree are Miss Kate and Miss B. Jackson. They are probably nieces of Robert Jackson (1) (he was his parents' ninth child, so no doubt had several brothers). They may be sisters.

We know that from July 1840 to September 1851 Robert Jackson (1) and family were living in Partick, west of the river Kelvin. By the time of the second diary, they had moved across the river to Sandyford, a middle-class district west of the city centre.

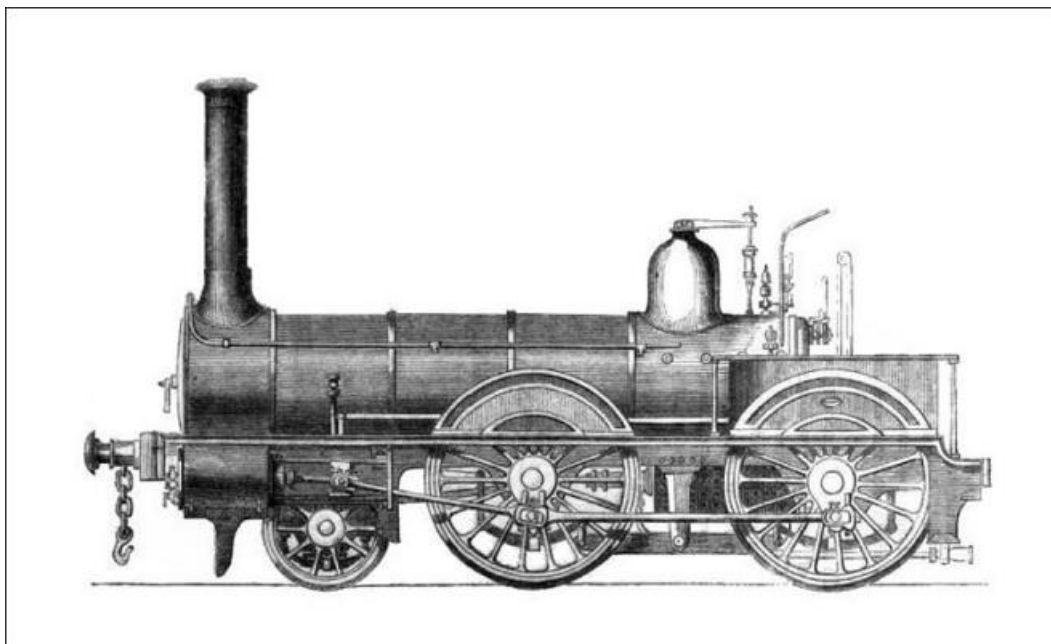
Introduction

d) The Logans



Mentioned in the diary are Agnes Jackson (*Mrs Logan*), Robert Logan (1) (*Mr Logan*, *R. Logan*, *R.L.*), Robert (2), James, and James' wife (*Mrs Logan junior*).

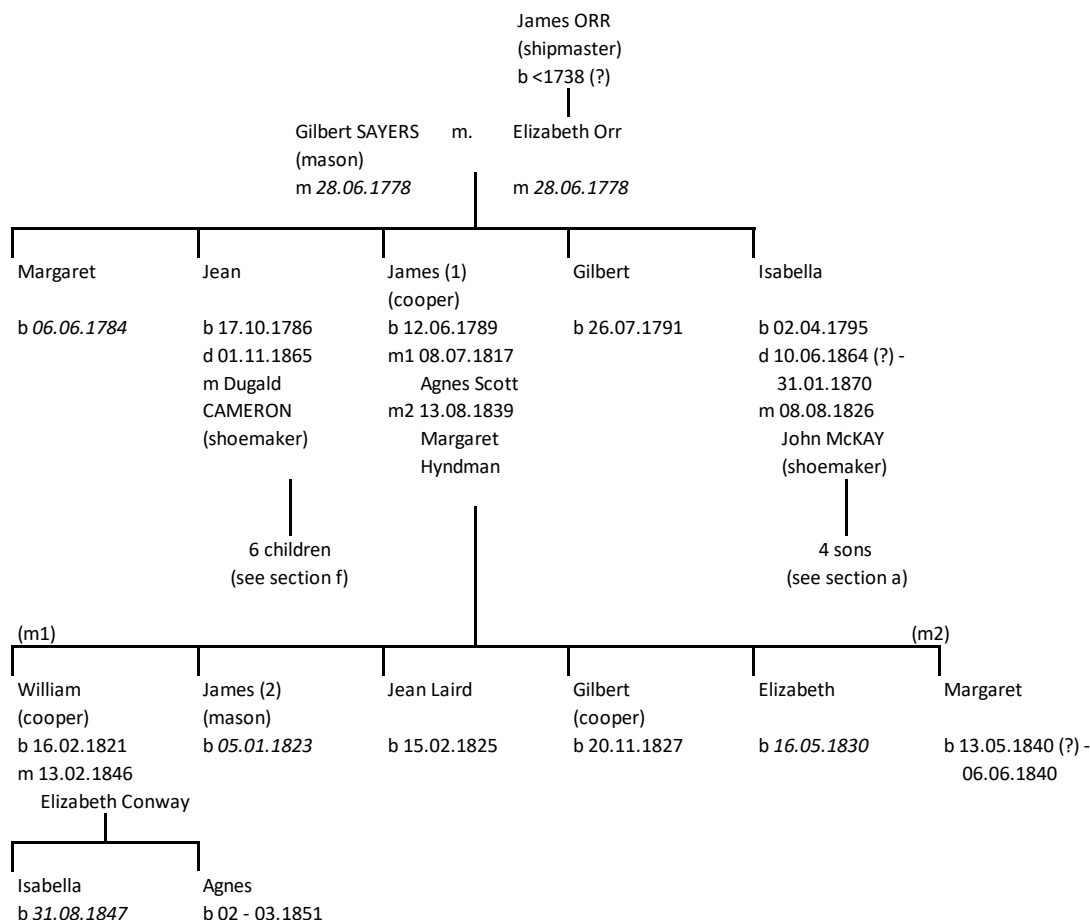
In March 1851, Agnes was living with her husband Andrew Logan (2) in Main Street in Glasgow. By 1854 Andrew had clearly died, and Agnes had moved to Kilmun, 7 miles NW of Greenock, across the Firth of Clyde (see map 1).



Steam locomotive built in Glasgow in the 1850s.

Introduction

e) The Sayers'

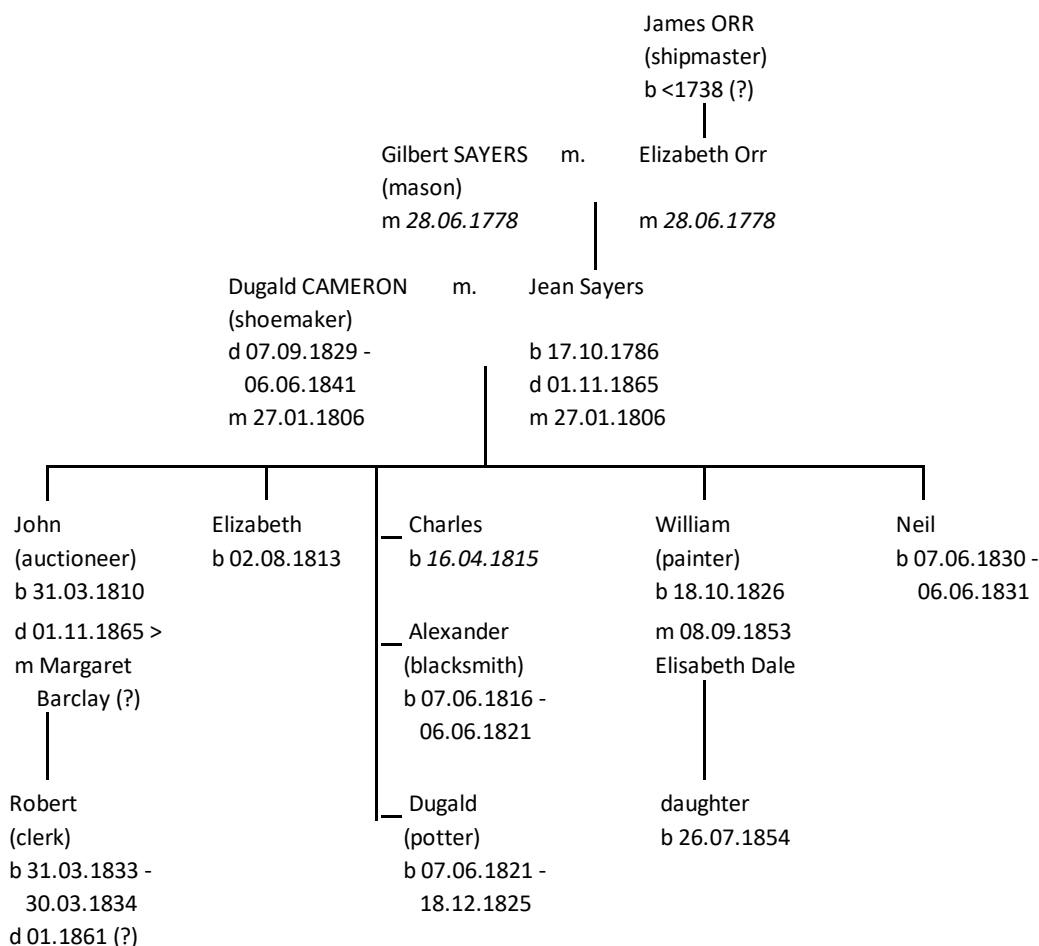


Mentioned in the diary are Jean Sayers (George's Aunt Cameron) and 4 of her children, Margaret Hyndman (*Mrs Sayers*), her daughter Margaret, William Sayers, his wife Elizabeth Conway (*Betsy*), their children (not named in the diary), James Sayers (2), and Jean Laird Sayers; plus of course George's parents and brothers.

Margaret Hyndman, her daughter Margaret, and James Sayers (2) all lived in Greenock. William was born in Greenock and was living there in June 1841, but by the time of his marriage in 1846 he had moved to Glasgow. Early in 1854 he sailed for Australia, leaving behind his wife Betsy and their young children. Jean Laird Sayers was also born in Greenock and living there in June 1841, but by the time of the diary she too had moved to Glasgow.

Introduction

f) The Camerons



Mentioned in the diary are Jean Sayers (*Aunt Cameron, Aunt*), John Cameron, Elizabeth, William (*W.C.*), William's wife Elisabeth and baby daughter, and Neil. All lived in Greenock. Note that when George is in Greenock "Aunt" means Aunt Cameron; when he is in Glasgow it means Aunt Jackson.

Not in the tree, but mentioned in the diary, is E. Cameron, mother of Gilbert Weir. She was living in Glasgow and was almost certainly a widow. When her young son Gilbert was close to death, George and his mother visited her, and George's Aunt Cameron came up from Greenock for the funeral. This strongly suggests that E. Cameron was a relative of Dugald senior, perhaps a niece. It is tempting to think that she is the Euphemia Cameron who married Alexander Weir in Lochgilphead on 14/10/1847. George knew a Cameron who lived in Lochgilphead (first diary, 02/01/1851), which gives some support to the theory that relatives of Dugald lived there. Did Alexander and Euphemia have a child called Gilbert, did they move to Glasgow, and did Alexander predecease his son? One striking fact supports the theory. When William Cameron and his wife were up in Glasgow on 05/01/1854, they and George visited someone called – Euphemia.

Introduction

2. Glasgow in the mid-19th century

Most of the city is on the north bank of the Clyde, with George Square at its centre (see plans pp. 6f.). By the middle of the 19th century, there were numerous impressive buildings in the city, such as City Hall, the Trades Hall, the University, the Hunterian Museum, the Poorhouse (originally a lunatic asylum), and the Bridge Street railway station. There were many churches, and a fine cathedral (also known as the High church).

Housing was much less impressive. During the first half of the 19th century, there was a huge increase in the population of Glasgow. The census figure for 1801 was 77,500, for 1841 it was 275,000, and for 1861 it was 395,000 (figures rounded). Many of the new arrivals were working-class people from the Highlands and Ireland. The city centre became badly overcrowded, and some notorious slums were created, especially south of Trongate, west of the Saltmarket, in the Calton district, and off the High Street.

Squares which had once been elegant were built up, and houses in which previously a single family had lived were now “made down”, with almost every room converted to a flat. Much of the housing consisted of tenements, unlovely blocks 3 or 4 storeys high. Access from the street was through a narrow alley, called a “wynd” or “close”, which led between high walls to a back court. In the court was a staircase giving access to the upper floors, and a privy which served everyone in the building, with a dung hill beside it. There were no sewers, and until 1859 no domestic piped water, so people used chamber pots, and got water from wells or water carts.

F. Engels, in *The condition of the working class in England in 1844*, quotes from a report by a Government commissioner:

... until I visited the wynds of Glasgow I did not believe that so much crime, misery, and disease could exist in any civilised country. In the lower lodging-houses, ten, twelve, sometimes twenty persons ... sleep indiscriminately huddled together upon the floor. These buildings are usually so damp, filthy, and ruinous, that no one could wish to keep his horse in one of them. ... Theft and prostitution form the chief means of subsistence of this population.

Someone else described the slums as “disease-ridden warrens where the sun never shines”, and Glasgow was called “possibly the filthiest and unhealthiest of all British towns”. Overcrowding, polluted water, smog, filth and lack of sunlight were ripe conditions for chronic illnesses, as well as epidemics. Cholera came in lethal waves, and typhus and typhoid struck with depressing regularity.

The district of Sandyford, west (and usually upwind) of the city centre was a much more agreeable place to live. There was a large park (Kelvingrove) to the west of it, and most of the houses were 2-storey terraces, with basement, garden, and outhouse.

There were 3 modes of transport: horse-drawn vehicle, train, and boat. Carriages and coaches had of course been used for centuries, but the omnibus (a coach designed to take a lot of people over a short distance) was a recent development. By the mid-19th century Glasgow was well served with “buses”, the biggest company being that of Andrew Menzies.

Steam trains had revolutionised travel, and were much used. There were still no train bridges over the Clyde, so trains travelling north departed from stations on the north bank, and those going south left from stations on the south bank.

Travel by water had also been revolutionised, thanks to the arrival of the steamer. As the 19th century advanced, the number of steamers on the Clyde steadily grew. The quays beside Broomielaw were constantly busy with the arrival and departure of sailing boats and steamers.

Introduction



Close 75, High Street, c. 1868 (Thomas Annan).

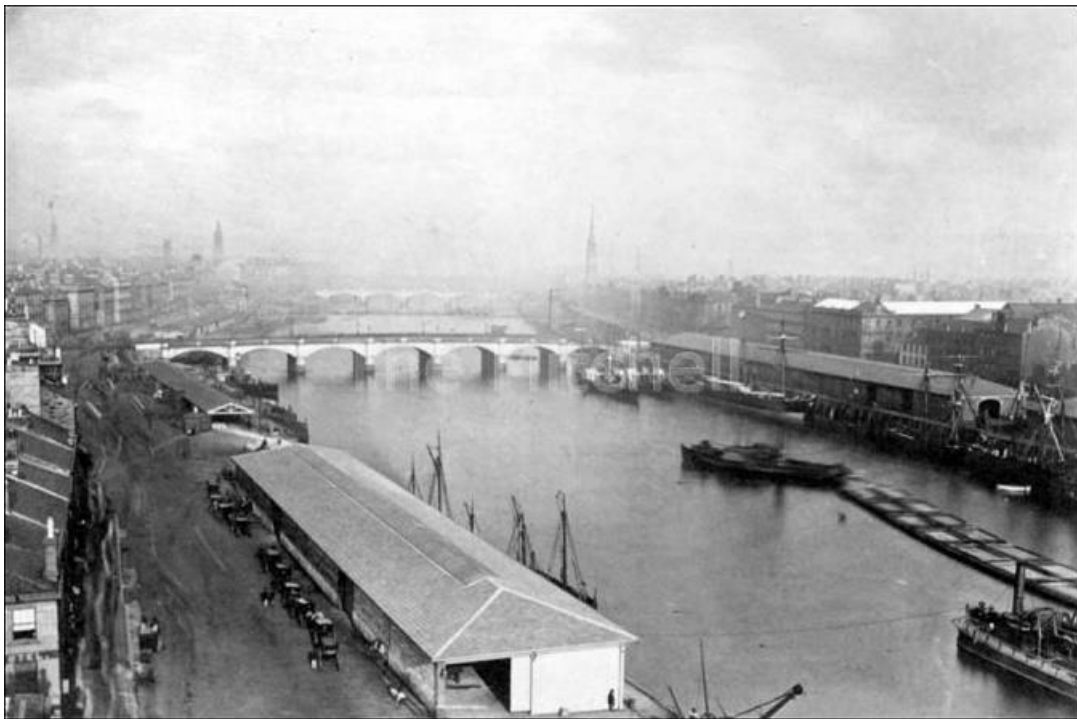


Close 80, High Street, c.1868 (Thomas Annan).

Introduction



High Street, c. 1868 (Thomas Annan).



Broomielaw, looking east towards New Bridge and Victoria Bridge, c.1865.

Introduction

3. The diary

a) Content

An earlier volume has been lost, and the volume which survives begins in mid-sentence. George is hurrying from his lodgings in Partick to the family home in George Street, where his youngest brother John is gravely ill. John dies 2 days later, aged 17, from inflammation of the lungs.

Two years have passed since the first diary ended, and George is now 26. He has been working at a mill, probably in Partick, and continues to work there until December 17. Two days later he gives up his lodgings and returns to the family home; and on the same day he begins work in the bookshop of his uncle Robert Jackson (1), dealing with accounts. The job was to have been temporary, but George is asked to stay, and eventually agrees.

George's brothers William and Gilbert are also living in the family home. William probably works in his father's boot shop, Gilbert works somewhere else.

George's cousin William Sayers sailed for Australia early in 1854, leaving behind his wife Betsy (Elizabeth Conway) and their young children. Betsy struggles financially, and appeals to the McKays for help, but to no avail. She and the children enter the Poorhouse on July 11, and remain there until October 16.

At the time of the first diary, George's closest friend was Robert Kirkwood. That friendship has now virtually ended, and no one has taken Robert's place. George has warm feelings for Robert's sister Helen, and he is concerned about her illness.

As he did in the first diary, George worries constantly about his health. He has problems with chest, lungs and breathing, and is convinced that he will not live long. That was natural enough, after the death of John and many young friends. He uses a water treatment, details of which are unclear, applies mustard poultices, takes vapour baths, and escapes from the pollution and diseases of Glasgow when opportunity offers. He dreams of emigrating to Australia, Canada or America.

Religion continues to play a large part in his life. In January he leaves St Paul's (Free Church) and begins going to the United Presbyterian church in Duke Street. He usually attends church twice on Sundays, and he reflects thoughtfully on the sermons. Because he believes he will die young, he attaches great importance to the Christian promise of eternal salvation. He worries however that he may not be one of the chosen ones, and berates himself for not being fully committed to God, and not leading a truly Christian life.

A Young Men's Society is set up at the Duke Street church to discuss religious, political and social issues. George attends most of the fortnightly meetings, and is himself asked to give a talk. He also joins the Abstainers' Union, his father's heavy drinking having made him acutely aware of the dangers of drink.

George's reading includes some journals, parts of the Bible, John Todd's *The moral influence, dangers and duties connected with great cities*, an essay by Thomas Pearson on "infidelity" (lack of religious faith), a translation of Pascal's *Provincial letters*, and Maria Cummins' novel *The lamplighter*.

He makes numerous day trips out of Glasgow, some of them "craving" excursions (visits to customers of the bookshop to ask for payment of bills). He goes north to Milngavie, Bishopbriggs and Loch Lomond; west to Bowling, Dumbarton, Greenock, Gourock and Kilcreggan; and south to Paisley, Barrhead, Johnstone, Beith and Kilmarnock. He makes 9 overnight or longer trips: to Greenock (January 2-3, April 1-3, and July 15-17), to Rothesay (April 3-4 and September 30 – October 2), to Largs (June 16-20, August 24-30, and September 9-12), and to Kilmun (August 5-7).

Introduction

George reports a number of stories from the newspapers. He is particularly interested in the progress of the Crimean war, and tells us about the departure of troops (28/02), the declaration of war (30/03), the storming of Odessa (16/05), the death from cholera of many French and English troops near Varna (21/08), the taking of Bomarsund in the Baltic (same day), and the British victory at the Alma (02/10). Other news stories he reports concern the ravages of cholera, destructive fires, and shipping disasters.

b) Abbreviations

George uses the following abbreviations:

& and
&c. etc.
12' 12 o'clock
A. (Uncle A.) Alex
abt about
a/c A/c Accts account(s)
Aft. After. Aftern. Aften. afternoon
Alex^r Alexander
C. (E.C., Mrs C., W.C., W^m C.) Cameron
C. Chap. chapter
Ch. Charles
C.J. Christian Journal
Coll. collection
Comm. commandment
Do ditto.
Dr J. Dr Jamieson
Edin. Edinburgh
Even. Eveng Even^s Eving evening
F. (1) Father (2) Friday
Fore. Foren. forenoon
Geo. George
Gib. Gilb. Gilbert
H. Helen
H.K. Helen Kirkwood
J. Ja. (Mr J., R.J.) Jackson
J. (1) Jamieson (2) Johnston(e)
Jas James
J.S. John Sutherland
Jun^r junior
K. Kirk. (H.K., R.K.) Kirkwood
L.H. Leisure Hour
M. (1) Monday (2) Mother
Mag^t Margaret
mid. middle
Morg Mor^s Morn^g Morn^s morning
Mr J. (1) Mr Jackson (2) Mr Johnston(e)
M.T. Margaret Tennent
N.B.S. North Britons Society
Phil. Philippians
pr per
R.J. Robert Jackson
R.K. Robert Kirkwood
R.L. Robert Logan
Robt Robert

Introduction

S. (1) Saturday (2) Sunday
Sen^r senior
S.S. steamship
St P. St Paul's
T. (1) Tuesday (2) Thursday
tho. though
thro. through
U.P. United Presbyterian
V. verse
W. Wednesday
W. Wm W^m William
W.C. William Cameron

4. This edition

a) Aim and method

The aim has been to provide as accurate a text of the diary as possible. Original spelling is kept, even when it is wrong, as are the original capital and lower-case letters, abbreviations, and underlinings. Hyphens inserted by George, nearly always when dividing a word between lines, are also preserved (in this edition, of course, the hyphen will rarely appear in its original position at the end of a line). George's often perverse punctuation is carefully reproduced, with the following minor exceptions. Where sense requires a comma or full stop, and George has put nothing, I indicate the sense-pause by spacing (2 spaces for comma, 3 for full stop). Where sense requires a full stop and George has put a comma (this happens quite often), I have replaced the comma with a full stop.

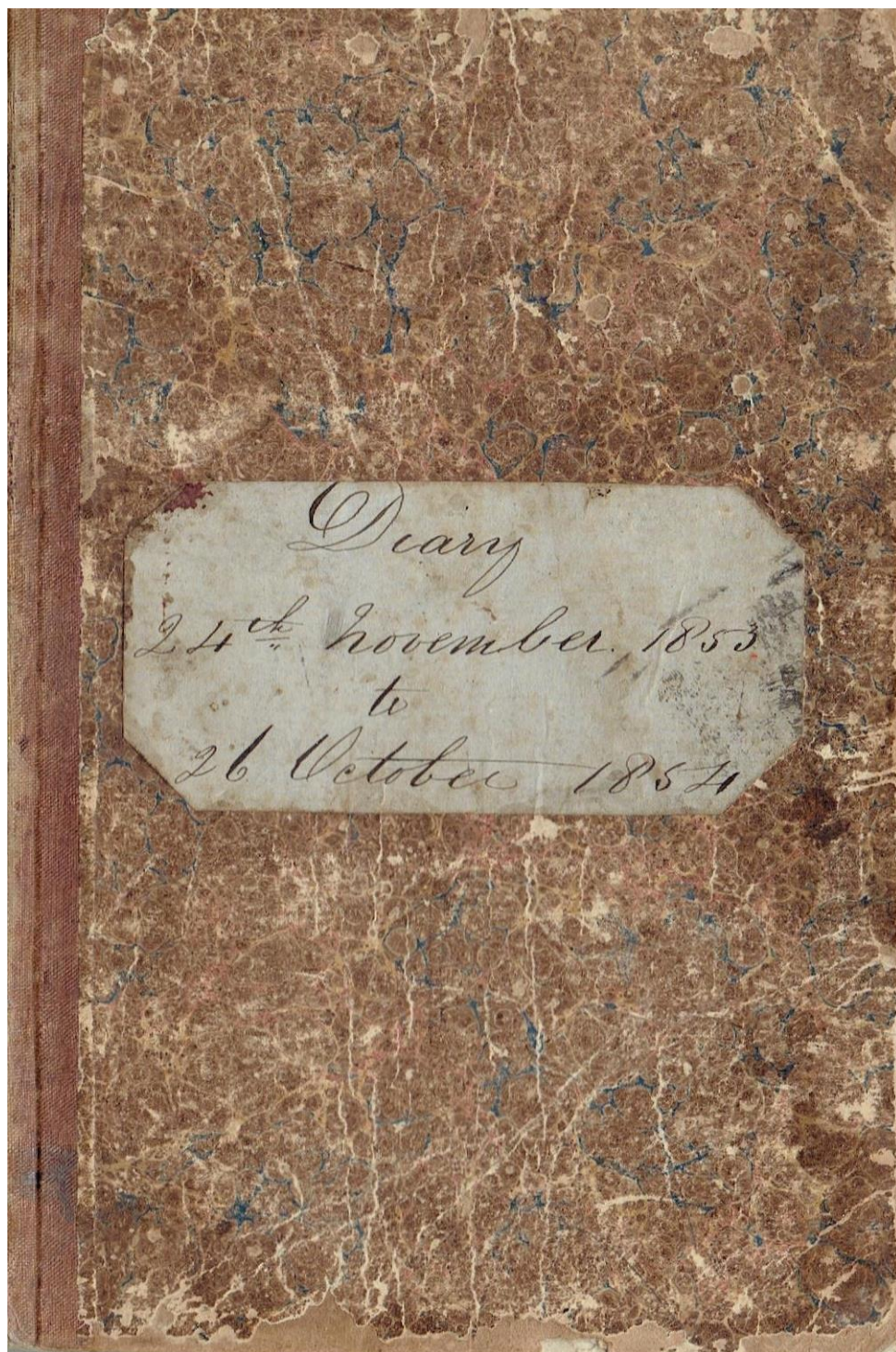
Sometimes George wrote something, then altered it or crossed it out. Such first versions are recorded between brace brackets, before any altered version.

b) Symbols

- (inside a word) hyphen used by George, usually to divide a word between lines
- { } first version, later altered or crossed out
- < > inadvertently omitted by George, added by editor
- [] editorial comment
- [sic] preceding word is mis-spelt
- [?] preceding word is an uncertain reading

I.G.B.
Aldeburgh
March 2016

THE DIARY



Diary 24th. November 1853 to 26 October 1854

T 24 Nov^r. 1853. (Thursday)

possible leaving on my way up the Note at Aunts, desiring for him, her sympathies & prayers. found on arriving at home, from the opinion of the Doctor & others that hopes of his recovery must flee from our bosoms & the dread al-ternative death, be looked upon with a calm Christian like fortitude. found Mother very much agitated [sic]. Oh! how I wish that I was indeed a Christian that I might draw con-solation from Christ the Sinners friend & might plead his own promises & urge their fulfilment. endeavoured to soothe Mother by reading to her a portion of the Bible & endeavoured to be calm myself. sat up with him giving him Wine & milk, ministering to the poor dear unconcious [sic] sufferer with such things as were ordered. dear to me he always was, but doubly so now, at the near approach of {aw} death. had I Worlds Wealth in Millions, I would give it that he might be spared, but that I have not, & he who has the issues of life, esteems the humble prayers of his people, ten thousandfold more precious than all the Wealth of this World. about 12 I thought that he was gone & called them up out of bed but found that I was mistaken. sat up until about 2. he was ap-parently suffering much. Mother terribly put about, would not go near the Bed, but wept & prayed for him. she was coaxed to go to bed & get some rest of which she stood much in need. I went to bed about 2.

F 25. got up about 7. not greatly re-freshed, sat down by his bedside watching his agony, & giving him some stimulants when he would take them. Doctor up about 11, he saw that death was approaching & that he was beyond Mortal power to benefit. he lay calm, the deep short breathing being interrupt-ed by a short cough occassionally [sic]. the brows contracting frequently showed the agony & pain within. several times he called upon his Mother – when apparent-ly the pain was more intense & the agony greater – as if seeking relief & comfort from that hand which had so often administered it – I could do nothing for him but pray. I prayed for returning conciousness [sic], that I might have said one word to him ere the spirit fled on its long Journey – but it came not. I could only committ [sic] him to the mercies of Jesus & trust in his love. – Aunt J. sent me up a note of consolation, "he will make a short work in righteousness". I prayed with it & I hope though by a way unseen & unknown to Mortals, the spirit of God entered into his Soul. Oh tis a my-sterious thing the union between Soul & body & spirit, how slender the tie & yet how tenaciously tis often held. in a Mo-ment – {whi} without note or warning it may be dissolved & at other times it struggles long & fearfully. the latter was the Case with John, twas a Severe battle, the grips were long held & life was loath to be beaten, but at last the giant threw & overcame – & reason where was it – & the powers of the Mind where were they, was it destroyed {&} or were they fled & whither, ere life had left the frail tenement. I know not & who can tell – his eyes were calm & clear, no burning tears of regret fell from them, no tokens of sympathy or recognition. the hand that supported his dying head was not thanked for its kindness, nor were the Eyes that shed tears over him repaid with one glance of love. Almighty God thou art myster-ious in thy doings & fearful in thine Actions. who can understand thy Motives, who can fathom thy rea-sons. I must & will bow myself to thy will with this. it pleased thee O Father & seemed good in thy sight. during the day he was gradually sinking, the Nerves which had been working fearfully upon him, were getting less & less strong & he was gradually becoming calm as life tide was ebbing. the wine which he had been taking was at length refused & a little brandy & water given instead. Aunt Jackson came up in the Afternoon. Mother & I went to bed. W & Father came home. I was up for a little, then went to bed again. Gib came home about 11 & was to sit up until 1 when he was to call me,

The second diary

but ere that time came, the cry arose, he was going. the Summons had been given & the spirit was hasting away to the almighty Judge. about 10 Minutes to 1 Gilbert came running to tell us he was just leaving. got up in haste & when I got to the bedside, my poor dear Johnie's Soul was just taking its flight, to meet its God. Oh may Angels have been its guardians. May the Saviour have been there stretching out his loving hands & leading him through the dark Valley of the Shadow of death, into the Land of Eternal bliss – all is now over. the first of our family who has gone. I feel an interest in the other World now, would likewise that I felt an interest in Christ greater than in him – nothing now remains, but the clay tabernacle – & with that too we must soon part. I pray God that this affliction may be blessed unto us all, & that the solemn lesson that has been read to us may not pass unimproved & may I especially learn from it – with what a Voice does it speak to me – I long ailing, he shortly, apparently full of health & strength & with bright prospects be-fore him – of many days & much joy & gladness, but how soon is the Vision dispelled, how soon the prospects brought to nothing & the living taught the un-certainty of the World. all gone like a Morn^g Cloud, like a flower cut down just when springing into beauty, or a tree blasted when it gives the best appearance of Fruit. I closed his eyes. Mother was much distressed. Father tried to be calm, but was much affected too. {Betty she} Wm & Mrs. McQuat dressed him & what a spectacle he pre-sented reduced to skin & bone, & by ly-ing on his Side the skin was broken in more than one place. his bones were indeed piercing his skin. we took him out of bed into the Parlour & stretch-ed him out upon a table. he was a great length. the body retained a degree of heat for some time. I took advantage of this painful occasion to effect a reconciliation between Gilbert & Father, they both agreed to Forgive the Past. I wish I had also spoken to Father of his drinking cus-toms & beseech<ed> him to do it – but I did not. I acted a Cowards part. got Tea & some refreshment to our bodies, of which they stood much in need. went & persuaded Mother to be down to bed about 3. AM so ended this Memorable day. long will it be re-membered by me (if I live). he was 17 Years 1 Month & 10 days old. with all his faults I loved him & think that he reciprocated that feeling. the faults of Youth he had, but within this some time past a change for the better had come over him, he was much milder & pleasanter & more full of sympathy than formerly he was.

S 26. rose about 7. Mother still excited. wish I could have staid up & comforted her as far as it lay in my power, but could not. went to Mill, staid all day, very sad. I wish to cherish his memory, his sufferings & his death. I hope it may produce a Salutory effect upon me. left about 6, came up – found Mother a little better. Aunt Jackson had been up seeing her & I doubt not had been endeavouring to console her. Mother wished the coffining to stand over until Mon-day. Aunt however advised her to the Contrary & that it should be done tonight. F & W^m went down to Menzies & got arrangements made as to it. they were to be up at ¼ past 10, but they came before that time. we performed this sad Service. I felt much grieved in Spirit. Mother was troubled a good deal. Jean Sayers was over. we purposed to have the Funeral on Tuesday but have put it off until Wednesday, as Uncle nor Aunt Jackson could attend on that day owing to Jas Logans Marriage party being on that day Monday, & some of the Friends are staying with them & as we are desirous [sic] of the presence of both we have deffered [sic] it until the lat-ter day. how changing & diverse-ified [sic] are this World [sic] Scenes – & the state of Men. Oh that I could or would remember that here I have no continuing city & that more earnestly I was seeking to have my portion in

that City which hath foundations, in that house in which there are many Man-sions, which Jesus has prepared for his people. to bed about 12.

S 27. being tired, lay rather longer than I should have done. St. P. Dr. J on the 9th Comm: home between Sermons. Mrs. Ronald in the house, who told me some things of Colin which I thought very unchristian. Uncle Alex had been visiting on Saturday, a thing that I did not expect. hope that a better feeling may arise betwixt us yet. Afternoon St P. Dr J. did not greatly ad-mire his Sermon, could have read a better one, by the Coffin head of John. got dinner, staid for a little. got Gilberts Company down a part of the way. spoke seriously to him & to myself on the subject of religion. up at Aunts, staid about an hour, then went down to Lodgings, felt them dull & cheerless, mind was sad, that the cause. to bed about 10

M 28. What a Mind Mine is. am beginning to loose [sic] feeling & sympathy, & for the dead & am turn-ing careless about myself, this is what I feared. what will make me be otherwise. must pray & yet I do not pray. I am a hypocrite, deceiving others, having an appearance of godliness, yet wanting the Spirit & the power, the Pharisee of the Saviours parable. went up tonight & wrote the Funeral Letters. went over & saw Mother, found her still distressed in Mind, both for the death of the loved one & also concer<n>ing his Eternal well being. Father is not so much put about as her. Uncle Alexander was up again to day, astonishing. I hope the Kindly feeling may be permanent & that a reconciliation be-tween <us> may be effected & that a friendly feeling may arise from the occurence [sic] of this. Oh how should we cherish kindly feelings towards each other – who knows or who can say that he will never need or never seek the sympathies of his fellow men – viewing it only in a Worldly view, how imperative, Love one Another, but taken in a Scripture view & as the command of Christ tis doubly so.

T 29 at Mill all day. Miller gave me leave to go away & said that I need not come down again for the Morn^g. went up to Aunts in passing staid a short time then went home. this Even I was appointed for Meetings for Humiliation & prayer on Account of threatened evils. Cholera – if they had included War & famine, they would have done well. not at any of the Services. Mother a little easier & calmer. had a Letter from W.C. tonight {in}. he is to be up D.V. Tomorrow. to bed about 11.

W 30 got up after 8. Shop shut today. made along with W^m some little little [sic] arrangements, went down to the burial Ground saw the Grave. laying him just above Aunt Tennent – alongside Grandfather. came home & got dressed in Sables as if the Clothes were part of the Sorrow. WC. came up about 1. Aunt about ½ p 1. about which time also the Undertaker came – we took our last farewell look of his Corpse – for ever – then the Coffin lid was screwed down & they carried him away. Mother calm & composed – Dr. Jamieson came about 2. read a Chapter & offered up a prayer – only about 12 present. – then we departed on our Melancholy Journey, arrived safe & deposited it in its last long resting place, sorrowing “that we” “would see his face no more”, but I would humbly hope, that we may yet meet where sorrow is unknown & tears are for ever wiped away in that land where God is & where Jesus reigns. all my hopes so fondly cherished & expectations so much desired are dissipated [sic] & like thin air they have passed away – as regards him in time – all all – are in the Grave buried with him. may we all prepare to me<et> our God – all the Friends came back to tea, & all left by before 8 o'Clock. I left about 9 & got down about 10.

The second diary

So Ended November & my brother John – May his Ashes rest in peace until that day when the great trumpet shall sound, & then may they be animated with life, & fitted for the resurrection of the Just & dwell before God for ever & ever. Amen.

went to bed. But Father came home
I was up for a little, then went to bed again.
Sib came home about 11 & was to sit up
until 1 when he was to call me, but
before that time came, the cry arose, he
was going, the summons had been given
& the spirit was hastening away to the
almighty Judge, about 10 minutes to
1. Gilbert came running to tell us
he was just leaving, got up in haste
& when I got to the bedside, my poor
dear John's soul was just taking
its flight, to meet its God. Oh may
Angels have been its guardians, may
the Saviour have been there stretching
out his loving hands & leading him
through the dark Valley of the Shadow
of death, into the Land of Eternal
bliss – all is now over, the first of
our family who has gone. I feel an
interest in the other world now, would
likewise that I felt an interest in Christ
greater than in him – nothing now
remains, but the clay tabernacle
with that too we must soon part
I pray God that this affliction may be
blessed

Scan of the diary page on which George describes the death of his brother John.

December 1853

Thursday December 1st. feeling dull today. up at Aunts at Night.

F 2 a very close foggy day. not out tonight. am keeping pretty well, better than I have been this good while back.

S 3 up at Aunts on the way home. No one has as yet been appointed to fill my place & I must stay another [sic] week. I wish it was settled as it keeps me in Suspense & besides Jackson wishes me to go to the Shop for a few Weeks. this D.V. I will do & lend what little assistance I can in return for past kindnesses. home about 10.

S 4 got up about 9. Mother mourning about her Son. F. excited today which brought a bowel Complaint on him. St P. Fore. Dr J. a very good Lecture. Gib with us, home between Sermons. Aft St P. Dr J. Rev. 21 – "no Night there" of ignorance, sorrow, sin or death. after dinner left early. expected to have spent this Evening at home, but found Circumstances would not permit it. "We propose but God disposes." up at Aunts, spent 2 hours there very pleasantly. down about 9. W^m. not down tonight. feel lonely at Night when I stay in the house. Mind always reverting to John. Memory calling up the past & making me Sad, & yet still sad through [sic] the reminiscences [sic] are, I do not wish that they should be forgot. I would not drown Memory in the Lethean Stream of oblivion. I would fondly cherish his Memory & the scenes that are past. I had some times fancied that he might drop a tear over my tomb, but I do not think I ever thought of being called to mourn his decease. how shortsighted we are!

M 5. nothing particular to day. up at Gartnavel tonight seeing R.K. who I am happy to find is improving. how different are the doings of God – one in the way of being restored to health of whose death I had more fears than I had of Johns & John taken away. may I be enabled to say like Job "the Lord give-eth [sic] & the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord". staid about 1½ hours. a cold Even^g. hope it may by Gods blessing tend to stay the progress of disease amongst us, as it has not been so rife in the City this Several Years.

T 6 Today was appointed for the Election of my Successor. I was glad of it & hoped & desired that I might get away, but I am disappointed again, as they did not succeed in getting one. the Deacon asked me to stay {until} for a few days longer. I said that I would wait until Saturday. up at Aunts tonight – told her the result. Uncle said that I should leave on Saturday, would like to do so, but feel sorry to put Mr White to any inconvenience after the manner in which he has used me. but I do not consider that I am bound {any} in any way morally, legally or honorably to stay longer than that time as they will then have had a Months warning – down about 10.

W 7 Jas. Campbell out at Mill to day, asked if an increase of Wages would not keep me. I told him, No, that if that had been my object, I might have asked it. up at home tonight, found Mother pretty well & all the rest. Gib came down part of the Road with me, down about 10.

T 8. busy to day at the Mill, working some & caught myself grumbling at it, but checked myself. am keeping well at present. ever since the day I went up to John's deathbed until now, I have kept well, better than I have been since I came up from Rothesay. I know not what to attribute it too [sic], but God should be thanked for it, is

The second diary

he? up at Aunts tonight who told me they had agreed to raise the Wages 3/ per Week, which is little enough under present Circumstances. spoke of Logan's Place. they had been speaking of it & I hope if spared to get it. down about 10.

F 9 busy with the Sheet to day. Collector when out with the Wages asked me as a favour to stay until the end of next Week. I allowed him to press me a little & then consented. I hope they may have one by that time, as then I must go. in house all Evening. Tudehope up, had some conversation with him. to bed about ½ p 9

S 10 Fortnight since John died. I cannot fully realize this: sometimes I almost feel as if this were not the case. he often recurs to my Memory & makes me Sad. I wish that I may not forget him too soon, & that I may learn a lesson from him. up at Aunts on road home, staid about an hour. found all well at home, as natural found Mother still grieved about John.

S 11 Wm {went} down with me tonight. from this until the End of the Month is from Memory as there was no notes. on the 12th found that my breathing Was becoming bad & that the old complaint was coming on me. on the 14th very bad, & put on a Mustard blister. 15th not at Mill, and did not go until breakfast time during the remainder of the Mornings I was there. thought on the last attack that I had & thought on John in connection with it, how kind he was, & how he did all that was in his power to ease me, & that now he has been taken away & is in the Land of Spirits. on the 17th left the Mills. Mr White gave me a good character, & said that if at any time I needed it, I might make reference to him. If I had got away sooner & John had been alive I purposed going to Rothesay but as in neither of these are now, I went to Uncle Jacksons on the 19th still keeping my Lodgings at Partick until the 19th when I left & came home. busily employed at the Books making out Accounts &c. up till the End of the Year.



Glasgow harbour at sunset, looking west from New Bridge. Broomielaw is on the right.
(Allan and Ferguson, 1843.)

January 1854

Sabbath Jan^y 1st 1854 –

St. P. Foren. Dr. J. home between Sermons. Aften. [sic] St. P. Dr. J. at Night went down to D. Mores School.

M 2. rose about 8. got my Wet Sheet as usual. went by the 11 oClock Train to Greenock, & I called on some friends & lastly went to W.C. found him in. we along with Mrs C. went away up to a pond to get some shoes, on which we enjoyed ourselves very much for about 2 hours, then came away down, got tea. Aunt & Elizabeth up in Wm. & passed the Even^g very pleasantly. went to bed about 12.

T 3 rose about ½ p 7. a small pimple under my {Arm} left Arm, annoyed me during the Night & threatens to become a Boil. after a hurried breakfast got the 1/2 past 9 train & arrived safely. went to shop & there staid all day.

W {3} 4 had a Fig to my Boil during the Night. tis not broken yet & is still painful. We have frost & snow at present, more than we have had this Number of Years be-fore – hope it may be for good. {T 4} W.C. & Mrs C & C up tonight, they did not stay long as they were going to the Theatre. in house this Eveng.

T {4} 5 am progressing with my Accts. hope to be done soon. they have taken me longer than I had thought they would have done. W.C. up tonight at Tea. took it very agreeably together. went up with them to Euphemia. staid until about ½ p 10. Snow came on to fall heavily as we were coming home. Arm broke last night, considerably easier. to bed about 11.

F 6 nothing particular. R. Logan wants {to} me to go to his office on Monday for a day. in Shop until 8 tonight. am keeping pretty well – home at 9.

S 7. got all the A/c.^s made out. Entering them in the A/c rendered book & enclosing them, this occupies me all day. shut at 4. up at R. Grays & at H.K.'s. home about 10 –

S 8. St. P. Foren Dr J. on Moses at Mount Sinai. Mr Caird of Errol is expected to preach next Sabbath, admission by Tickets. in house between Sermons. After St. Pauls Dr J. in house all the Even^g thinking on "& yet there is Room". to bed about 10

M 9. busy today. out with Uncle & got dinner. back to the Shop un-til about 10, busy writing. have been troubled this 8 days past with a Boil under the Arm but which has now left me. am still pursuing the Cold Water treatment. Dripping Sheet every Morning & rubbing the Chest with olive oil at night, & think that I am the better of it. intend still to pursue it, & hope that with Gods blessing it may be of benefit to me.

T 10 still the Old Routine write, write, write. out with Jackson to-day again for dinner. in Shop un-til 10. nearly.

W 11 nothing very particular. writing away. thought that I would have been done with it tonight but found that new work has been carved out for me. I am striving to do it honestly & diligently. I am not very speedy, but I am not Spinning it out to as long a thread as possible. I must set about my work of Salvation when thinking on it I feel angry with myself for being so dilatory so careless about it. "Why stand I in jeopardy every hour, much is there to teach me, much to bestir me. eventful dangerous times

The second diary

are near us, War & pestilence. these {cry} Messengers of God cry aloud, Repent. "Make your calling & Election sure", but I often times seem by my Conduct to think that they will come to all except me.

T 12 still at the Books. work drawing to a close & getting towards completion. have not heard anything of my other place from themselves as yet, nor have I seen Aunt to have a chat with her this some time. still Frost & snow, cold. went into Mrs. Welshs to ask for her, sat about an hour with Meg. I can not say that our conversation was very profitable. home about 9.

F 13. {th} nothing particular private to day. the Turks & the Russians are at War. my Sympathies are with the Turks. t'would [sic] be much better, if War could be avoided, "if Nation would not lift up Sword against Nation", if by ne-gociations [sic] disputes could be settled. but there are some Men on whom Moral suasion has no power & who alone will be subjected by brute force, of these the Czar is one. a fearful Sin rests upon the Man who for his own personal aggrand-isement, kindled up War & would to further his purpose, set Man against Man, spilling human blood as if they were beasts, & sending immortal Souls into the presence of their Judge reeking with the foulest Crimes & stained [sic] with the darkest passions of our fallen nature – Oh for the happy time when War shall cease, & when all Mens Strivings shall be who shall glorify God most & further the Saviours King-dom. down seeing Adam Walker tonight, an old apprentice of ours & towards the Close of his time, a bad one, but who is at present in ill health. I never cherished any ill will towards him, & now that trouble has visited him I think I am doing right in acting so toward him. staid about an hour beside him. Gib working all Night tonight, bad for him –

S 14. got my Books about finished. in Shop until about 4. expected to have got some Money tonight, but he did not offer {me} it me, & I did not like to ask it. came home & got dinner then went down to Mrs Ronald to see her as she has been unwell, found her better. then came to shop & took Mot-her to see the Diorama of the Holy Land, tis indeed a beautiful sight, a delightful Country, a land to love, but when I think on the Scenes en-acted on it – the giving of the Law, the passage of the Red Sea, the Transfiguration, the Agony, the Crucifixion, the Ascension, when I think on Horeb, Taba, Gethsemene [sic] garden, Calvary, Olivet, when I think on these & on those who took a part in them & in other Scenes, Moses, Aaron, Elijah & the others of the Cloud of Witneses [sic] with the great & loving Saviour himself, then indeed it becomes a garden of delights, a land flowing morally with Milk & Honey. Out about 10. to bed about 1 –

S 15. got up about 9. entered but slightly into reading or praying – went to St Pauls, Dr. J. 24 Exodus I. Mr. Caird of Errol being to preach in the Afternoon, the Admission was by Tickets. I had promised mine to Aunt Jackson & accordingly went down to give it her. Met her on the Road, she wanted me to make use of it myself. this I would not accept of, came up together. I got a Ticket from a [sic] A pro-van & got in. the house was Crowded. he had some beautiful expressions in his opening prayer. he chose for his text Luke 13.8. "Lord let it alone this Year". spoke of death. Man can trace the motions of the Stars & can even tell to Cen-turies before, the reappearance of a Comet (we have here a peep behind the scenes, the inquisition held in heaven of Man). no hour of death known. who is he that would in the busiest time of harvest – & in the throngest {time} hour of the day, would turn off his labourers, or if turning

any off t'would [sic] be the old, the inert, useless, but that is not the way of providence. we see the Young, able, useful taken away, & the others left –

1st. Why was it to be destroyed. because it bore no fruit – fibres roots, leaves blossoms, branches, to draw up the Moisture, to catch the rays of the Sun & the Evening dews, but it bore no fruit. what it had would be enough for flowers, which were plant-ed to regale our smell or to pleas [sic] our eyes, but not for a fruit tree – Moral Analogy, Man not sent for show alone. he seeks happiness at every altar, worships at every Shrine, no happiness at any place but in Christ. powerful ap-peal to us more especially to the Young to examine & see what they were doing for Christ, what fruit they were bearing. it may be said of many rich & poor, they lived they died they ate & drank & perished like beasts, they died rich the only econium [sic], the loudest laugh of hell.

2^d. all had been done for it that could be done. had it been in a wilderness – wild & untended uncared for & forgotten, might have been excused, but in a hot bed prepared for it, pruned & watered & manured, no excuses. – Analogy heathen land, orphans, but us, Sabbath Sanctuaries & Sermons, privileges & bless-ings – what more could God do. that which made Angels in humility rejoice & the devils believe & tremble, from the softest whispers of Mercy to the thun-ders of his wrath, failed to produce an effect upon Man.

Application. Examine ourselves & prepare day by day. know not when Death may come. the tree was flourishing & strong when the Consultation was held, but the axe of the Woodman in a few hours laid it prostrate. so we. some Year will undoubttedly [sic] be our last. we in Strength esteem it fanatic-ism to associate Death & us together. We are busy in the Exchange a Counting house. no prophet comes to the door & tells us this Year will be our last, but the last it will be to some. he concluded with an earnest appeal, to all, but tho he did not say it to Young Men in par-ticular – in his prayer he had some beautiful expressions. Was much gratified & I hope impressed by it. I will try to think over it – the earnest-ness of his manner was the principal thing – pressing & offering again & again upon us – Aunt was highly delighted. in house all Evening, reading Todds Works, his Great Cities & the duties of Christians in them. he shows in a very strong light what they should be. the more I think on it the more do I feel that it is no easy task to be a Christian, to walk holy & blameless in the midst of this World. if they have White Garments tis a difficult task to keep them free from the pollutions, if they are lights, tis a difficult thing to keep burning with a pure {flame} & steady flame amid the mighty rushing Winds of the Worlds trials temptations & snares, but there is One who will be with us, Jesus –

M 16. no Jacksons to day. up at R. Logans in the Afternoon, writing a little –

T 17 up at R. Logans part of day, in Shop remainder. have nearly got my Work there accomplished. went out to Sandy-ford tonight, expecting to have a quiet chat with Aunt, which I like, but Mrs Logan & Mrs. Jas Logan came in & they absorbed all the Conversation to themselves. waited until about ½ p 9 came in in the Buss Mrs. Logan paying my Fare. home about 10.

W 18. Gilb. confined Yesterday & to day with Sore throat. not doing much to day, up at R.L. this Eveng writing. thinking on John. was down at his Grave this Morg. Melancholy visits, & visits which I never anticipated, a duty which I never thought I would have to perform, & the thought of his Eternal Welfare, is he in Heaven or Hell, the

The second diary

thought is dreadful at times. 'tis an awful thing Eternity & yet 'tis as dreadful & as awful, that I will not prepare for it, that offered Mercies are still rejected & treated if not with Scorn, {a} with in-difference.

T 19 The Snow has now entirely dis-appeared & tis now much milder. Am still in Mr. Jacksons.

F. 20 F. not so well, in going into St Pauls last Sabbath a person with his Elbow hurt him on the ribs. Fishers [sic] says tis only a bruise, nothing Material, but tis very painful he was in the house during the Afternoon

S 21 not doing much today. left about ½ p 2. took a walk to the Broomielaw, then went down to the Mills to see my old friends. they were glad to see me – the Miller & John. the <Miller> said they wished I was back. called on Mrs. Purdon, then went up to T. Tudehope's, saw him & got Tea from him. staid about an hour then en route up called at Aunts staid a while & had a Chat with her about the Shop Boys. home about 11. F not much better, breast still painful

S 22 rose about 9. went out & had a short Walk. St P. Dr J. Foren on the Ark & the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies tracing the analogy very clearly between them & Christ. home between Sermons F a little easier. Afternoon Duke St UP. with Mother. heard an excellent Sermon on Forgiveness, "with thee there is forgiveness". 1st. Author, God. 2^d object Man. 3rd. Mediator, Christ. 4th. Consequences. Mr Johnston their New Pastor is to be placed next Thursday & they are to have a Soiree in the Even^g to which (D.V.) I intend to go & take Mother & I think that likewise if Mr. Johnston pleases me, that I will take a seat there as I feel much to be letting her go alone. in the Evening up at Balfours School. should like much to resume teaching, but am afraid to begin lest I should not be able to con-tinue, & if beginning I should like to get a Class of boys, just about our late Johnnies Age & strive to instruct them, but in What? asks Consience [sic]. You have never felt the power & the Love of Christ & how then can you teach others, that which you know not Yourself. have felt sad to day thinking of John & my own unpre-paredness for death. I know & feel that in these times we ought to be ready, more than at others, but my Soul is steeped in Sloth & will not arise & go to its Father & Saviour. reading a little tonight to bed abt 10

M 23 this has opened a beautiful Mor^g a little Colder than Yesterday. had a Newspaper from Sorley a few days ago from which I see that he has started business on his own Account in Belle-ville Canada. I am glad to hear that he is prospering & wish him heartily all success. F not much better today. doing nothing to day for want of a Book but hope to do something if spared tomorrow.

T 24 a dreadful Shipwreck occurred on the Island of Lambay near the Bay of Dublin, by which nearly 400 lives have been lost. The Tayleur, a New Iron Ship of about 2000 Tons Register, & of first rate build & having Noble Accomodation [sic] sailed from Liverpool last Thursday. while in the Channell [sic] she encountered bad Weather, was inefficently [sic] man-ned, Compasses wrong – after drifting about for ½ day in the Channell [sic] drove ashore on Lambay Island, bow-side on & in about ½ an hour, sunk beneath the Waves. about 250 were saved out off [sic] about 600.

W 24 [sic] nothing very particular &

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T 25. [sic] had been intending to write

F 26. [sic] today but did not. mind wandering, & depressed, have been think-ing upon my state, would like to go to Christ & be found in him, but know not how to do it.

S 27 [sic] Cholera is still with us though the Cases are not very numerous – still they are occuring [sic] daily. these {is} are serious times, when if Men would learn the lessons taught us it would be well. Pestilence & War. War with Russia is feared, with regard to Turkey. I hope it may be averted & that peace may yet reign in the midst of us – if it was only a good drubbing, from which they might recover, I would not regret that the Russians should get a severe thrashing, but, when I reflect that in each of these, there is an immortal spirit & when I think that each of these is animated with the worst passions of our nature, at the very time they are leaving the World, it makes me desire that peace may long remain within our Walls – {after} had a severe pain in the left Side of my head, tryed [sic] the Cold Water dodge, & find myself better. after shutting went & got a Walk down Clyde Side viewing the Ship-ping – walked down the length of Govan then walked up to Aunts. speaking of the 3 Young Men Wilson who were drowned in the Tayleur. know them by seeing them, nice decent like lads they were, the oldest just about my age, all swept into Eternity at once. the Captain seems to be great-ly to blame, at least he is blamed whether worthy or not. got Tea in Aunts, home about 10.

S 29 up about 9. this being the day on which Mr Johnston was to be in-troduced to the Duke St congregation, went with Mother to hear the Service as I think that perhaps I may go along {with} with her, as I feel much to see & let her go alone. Dr. Johnstone of Limekilns preached in the Forenoon from Acts 13. 38-39. did not think very highly of him as a preacher. Mr. Johnstone officiated & preached a very excellent Sermon on 2 {Timothy} Corinthians 2, last clause on what ought to be the great aim & object of the Chris-tian Minister. the Church was very full. relished it much & have formed a favourable opinion of him after dinner went down to see Mrs Ronald. Good body who has been very unwell this some time, but she is now better rather. went to Duke St. & heard from Dr Robertson an excellent Sermon on 2 Timothy 2C, 3V, “Endure hardness as a good Soldier of Jesus Christ”. was de-lighted with it, though when thinking on myself, I saw that I was not one of those who are good Soldiers, was was [sic] a Cowardly fellow, one who made a profession, but in trials & tempt-ations failed altogether to do my duty. resolved to begin to do it, but ere the Evening closed around me, found that my feelings & emotions had sub-sided. to bed about 10.

M 30. Mr Jackson away at Edin. to day. in front shop, most part of the day, they were doing a little business. Writing some. Adam Walker F's old Apprentice & my Old Chum is very bad, not expected to live – numbers of my acquaintances [sic] of Younger days slip-ping away & I am still preserved & that to [sic] in the enjoyment of better health than I have had this some time past. home about ½ p. 8. writing until ½ past 11

T 31st. the last day of another Month. dont remember ought worth record-ing. am keeping well better than I had expected. have had no attack of my Complaint this Month. am still continuing the Water Treatment which by Gods blessing I think is doing me good. if I would only give him praise & thanks for his goodness toward <me>, but tis just a little motion & then tis gone, a few moments gratitude, when my heart thinks on it, then I burn out when the least breath of wind comes. instead of

The second diary

fanning, it ex-tinguishes. Oh when! when! will my heart be broken from the World
& joined to Christ? no stubborn Colt was ever half so difficult to break as I am



Duke Street U.P. church, built 1801. Photo 1875 (Glasgow University Library).

February 1854

Wednesday February 1st 1854. &
T.2. do not remember ought worth

F 3. Uncle not so well today, not back in the Evening. went to hear J.B. Gough who was deliver-ing one of his Orations on Temperance in the City Hall. was highly pleased with him, he spoke nobly – where [sic] it not, that he was telling ill of himself & showing to what depths of debasement he had sunk, I would say he was an egotist but perhaps there was as much egotism in debasing himself as tho he had been exalting himself. his delivery was excellent & his act-ing unsurpassable. twas not so fine as was Gavazzi, but as power-ful. Temperance or Teetotalism has in him found an able advocate. I wish him much success. I hope he may encourage those who are already abstainers & that those who are not may be convinced by his eloquence. out about 10. Betty left the house tonight, & has taken up house for herself. we will miss her, & had she been anything civil & decent would have regretted her departure & even as it <is>, though she made us often miserable with her evil tongue, we feel at her departure. I hope that she may have a more cheerful & happy mind alone, than when she was here. I wish her no evil, but rather good.

S. 4 not very busy today, shut at 4. came home & got tea. intended to have <gone> down to Bridgeton to have seen the Shop, which I am expecting to get, but the night was raw & coarse which prevented me. went & saw Thos McLean, afterwards went to City hall to a Concert which was miserably attended. some of the Singing was pretty Good some of it middling. out about 10.

S 5. Duke St. UP. Church, Mr Johnston on Ananias & Sapphira, very plain. home between Sermons. W. Morris from Largs up. Duke St. U.P. After. Mr. Johnston Luke 15.10. he had a most excellent practical Sermon upon 1st. What is repentance. & 2^d. Why the Angels rejoice. he had some beautiful illustrations & some telling sentences. Mother wishes much that I would take a Seat there al-ong with her, which I think I will do. is it right or wrong for such a mo-tive to leave St Pauls & go there. I must discuss that question with myself, but twill need little ar-gument to prove that I am right. a very coarse blowy evening. in house all Evening trying to think some, & but partially succeeded – thinking of Johnie & of myself. to bed about 10.

M. 6. Uncle unwell to day, con-fined to bed – in front shop part of the day, not very busy. got a paper from Aunt to get Dr Jamiesons signature too [sic], for a person who a few Years ago was worth four thousand pounds, but who by misfortune & disease has been re-duced very low. how changing this world. got Dr Jamiesons sign-ature, & went down to Aunts with it. found Uncle rather easier. home about 1/2 p 10.

T 7. Uncle {rather} not any better to day. in front shop nearly all day, not very busy. up at H.K's to-night & had a Crack with her. home about ½ p. 9. writing some.

W 8. still in front Shop, nothing particular.

T 9 Do have been down at Sandyford both Even^g & Morn^g this two
F 10 Do days –

S 11 down at Sandyford this Eveng. he is keeping rather better. the Inflammation [sic] has abated I am glad of it & hope he will soon be better. Aunt seems to be a

The second diary

good deal put about & knocked up & no wonder for she did not expect that he would have come through but God has been kind, & turned the disease. went down to Mrs Ronalds, staid a little there home about 10

S 12. Duke St. UP. Church. Mr. Johnston on "the precious blood of Christ".
Afternoon St. Pauls Dr. Jamieson. Evening went up & taught a Class in Balfours, none the worse of it. then took a walk down to Aunts to enquire how Uncle was. still continuing better. home about 9

M {12} Mr J. better today, but no hopes of him being out for a fortnight or so to come. hope that nothing may go wrong during his absence, but that he may find all right on his return. the other lad seems to be doing all in his power to serve the Shop & to further its interests – down every Morn^g & Even. at Sandyford. feel a little tired tonight – home about 10 –

T 14 St Valentines day. None to me. Uncle still continuing to improve John out to day seeking Money was partially successful. rather busy to day. when out tonight Aunt offered me £5. which I declined until he was better & then afterwards at N B Society – better today

W 15. a beautiful Mo<r>n^g cold. – Uncle still keeping better –

T 16 did not write anything on

F 17 these days. down at Uncles

S 18 tonight, staid some time

S 19. Duke St Mr Johnstone Fore. Duke St After Do am liking his preaching very well

M 20 to have been lazy &

F 24 wrote nothing.

S 25. after shutting took a walk down the river side, thinking of Johns walks on the Saturday afternoons, when he came down to see me. his walks are all over. at Aunts, got Tea, staid until about 7. came up to shop & went away home. Cousin Marg^t unwell.

S 26 Duke St. Mr. Johnstone Acts 9.1–8 Sauls conversion – in house be-tween Sermons. Duke St. Mr Johnstone Afternoon. am liking him very well, but how wandering are my thoughts, how evanescent my feelings, soon passing away & paying no heed unto it. I would like to be Christlike, but the task is too great, & too heavy, for me. I cannot think long on him nor do I delight in him, showing clearly that I am not his. but for want of thought am I to be lost, ruined forever. I oftentimes say "No", that I will make an effort, but in a few Moments, I am as careless as ever down at Aunts tonight seeing how Mag^t is – home about 9 –

M 27. expecting Uncle would be out to-day, but is afraid of Cold & refrained. visited Adam Walker tonight, who I found very low – he said he was weary-ing for a change – he has no hopes of recovery. speaking of the past – with my usual cow-ardice, I did not speak to him concerning his Soul.

February 1854

T 28. What various Scences [sic] in life. let sorrow be the lot of numbers of individuals, yet at that same Moment, there ar<e> numbers as great, that are in a state of joy – as when darkness encircles our dwellings, light shineth on other homes – or Winters Cold icy Mantle covers us, Summer is reigning in luxuriance & beauty, on other Climes – This Morn^g witnessed the departure of the 77th Regt. for to go to the Wars against the Russians & to take the part of the Turks. War is not yet formally declared, but preparations are being made – & steps have been taken as if we were, for it now seems inevitable. I hate & detest & abhor war, I look upon it as the greatest evil which can afflict Mankind, but this war I can wish success to the Allies for they are engaged in a just cause in opposing the unsatiable [sic] avarice of one Man. “May God defend the right.” they were enthucistically [sic] cheered by the people, but I thought that some of these would never return, that some of them would leave their bones in a foreign land, & I was sad. – a letter from W Sayers this Morn^g from the cape of Good hope. he is well – but depressed on account of his Wife & children – he speaks hopefully of his Success in Australia. I wish him well –



George Square, c. 1870.

The second diary

Wednesday March 1st 1854.

Uncle out to day. Mag^t better to day & away to her work – of course when he came in there were some faults to find.

T 2. commenced writing again are to take stock next week if spared. –

F 3. heard this Morn^g of the death of Adam Walker, on the 1st, of Consumption – nothing [sic] very particular to day. – got a Notice to attend the funeral tomorrow, but having to go to the Country, I fear that I will not be able. went over & told his Father had a Chat with him – he was serious dur^{<in>}g the latter part of his illness – & his father has hopes in his death. home about 10.

S 4 in shop until about 1. forenoon very misty. did not get to Adam Walkers Funeral, owing to having to go to Johnstone at ½ p 1 left had a pleasant drive out, transacted what little business I had to do & then walked into Paisley about 3 Miles – a very pretty road & the mist having cleared up twas now a beautiful day, the birds singing merrily, the Sun shining brightly & sending forth heat, the bushes beginning to sprout & like the fields to assume the colour & hue of spring, gladsome Season, joyous time, when Nature after its winters repose, throws aside its sleeping garment of dusky hue & clothes itself in the garb & livery of light & joy, raising & excit-ing hopes in the bosom of all, Man & {anim} brute – reminding us of the awak-ing of all, when the Voice of Natures God shall summon us to throw aside the cerements of the tomb & come forth. Oh may it be like Nature! to be clothed with a New, brighter & better & nobler dress than we have had –

only in Paisley for a few Minutes, took the train to Greenock @ ¼ p 4. what a Medley. set oneself to speculate on the motives & the purposes, of the numbers of our fellow passengers – where are they going? why? a large field certainly. – saw E. Grant in Greenock, who was down about some great failure which had taken place in Glasgow Yesterday to the extent of £350,000, Dickson & Co. & which it is feared will cause several other houses to topple & fall – about 2½ hours in Greenock – saw my friends – came up per ½ p. 7 train. home about 11 –

S 5. Duke St U.P. Mr. Johnstone – on the conversion of Saul – had a very good lecture of it – in house between Sermons. Duke St Afternoon Mr. Johnstone – 1 Peter 1.13 – over at night seeing H.K. who has been rather unwell – found her better – do not know how to spend my Sabbath Even^gs. am afraid to begin teaching again, lest it should knock me up & I cannot consiencioutly [sic] go out walking – both on principle & expediency – the only other way is to stay in the house – this is irksome sometimes. I do not feel as I ought & like to flee from myself. I know this is wrong. home about 8.

M 6. Gib has got a post advanced in his work. I am very glad of it, & I hope that he will behave himself & keep it. of late his conduct in some things, as late hours has been far from what I would approve but I hope he will better himself. after shutting went west to get a Vapour Bath, & after getting <it> I turned sick – the Dr gave me some stuff, whereupon I vomited & became immediately better. home about 10.

T 7. in shop {all} down at Partick for an A/c. busy making out a/c.s to day – this one of my Sad Nights, thinking on my poor Johnnie, where he is spending his Eternity, if his Soul is safe or lost. – prepare my Soul, for the change – were I to sit down & write my

March 1854

character & hopes & prospects what a black, dark & horrible picture would it present – frightsome to others – & fearful to myself –

W 8 to S 11 busy posting my Books – cholera is considerably worse this day, S. came home & got dinner then went down to Bridgeton to see R Logans New Shop, which is to be opened on Tuesday. dont think that <it> is in a very favourable place for doing a business. home about 11

S 12 Duke St UP. a Stranger, with whom I was much pleased both Fore & Afternoon. out & had a walk at Night for a Short time. afterwards talking to Mother about John which made me Sad. I wish twas a Godly sorrow. to bed about 10.

M 13. got a foul Stomach to day, bowels a little loose. took some laudunum [sic], bound me up. taking stock tonight. got Coffee tonight in Shop, R.J. paying for it. working until 10.

T 14 busy to day. am rather better. got Coffee again tonight – in Shop until 10.

W 15. Cholera still getting worse 49 Cases in town Yesterday, & 77 in Barony. "May God avert it from us." still occupied at Night. I wish twas done as I do not like to be so late – & I wish it had been done sooner as I do not feel so well this two weeks back. I know not what the cause is, but I feel pains sometimes in the right Side of the Chest, & a little hard Cough but no spit – & I do not feel satisfied with myself in regard to other things

T 16 at ½ past 12 took the Train to Beith. had a pleasant ride of it, it being a beautiful day. did what business I had to do – then walked about until Train time, enjoyed it. Air fine & clear, though a little moist. did not form a very high opinion of Beith as a town. they were just the same as though they were determined not to use the pure Air, which God has bestowed upon them, as if the ground on which there [sic] place is built was more precious than the lives of the people. took the Train into Paisley, had a long walk in it did my business & found that I would require again to go to Johnstone. went out found my Man but got nothing. home about 9.

F 17 feel better of Yesterdays trip. stock taking tonight until about 10. –

S 18. busy Stock taking again today, de-prived ourselves of our Saturdays ½ hol-iday – & wrought until about 9 –

S 19. Duke St Fore & After. Mr. Johnstone intimated that a Sabbath Morn^g Meeting was to be instituted. I will try & get up in time to go to it, why? went down to Aunts tonight, on the way called at D. Mains who I found had died @ ½ p 5 in the Morn^g acquaintances [sic] are fast slipping away, Numbers of them, & most of them Young. Oh when will I learn Wisdom & prepare for my End.

M 20 to Saturday 25 nothing wrote all this time –

S. 26 at the Meeting this Morn^g only 7 present. Foren & After Duke St M<r> John-ston – at Night out & had a walk

The second diary

M 27 went straight home not feeling quite so well. pain in the Chest & a little wheezing & dry cough –

T 28. Straight home tonight – @ Mrs. Ronalds

W 29 do do but did not get admittance – home about 9 –

T 30. War has been declared between Russia & us – every person seems to be sanguine in hopes that we will beat them. I hope we may – but t'will [sic] only be after hard fights – & desperate Struggles

F 31 feeling a little better today. purpose going down the Water Tomorrow for a day or two – got £2 from R.J. tonight. gave 20/ to Wm to get Cloth for a pair of trousers. down at Aunts tonight. She ill with a bad cold. Jas. Logan's Servant died tonight of Cholera after a few hours illness.



Necropolis and Cathedral. (Etching, c. 1890.)

April 1854

Saturday, April 1. 1854

A Rainy day, cleared up about 12. took the Boat down, pretty blowy. down about 2, had a walk along the Quays. up at W. Camerons – got Tea there, then went down to Aunts. staid there a short time. saw Neil who is purposing to go to Australia. home about 10½.

S 2 rose about 8. went up to the Cemetry [sic]. a fine cold Morning very pleasant. out about ½ an hour. went in, got breakfast, then along with them went to Mr Laughtons. did not great-ly profit from the Visit. had a short walk between Sermons, then went to hear Mr. Morton, from whom I got a Sermon of a different Kind from the Mornng. 1 Chronicles 29C. 14 – on the doctrine of human merit. made Man a do-nothing, all from God, God's right to us & power over us. pleased with the Manner much in which twas delivered – after dinner sat in the house for a while – our conversation was not the most profitable – I wish that I was more decided in purpose & had less moral Cowardice than I now possess – that my Heart was Gods & that I acted in accordance with this. down at Aunts until about 9. feel a little better in body – altogether am not pleased with myself this day – tis Strange that so many should be doing even as I am – putting off Christ & refusing to be his –

3^o M. walking about today – Neil had the offer of £3.10/ for Australia per Month & his liberty on arrival – Seamen are very scarce just now, more espec-ially about Greenock. at 4 oClock took the Boat for Rothesay, arrived safe. got tea in Archie Morris', who is going to be Married. took me down to see her – a good looking girl – with regard to her moral qualities I can not say much, not having been long in her Company. home abt 10.

T 4 up about 7 – out & had a Walk. got breakfast then called upon Dr Patersons [sic], who said that I was much improved. said that there was nothing wrong with the Chest although there was a slight pain in it, to put a Mustard plaster on some times, & to continue the use of the Water as I was doing. I asked him if he thought Canada would be a good place to go, he said that it would – he recommended me to go abroad – went up to a house where John Cameron was to have a sale & staid there until the Boat time. came up to Greenock, got Tea in Aunts, then went up & saw Mrs. W^m C. staid a short time there, then went down to the Quays. Neil fixed to go in the Meteor to Australia, to sail on Thursday. left about ½ p 7 – arrived safe about 9 – found all well.

W 5. in Shop. was told that I might have staid a day or two longer, which I wish I had done, as I would have gone to Largs – nothing very particular. Robt Logan asked me to day, if I was to be long – wonder if he wants me? shut about 8. to bed about 11

T 6. rose about 7. Gib away to Largs. Bill going likewise. went down {to} the road with Bill – staid at the Broomielaw a short time. up in time & went to Duke St. U.P. Mr Mitchell of Craigs Fore & Afternoon – had 2 excellent Sermons on Revelations [sic] 2 - 11 last clause & 3 - 20V. F away down to Greenock. after Tea went up with Mother to E. Cameron's. her poor boy suffering much. afterwards down at Aunts. Mrs. Logan Sen^r. & Jun^r. there, Aggie there quite merry, contrasting the condition of the two children – striking – home about ½ p 9 – I wish I could close the day here. Bill up tells me that Gib was drunk in the Boat – truly he is coming out a fast Youth – Am I to have

The second diary

a drunken brother, I pray God Not. I have little cause to love Spirits & much very much to hate them.

F 7. Nothing particular.

S 8. in Shop until 4 oClock busy writing then went down the river Side & went to the Mills. White asked me if I would not come back. I told him that I could not think of doing that. called on Tudehope & then at Aunts home about 10.

S 9. up about ½ p 8. Duke St. Mr. Johnstone. Colossians 2C. 3V. an excellent Sermon. home in the Interval – did not communicate at this time. there is sin in not doing it & there would be as much if not more in doing it – I think very badly of myself, & feel badly oftentimes, feel that I have a good deal of the devil in my Nature, in short that I am far too bad. went to Church & sat, Mind Wandering often. Sinful bad, when I know what I ought to be, & compare with what I am, I begin to despond & feel that the Task is too heavy for me to accomplish – but my Mind runs away to something else & will not keep hold of them. heard very good adressess [sic], from Mr White & a practical one from another Minister on Who is on the Lords Side, What wilt thou have me to do, & What do ye more than others, & on the duties, professing & practising incumbent on Christians. after dinner went up to E. Camerons, found Aunt up. went to Duke St. M<r> White on looking unto the prize of the high calling of God.

M 10. in Shop until about ½ p 1 – then went away to E. Camerons childs Funeral. Beer at the Funeral of course. went out to Rutherglen, a beutiful [sic] day, very pleasant & mild. got the Child beneath the Sod. twice during (about) this 2 Years I have been out on this Same Errand. they are far happier, than if they had been spared in life – home, got Tea. shut about 8. went up for M who was up at E.Cs. home about 10.

T 11 – the Steamer Glasgow went down the River today, but took the Ground & is very much damaged, has to put back & discharge Cargo. up at R Gray & John Sutherlands who has been confined this 3 Weeks –

W 12. busy posting today. have been bothered by R Munro about some clothes, which he is keeping an awful while he has been on the Fuddle & of course could not Work – at the Soiree of the St Pauls School, Lower Bells, the Children seemed hap-py & pleased – so was I. found F in a state of _____ I wish he would keep Sober – for tis a great grief to me & keep<s> us down – terribly – to bed abt 11.

T 13 a beautiful Morng. wind N.E., I don't like it – very well – Jackson advertising for another Shopman, I wonder what he means. I think he might be content with the one he has, who tho' perhaps not all that could be wished, yet does tolerably well, as far as I can judge. the Glasgow S.S. has been Seriously damaged, having rested upon Stones in the Middle of her Keel & nearly broke her back. making water terribly. –

F 14 & _____

S 15 had a pleasant walk this Afternoon on the Green & down by the Broomielaw. up at Aunts, staid a short time. have never got any information from her about New place. I wish I knew something of it, – & likewise that Jackson would give me some Money.

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tis too bad to keep a Chaps Wages up that way. we ought to be paid every fortnight at the longest.

S 16. Duke St. Fore & Aftern Mr Johnstone. there is something in myself that prevents me from profiting by his Sermons, there is carelessness & inattention, wandering thought, & roving eye. there are some Young Women there whom I look far too much at, must try & stop this. I am quite con-vinced that it is an evil & a wrong. out & had a walk at Night, up at Sight-hill among the dead, but the living thronged it too. home about 7. feel miserable, am not happy, have the fear of death constantly before my eyes – & yet I will not prepare for it. it keeps me in bondage, makes me downcast & un-happy. I have often thought is there not one spot on Earth where we could avoid it. None. the inevitable decree is "thou must die" I have often enough heard these words but only lately have I been thinking of them.

M 17. in Shop posting. going to the Coun-try tomorrow – {up} in house this Even. Sophia our Maid went out this Mornng & has not returned – I hope she has not got into Evil, though I have had cause to fear this latterly –

T 18 went out to Paisley pr 12' train. got an account there then walked out to Johnstone, a beautiful day, every-thing looking Fresh, but dry, would be the better of some rain. after getting there had to wait about 4 hours before I saw the Fellow & after all did not get what I wanted, was tired of it. not a Coffee house to be got, public houses in plenty but not one of the others. I feel this a great want in small towns when I am visiting them. home about 7. met

W 19. in Shop all day.

T 20 out at Milngavie this Afternoon, a very hot one – inside Coach almost suffocated. there about an hour – got tea in the Ministers house – did not get Money. Duty Women in plenty there. if they would stay in & Clean themselves & not run & look out upon Strangers, the Same as if they never had seen a Man before, twould suit as well. home about 6'. went out to Aunts. Tudhope [sic] having called upon me, got his Company. no word of Logans place yet.

F 21. John told me to day that he was going to leave – for Campbells. was rather taken aback at this in-timation – as I did not expect it. Jackson does not seem to have been pleased with him however as he had advertised for one last week. am wishing that I had been off as I am likely to be asked to stay, which, having made up my mind for the other place, I feel disinclined to do – he is to tell Jackson tonight.

S 22. Jackson told me that he wanted to see me out tonight. shut at 4. got dinner, then Mother & I went down to the Broomielaw at ½ p 5 to go to Bowling. Met Arch. Webster, who accompanied us down. had a pleasant Sail down but cold. staid there about an hour, then came up more cold. strange no-tions of enjoyment some people have, several of our company the worse of drink, jolly, making a pretty noise – up about 9. then went down to Sandyford. told me his proposals. R. Logan had been spoken too [sic], & Said that he could dispense with me, & beside that the Wages were only to be 15/ per week. this Jackson pro-mises to make better. I told him that I would consider the Matter & let him know on Monday. my dislike to it has been done

The second diary

in a great measure away with, & I think that I may be as well with him as with another. home about 11

S 23. did not get up in time to go to Morn^g Meeting. Fore Mr. Johnstone, Afternoon Stranger. announced that he would have no service on Wednes-day, as her Majesty had as much right to order him to blaspheme as to pray. fudge! perhaps twas only a desire to be singular – or if he had con-siencetious [sic] objections – I think they were wrong – went in the Evening to hear a teetotal Sermon. better not to have gone, as I felt a little difficulty in breathing after coming home

M 24. told Mr J. to day that I would stop. promised me £1. per week just now. tis more than I expected.

T 25. about ½ p 5 a fire broke out in a cellar below the Shop. took out the Books & other things. Engines & Butts down in full force. fire got under without doing any damage to the premises

W 26. Fast day. Gib away down to Largs. at church Forenoon & Afternoon. went & had a Walk by the River Side. up at Aunts. Mr Logan & RJ. alone in, had some nice stories of the two in days gone bye [sic] –

T 27 at Meeting of Young Men in connect-ion with Duke St. the rules were adopted

F 28 – S 29. Boag left today. am to be in Shop by about 9 – had a walk down the River side intending to make some calls, but did not do so, as it came on rain, which will be a great benefit to the Country. the War is still going on, though nothing very defininite [sic] has been done yet –

S 30 Duke St Forenoon Afternoon & Eveng, for a Collection –



Advertisement for fire-engines, 1859.

May 1854

Monday May 1st 1854.

down about 9. have commenced my New Work with the first of Sum-mer – went to Meeting of the UP Synod tonight, saw the Election of Moderator. home about 10. very heavy rain tonight

T 2. busy today, did not get home to dinner – posting at Night. hope soon to be shutting at 7. some of the Clergy came in & had a smoke

M 15 after a long delay resume writing. have turned careless of doing it, must try & continue to do it regularly. up at HK's tonight staid until about 10. the City of Glasgow Screw Steamer is Amissing, tis feared that she has foun-dered among the Ice.

T 16 Odessa has been stormed by the combined Fleets, & they have done considerable damage to the War part of the Town. Charles Napier in the Baltic advances with the greatest caution – fearing a surprise I suppose & making sure of his Soundings – Geo Jackson has been unwell these few days past, with damage between the Legs, supposed to be got in bed, while fighting with his Brothers. met Alex McKay today whom I had not seen for about 12 Months before. had a Chat & a walk with him telling me of his brother who has been afflicted with some disease of the lungs & has been away at Malta, for his health, but has not greatly improved. advised him to tell him to try the Water System as I think it would probably benefit him. had a walk with him – home about 10

W 17. doing very little in Shop just now things are very slack – wish we were busier. got £5 tonight from R.J. which for a short time will do me. he is terrible hard up at present. James McDonald & Co pollocks heirs are down, Jas Says tis Smith, Smith says tis Jas. mutual recriminations. they had a Meeting to day, at which 7/ per £ was offered & accepted by those present. I hope things may yet go on well with them. after Shutting went down by the Broomielaw. met John Ure & had a very free & social chat with him, on the Water System. he thinks highly off [sic] <it>, so do I. parted quite friendly with me. up at Aunts staid about an hour, home about 11.

T. 18. posting today. paid Bill £3.14/ Gib 3/- Alex^r. McKay (Uncle) 15/ & ordered a Coat from him. at Meeting of Young Mens Society in Duke St. U.P. Session House. Mr Johnstone de-livered an excellent address on the benefits of these Societies. some of his illustrations were excellent, & his remarks to the point. advised the culture of the imagination, the intellect & conscience [sic] & the study of the works of Edwards, Buller, Paley, not so much for the Merits of the works as to lead to close, concise thinking & reasoning, & to the study of Geometry & Mathematics, for the attainment of the Same End. to bed about 12.

F 19. in Shop mostly all day. am getting out a little now & then & am getting a little better acqui-<anted> [sic] with the business. are to begin to shut at 7 soon. am ashamed of the Manner in which I have kept this Book, being so long in writing it up. I am afraid to make resolutions lest I should not keep them, but I purpose each night to write down the doings of the day & thoughts anex [sic] thereto. No words [sic] of War yet. have not commenced the real Battle. I desire a speedy & an honourable close as it is damaging to business, injurious to the interests of our Country, & to Men in general – What may be the end of this I know not, tis shrouded in mystery, darkness envelopes it, darkness to [sic] thick for eye to pierce too palpable to be denied. May God grant us a

The second diary

speedy deliverance! up at John Sutherlands to night. he is gone to the Country, as he is not improving in the town. thereafter went up to R. Grays where got introduced to a very pretty lass, had some chat with them home about ½ p. 10. –

S 20. the Queens Birthday. down at 9 & in Shop until about 12. came home. wanted Mother to go to Greenock, but she would not consent. met John Boag my late fellow Shopman, went down the River to gether [sic]. a little lowering in the Morning, but cleared up in the Afternoon. had a very pleasant Sail. took a walk round the Quays to see what New, then went up to Mrs. Sayers – then to Mrs. W^m. Cameron, where I got tea. she was telling me of the death of some of her friends. poor thing she seems to have been sorely tried, by be-reavement, her Father lost at Sea, her Mother died suddenly, & her only Sister taken away, & her Brother lost at Sea, never having been hard [sic] off [sic]. truly the Cup that some have to drink is bitter indeed. she thanked me for the pumps I sent her. down at Aunts. John Campbell has met with an accident being attacked by 3 Men last night & se-verely injured. left at ½ p 8. pleasant Even^g thinking of Johnie which makes me sad, sad, poor fellow. day by day, I think of him, & as often as I think of him I feel painfully. was asking myself to-night if this dispensation had been a benefit to me, or if it had been blessed. it has not, for I am as bad as ever. He who knows the depths of the Human heart, knows this. May He forgive. am grieved at F's Conduct still drink-ing away – dont know what to make of him – if I were to speak to him he would think if not tell me that I had no business with his Conduct. home about 11 – Mother minding & mentioning of John on a Night of this kind, makes her Sad & while telling me of it, the tears came unbidden to my Eyes. to bed about 12. Gib not in at that time

S 21 rose about ½ p 8. should have been up sooner, to go to Morning Meeting, but have no delight in it. my mind is not elevated enough, nor my thoughts & affections spiritual enough, to value these Aright & yet I am not striving against it, I am going with the Stream of evil & have not moral resolution enough to combat its waters, but carelessly & rapidly & contentedly float on its current, but I need scarcely say contentedly, for at times, I wish & resolve to retrace my steps, but the resolutions last but for a moment. one stroke it may be {backwa} back but the next where I was. out & had a short walk before going to Church. Foren. Duke St Mr Johnston on Phillip/n [sic] 1–2. he is about to have a Series of Lectures on this Epistle. between Sermons in house. Duke St Mr. Johnston, Psalms 119.18. "Open thou mine Eyes that I may see the wondrous things in thy law" 1st. of the law. Authorative [sic] commanding. 2^d. the Wonders, {redemption} 2 of them, redemption & preceptive law, rule of faith. 3^d. our blindness, proof of it. after dinner out & had a walk, to the green. home about 7. read some to bed about 10.

M 22. was to have gone & given Assistance to Mrs. Kirkwood who is going to flit, but got word not to go as Helen is unwell poor thing. she is often complaining & is not strong. making out A/c s to day, for the Journals. I hope they will come in soon & easily as J. is hard up just now. down at Mrs. Ronalds tonight. Uncle in, had some Chat with him concerning Mr. McEwan, the Vice president of our Young Men's Society & one of the leaders of it. things which are not very pretty & do not make the Mans character to shine greatly, but rather cause the deformity of human Nature to appear more hideous. he was an Elder in St Lukes, but owing to some differences, they put him out. I heard one of the letters read, which he had addressed to a deacon, & it

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does not show much of the Christian in his Character. I will try & watch the Man.
home about ¼ to 11 –

T 23. still thinking of McEwan. must banish him from my Mind, & being on my guard take him as I find him. if I would think as much good as evil of my fellow men – tho' I {cannot} must say that I delight not in evil – twould be better for me. rather busier to day, making out A/c. War is making some progress, a few more souls sent into eternity to please the Emperor. I cannot contemplate these things without thinking on the terrible responsibility & guilt which attaches to that Man, tis fear-ful to think on it. up asking for Helen K. is <a> little lighter in spirits, but the Doctor says that her left Lung is much affected & has been this some time. advises her to go to the Coast. her Mother seems to think that she will not stand it long, so feel sad at it. I hope however that she may get better, as she is a girl to whom I cherish a kindly feeling. have begun to read pascals Letters. to bed about 11.

W 24 Jas McDonald & Co have stopped payment & mutual recriminations are going on between him & Smith. each one says that the other is the Black Sheep. Jackson takes Smith's Side, Father takes Jas – a little busier to day. I hope things may revive. down at Sandyford tonight, then up at H.Ks. she thinks that she is a little better. home about ½ past 10. bed about 12

T 25 not doing much to day. making out A/c to night. got the first part of "Sunday at home" for a trial. home about ½ p 8 did not go out again. thinking of John. 6 Months dead, it looks short. & on myself – to bed about 11.

F 27 [sic]. this has been a dreadful day of Thunder & lightning, & rain, the most awful day of storm we have had this some time, the flashes most vivid the thunder, terribly loud, as if twice thous-and of trains in Collision or millions of Carts of stones throwing down there [sic] load at once. the rain & hail surpassed anything that I have seen at this season of the Year, in fact the most terrific Storm I have seen. Helen K. went down to Largs to day. I hope she may be none the worse of it. a letter from W Sayers to day (no money however) up at Mrs Kirkwood's she is going to Remove in the Morng. Ame [sic] to go & help her if dry. home about 9. not out afterwards to bed about 10

S 27. rose about ½ p 5. about 6 went to assisst [sic] Mrs Kirkwood, for a little, then went down to Shop. up about ½ p 8. in Shop doing little to day. shut at 4. got my Vest from R. Munro, which he has had about 2 months & likewise got my Coat from Uncle A. am not so well pleased with it. I got a note from Colin asking me to go down & help him to take down some things as he is flitting. R.K. in Shop tonight, very happy to see him. did not seem to be in as exuberant spirits as usual probably on his Sister's Account. he thinks that she probably may get better this time but fears that it will not be for long, as he dreads a recurrence of it. I hope he may be disappointed in his fears & that she yet may recover. feel sorry when I think on her, & on others of my Young acquaintances [sic] who are slipping away, going that journey whence they cannot return "to the land of darkness" but if we should meet at that great day on the right side of the White Throne & should be appointed to the angelic choir for to sing the praises of the Lamb our separation will be but a parting to meet in bliss, a happy union never to be severed, for nothing shall there hurt nor destroy. May we all be fitted for it, daily becoming holier & better, more heavenly minded, our hearts en-

The second diary

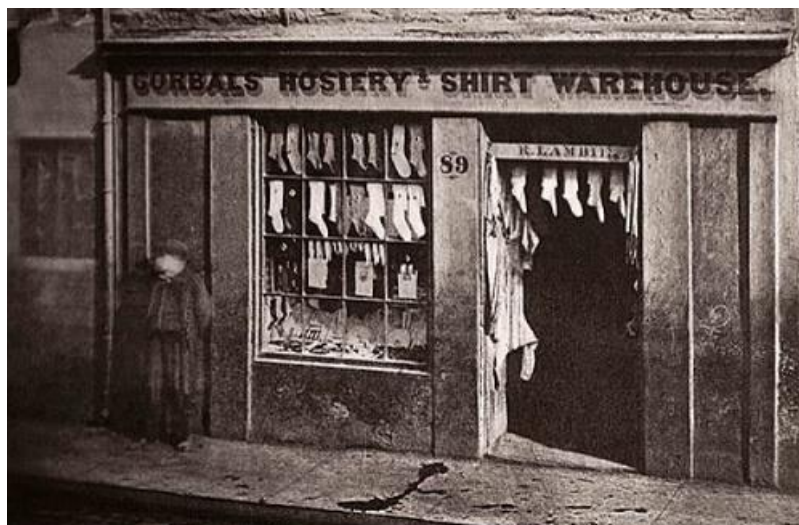
joying more & more the Society & fellowship of Jesus – through whom alone we may Enter into rest. let these be my objects in life & my hopes after death, my joys here, my glory hereafter. but what a change will there be between then & now. my heart is not now, a little heaven, but tis rather a sample of Pandemonium & I am – Mr. Galloway of Newcastle in the Shop tonight, a jolly sort of a fellow he is, but he is in my opinion a little lax {of} in his views of some things & these very important. home about 11. bed about 12.

S 28. up about ½ p 8. read, got breakfast, out & had a walk for a few minutes. Duke St. Foren. Mr. Johnstone, Phillipians [sic] 2. 3, 4, 5. in house between Sermons. Duke St. Aftern. Mr. J, Hebrews 7.25. had an excellent practical Sermon on it & an appeal to those who were yet without Christ, to be reconciled unto God by him. had Mr. Galloway of Newcastle up at dinner to day, the Conversation was not of the most edifying kind or that which was most suited for the Sabbath. up at Service this Evening in an Iron Church which is intended for Austra-lia, the Land of Gold, very comfortable place it is. heard a good Sermon from Mr Bonar, on the "glorious gospel of the blessed God". spoke of it as the greatest in-sult we can offer to God to be hateful or indifferent to the offers made. as felt it to be so, & felt that I have been indeed guilty of this Crime – "what must I do" to bed about 10.

M 29 up about ½ p 5. went down to Uncle's, to lend a hand, but did not do much left about 8. in shop, out a little. not feeling so well, the pain in my right breast still continuing, & though improving outwardly, still I do not think that a Corresponding bettering is going on within. hope I may be disappointed. busy to day in Shop with the Journals. feel fagged & tired tonight. Cranston hill Baking Factory was totally destroyed by fire yesterday Morning, cause unknown. only the 4 Walls left standing – pity. have heard nothing of H.K to day. flitting day has been pretty dry – wish We had been moving West a bit. home about 8.

T 30. nothing particular. got some of the Journals today, busy tying up. down at Aunts tonight home about 11

W 31 doing a little more business to day. this finishes my first Month alone in the line. up at Mrs. Kirkwoods, Helen is rather better. had a walk with Robt. a piece



A shop in the Gorbals, 1868 (photo Thomas Annan).

June 1854

Thursday June 1st 1854

A day of heat & rain. out a little to day, am the better of it I think. busy making out Accts. at Night went to Meet-ing Mr McEwan on Voluntaryism, had far too many points, did not prove these, only made assertions. I made no remarks on it. home about 10

F 2 still busy to day with A/c. I hope they will come in speedily as J is very hard pushed at present. down at Colins tonight helping him to arrange his house a little, home about 11

S 3. Jackson away down to Kilmun today. I hope he will be benefitted by it as he is not very well just now, harassed in mind & weak in body – shut about ¼ p 4. to begin to shut at 7 on Monday.

S 4 felt very tired this Morning. up about 9 Duke St Foren. Mr. Johnston, on the perseverance of the Saints. up at Necropolis between Sermons. After. Mr Johnston, on the Seasons John Campbell {up} & wife up at his dinner. up at Sighthill in the Evening, met my old Sweetheart Miss Crawford on the road – but must give up all thoughts of her or any one else in that line. to bed abt 10

M 5. Jackson did not come up to day. he is applying for another for the Shop – if he does take one, I'll leave as soon as I get another place, for there is no need whatever for two. if he is dissatisfied with me let him tell me. shut at 7. met Mother at John & Mrs Campbells. had a walk down the Broomielaw, home about 10. these 2 last days have been very beautiful, very hot, but the Nights owing to an East Wind have been as Chill. felt a pain in my right side in my Chest. I think there must be some-thing wrong with me. felt almost afraid to lie down. am afraid of death & yet I will not prepare for it. was ever folly like mine tis a great error for the Young to put off the time of joining them-selves to Christ until they are old – tis easy to make an impression {when} on us when hot but when cold who can do it. so the heart, the Searing, withering process which the world has on it is great.

T 6 Ja. away down to day, dont feel the pain lessened. in Shop until 8 getting A/c. made out. came direct [?] home & did not go out again

W 7. busy with A/c to day again. the task will be to get them out the wind changed this Afternoon, feel better. down at Aunts, got Tea there. then went down to Partick to see John Sutherland, who is very poorly. staid about ½ hour. walked both up & down, very pleasant, but a little tired. HK is still improving a little.

T. 8. in Shop not doing much. Jackson away up to Wishaw did not get home to dinner. Aunt away down to Kilmun to Mrs Logan's to stay a few days – shut about 7. wrote to W^m. Sayers tonight, tell-ing {about} him about home. had a very pleasant walk this Evening along the Canal Bank, a fine Westerly breeze blowing, the trees loaded with leaves, the fields & pastures covered with natures verdant Carpet – the beasts out feeding – all reminded me that Summer was now & that God was renewing the face of the Earth. on these solitary walks I often think of John, & that if he had been spared <he> would have been my Companion in some of them. We must go to him, he cannot return to us. Oh that I was ready. home about 10. found Arthur Webster waiting on me relative to the Letter to send tomorrow.

The second diary

F 9 out today, for the first time on a Craving excursion. felt the better of being out. was tolerably successful, however as they were only advertising A/c the Amount got in was Small. intending to have gone up to Mrs Kirkwoods tonight to ask for H. but it came on to rain & I came home

S 10. Mr Jackson away down the Water getting in some Cash to day. shut exactly at 4. thought I would be the better of a sail took the Eagle to Greenock. very blowy but dry & a very pleasant day. down about 6. over at Aunts & up at W's, got tea there. wanted me to stay but would not. nearly missed the train. would not have been greatly put about. a beautiful Evening, sky clear but air a little chill, the Count<r>y looking beautiful, trees & planting loaded with leaves, {hope} giving the cheering prospects of abundant fruit. "the Earth her fruit shall yield" up about 10. hope I may be the better of it

S 11. the third Sabbath under the New spirit dealers Act, by which they are obliged to be shut the whole of Sabbath. it makes a very great difference on our Streets, much more quiet, the ears are less regaled with oaths or the Eyes with disgusting & degrading sights. I hope the Act will be allowed to work & that a fair trial will be given to it as I conscientiously think it will be the means of doing good. hopes of a good day are dispelled, as it has been raining all day without intermission. Duke St Forenoon Mr Johnston, Phillip [sic] 1.7. in house between Sermons. After. Duke St Mr Johnston, John 14.2–3^d. in my fathers house &c. made a good discourse of handling {in} it in a very excellent Man-ner. – reading Pascals Letters – to bed about 10.

M 12 Slept until about 7. felt that I was in for an attack of my old Complaint, the first that I have had this six Months nearly. got on a Mustard poultice I think that I was the better of. feel that I have been giving the Credit to the Means rather than to the director, to Water than to God. this is just to teach me to give thanks when they are due. was able to get up about 9 & got down to Shop about 10, & was able to stop at the duties all day. Jackson told me that I would have to go down the Water for a few days. will try & get away this week before the time for the A/c comes on so that God pleasing, I may be enabled to get through that duty. Wm Cameron & his Wife up, only saw them for a few Minutes as they were going down to night again. still showery to day. took a Vapour Bath tonight on a small scale. W.C did not go down as they missed the train

T 13 another wet blustery day. feel a little better to day. out seeking Money, got a little. thinking of opening a booksellers Shop in Greenock when I get funds but when that will be I know not. tis rather a Utopian scheme I am afraid, however I will pay attention to the conduct-ing of the business, so that should God bless us with the Means we may have a little experience to guide us in the direction of it. the thought has run away with me tonight, to the exclusion of other things – got a Vapour tonight in house, feel it very enervating to the body.

W 14 up about 7. feel better. busy posting. asked Mr J today if I would get away on Friday Afternoon, he consented. up at Mrs Kirk but she was not in – rather better to day

T 15 still keeping better. A Newspaper from W Sayers. Betsy & her Mother were here to day. told her Mother, can-didly my opinion of her at the Meeting tonight.

June 1854

Mr Burt read an Essay, on the Right principle of Government – very good. Mr McEwan got a cut up tonight deservedly too, I think

F 16 out seeking Money to day, got some. came on wet about 3. took the 4 p.m. train to Greenock, then the boat to Largs. twas a fine Evening but dull. got Lodged in Mrs. McLeans. John not at home. up & saw HK not much better.

S 17 a very wet day & blowing strong East Wind. a pleasure party from Glasgow, don't think they would enjoy themselves much to day – home about 10.

S 18. Parish in the Forenoon, a Stranger. U.P. Mr. Steven heard a good discourse from him. wet day, & in the Even^g like-wise, so I went to the Episcopal Church in the Even. heard a very good discourse from the preacher. got a short walk afterwards.

M 19. not much better to day. never was so miserable on account of the Weather – wishing I had been home –

T 20. clearing up to day had a good walk, got dinner, paid 4/. to Mrs. McLean which charge was very moderate & came up to Greenock per 3 o'Clock Boat. heard that Steppy was to be married tonight. staid there until 7.30. home about 9. all well.

W 21. commenced my A/cs to day. J. asked me if I would work at Night a little longer & get them forward. I told him that I thought I would have plenty of time & that I would rather stop at 7. than break down in the midst of them by working until 8. this he allowed me to do. I think twill be the speed-iest in the End. I hope I may keep well until they are done down at the Broomielaw tonight cam<e> on Rain took the Bus home.

T 22. the Longest day again. feel a strong inclination to go to America as I am not likely to have means to go to Australia. busy writing to day. feel middling well. Betsy up in house tonight making a great din. advised her to go to the Ragged School with her Children. W^m. may have been doing {goo} well for himself in going away, but he acted cruelly in leaving the children unprovided for. out & had a walk, tonight was thinking of death. home about 10.

F 23 still writing today. out seeking money again was only partially suc-cessful. soft to day again, wonder when it is going to clear up. am feeling mid-dling well. in shop until about 8. have commenced reading "Pearson on Infidelity". must bring my mind to it & try & understand the subject. home about 9.

S 24 busy still today after din-ner went down to Partick to see John Sutherland, but found that he had left for town being no better. up at Aunts on way home home about 11

S 25 rose about 9. Forenoon Duke St. a Stranger preached from Psalm 58.10 f. Verily there is a reward for the righteous. he handled it very well, althog [sic] as usual I was wandering. between Sermons took a walk down the Saltmarket & found a change for the better there in the almost total absence of drunk people & the Closing of the Whisky Shops. the Spirit Dealers ought to return thanks to F. McKenzie for the bill as it prevents them from perpetrating so much Sin at the foot of Saltmarket.

The second diary

beheld sights, which were enough to affect the {har} hearts of the most hard-ened – hundreds of Children, & hundreds of men walking & talking seemingly without God & without hope. tis fearful to think on the old regardless, & the Young likewise, & all hurrying on to Eternity in an unprepared state. speak of Missions to the Heathen, there are as great Heathen in our own Land, our own town as ever were in the South Seas. "Heathenism is the religion of the poor" they deserve their Country<s> thanks & the Nations blessings those who go down to the dens & caves of our Cities to rescue these poor immortal Souls. I would rather be one of these, lowly & despised as by too many there [sic] are, labouring un-noticed & unknown striving to pluck a brand from the burning, or to prepare a jewel for the Redeeme<r>s crown, than Charles Napier fighting the forces of Russia. these are both glorious Causes, but the one incomparably more so than the other. Afternoon Duke St Same person. Haggai 1-7. liked him better. "Consider Your Ways" 1st in reference to Scripture reading 2^d to prayer 3^d to the Sabbath 4 to {Amusements & 5} to [sic] business & 5th Amusements. was practicable – went down to More's School. he asked me to come down occasionally & give Ch. a hand – as he had been appointed to take charge of the Afternoon Meetings. I think I'll do <it> if I can. afterwards went up to John Sutherlands, hes getting worse I see. found him easy in his Mind, thinks that he may linger on for some time – tho I do not think he will – but twill ultimat-ely prove fatal. overcame coward-ice a little & spoke to him of his Souls interest tho but feebly. he says that Christs yoke is easy. read the 50 Chap of Isaiah at his desire. staid about 1 hour with him. felt that I was acting the hypocrite, & that I did not really feel the things I was talk-ing to him about – must go up again I hope t'will [sic] do me good.

M 26 nothing particular. writing a letter to Jas Sayers about Betsy asking him to send some Money. up at J.S. he is no better

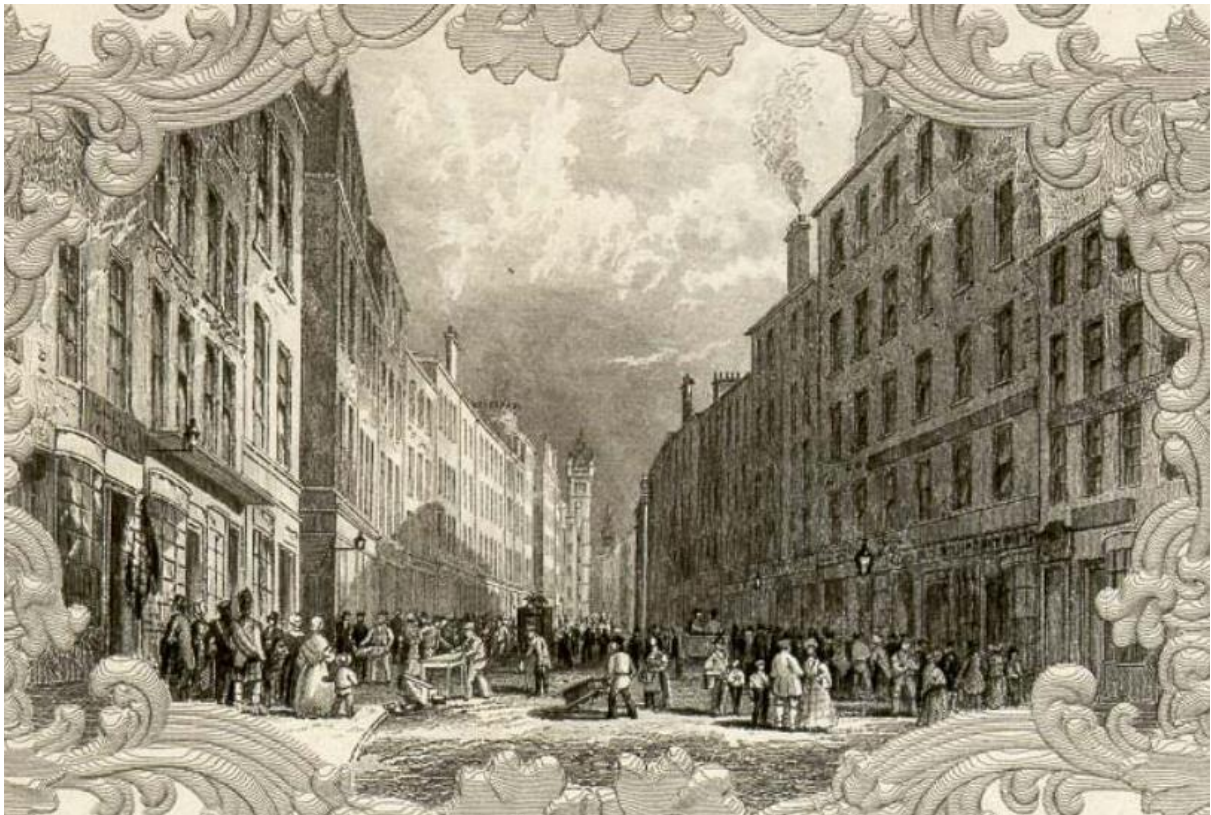
T 27 out seeking Money to day did not get much. Jackson terrible hard up, I wish he was less so, for his own sake as much as mine, for he is terrible har-assed & jaded. how hard it is for a generous soul to be hard up & to be baited like a bull for Money by those who are without a mind or Soul, whose God is Money & who have no sympathy in common with any but those who have {flowing} overflowing coffers – home abt 11. have resolved to set apart half an hour each Morning & Evening for reading thinking & prayer. have tried it this two Morni<n>gs, & have felt it a little wearisome but I must bring my mind to like <it> for if I can-not enjoy God for an hour a day here how will I spend eternity happily with him. I must have a change of heart

W 28. should have got Journals to day but were disappointed which has put us a little about. had a most terrific storm to day of rain thunder & lightning, but in the Evening it cleared up. have been reading a New American tale The Lamplighter {wh} with which I am very much pleased, it shows the power of religion in elevating strenghtening [sic] & sustaining Mortals. up at J.S. but not in. Betsy & her children are turni<n>g regular bothers, here every day – and as filthy as a pig, most obnoxious both to nose & eyes –

T 29 getting some of our parcels made up to day, rather busy. shut about 7. at Meeting tonight Mr McEwan gave me the Cut tonight about not stand-ing up when speaking had a very good Essay on Hungary. broke up about ½ p 10.

June 1854

F 30 out seeking Money today but with little success – posted a begging Letter to Jas Sayers to day for his brothers Children. I hope he will send them something to help them. shut about 7. I hope the rain has stopped for some time, as we have quite sufficient [sic] of just now. this has been a good day. up at John Sutherlands, he was worse & I do not think will live long. stayed about ½ an hour, but he was so weak that he could not speak to me. he recognised me however. was pitying him, he seemed to be suffering much. May God grant him strength to bear it & prepare him for heaven



The Saltmarket, looking north. The street is lined with tenements. (Allan and Ferguson, 1843.)

The second diary

Saturday July 1. 1854. July has opened well – a nice clear Morning. I hope t'will [sic] keep so – that the Earth may bring forth. Man hasteth away. John Sutherland died last Night at 12 o'Clock how my friends & companions are hasting away. there are few of my Youthful Associates now left, their heads are low in the dust while yet I am allowed to live & to think & to act. he who is now gone I was intimate with many a talk & walk we had while working together or going by the Way & I thought he would have outlived me but such is not the Case. I must be making preparation to follow. busy with my life yet. shut about 4. took Mother down to Bowling per steamer, twas indeed a beautiful Evening, as fine a one as I have seen this Summer. had a long walk to-wards Dumbarton – everything is looking fresh & green. the trees & fields, the singing of birds, the bleating of sheep & the low-ing of Cattle, broke alone the Stillness of the Scene. saw away down to port Glasgow – enjoyed it much – had about 2½ hours to wait, the latter part of which tired us. got up about 11 – which was fully late for us –

S 2. Duke St. Fore. a Young man who had a good discourse, but was slow of speech. day warm but cloudy. at 2 went up to John Sutherlands fu-neral about 2 or 3 dozen present. they had a service of whisky which I think they might well have dispensed with. he was buried in the Southern Necropolis. during the Service I thought how little that this would be the Case, we took into our Consideration in our younger days nothing at all, the World was before us bright & beautiful, a large field for our exertions & a bright reward for them, a rest among the things of Earth, but this illusion has been destroyed, & I hope he has entered on the rest above & that I may think less of an earthly change than of an eternal one. went down & taught a class this Evening & closed the Meeting. I must pay more attention to prayer & must study more what things to ask of God for myself & the Children.

M 3 still busy writing today wish twas all over. shut about 7. went down to Aunts, but she was not in. got tea there, staid a little, met her on the road, coming up. was sad thinking of the dead. home about 10

T 4 Mr J cross this Morning at something. borrowed £3 from W^m. for F. as he has to pay something to day. shut about 7. has been fair to day, a rare thing. at Meeting for the forming of a French Class. I feel when in Company my great inferi-ority when talking on almost any subject. must if spared – improve my mind & form judgements on good grounds & from which I will not turn. hope to have some pleasant Evenings at it. home about 10. reading in Hebrews, wish to apply my mind more to the Study of Scripture – to know more of those things which are our light.

W 5 up & saw Dr Paterson to day. told me that there was nothing wrong with the Lungs, but that he thought my Liver was a little affected & advised me to rub it with Croton oil. charged me 3/ for two or three minutes. had a walk tonight.

T 6 have got mostly all my A/c out now. I wish that they would come in now. John Sutherlands child was buried to day. his Widow must be sad, stricken on two such tender parts at once. when at tea a Notice came in of Mr McEwans death. I was thunderstruck almost, I could scarcely realize it at first, but twas true. twas only 8 days since we met & he was so happy & all week so merry & he was to meet us tonight. Verily as with a flood Man is swept away. down at Colins tonight. Mrs Ronald has not been so well. staid until about ½ p. 10. Mr McEwan wase [sic] seized

July 1854

on Saturday with bowel Complaint & on the begining [sic] of the week was thought better but it de-generated into Cholera & he died this Morni<n>g at one o'Clock. peace to his Memory

F 7 sent out the remainder of our A/c to day. J himself over at Johnstone. I was in Shop all day.

S 8. in Shop all day shut about 4. had a pleasant walk along Clydeside. up at Aunts, staid about an hour home about 11

S 9. intended to have been up in time this Morning for the Meet-ing but overslept myself – Foren. Mr Johnstone on the casting out the demon from the Syro Phoenicia<n>s daughter – had an excellent lecture on the subject. between Sermons down at the Calton at Johnnies Grave. the Grass is green over him now, it will fade & revive again & again, but on this Earth he shall ne'er return to us – tis an humbling thought that we great as we are in the World however wide the sphere of our influence – we shall be forgotten – & that the Next Generation shall know us not, but if our Names are Written in the Book above – & we have done good as we had opportunity we shall be had in everlasting remembrance. Afternoon Mr John-stone John 10 – 15 last Clause 17 1st Clause – in the Evening down at the School did not take a Class. closed with prayer, feel the need of greater Sincerity & greater earnestness & faith in this duty – had a short walk with some of our teachers home about 8.

M {9} 10 getting my Collecting Book ready to begin the Campaign to morrow of seeking for Cash – at the City Hall tonight hearing Mr. Wortaburn [?] on the fulfilment of prophecy. he very clearly showed how it was so, & in a very amusing way conveyed a great deal of information. Mother was with me. home about 10 –

T 11 out for Money to day – got some. in the Evening had a walk. Betsy has gon<e> into the poorhouse she & the children – they have been here all day about 10. she came in like a – what – she bear? lioness? like a drunken Woman rather, miscalled the Whole race of us & swore in such a way that the little darkies in Uncle Toms Cabin would have been pleased with. I would rather that I had not met her – but as it was I had a Scold from her. in-gratitude has ever since the World be-gan been in it & will continue to the End – & we must make up our Minds to receive a Share of it. when out this Evening, met with a Young Man who I fell on the chat with – {who} whose conversation was rather interesting – on Screws & bricks – home about 10

W 12 at Meeting of Abstaine<r>s tonight. Dr Robertson of Shamrock St gave a very good address – in connection with this subject. I see the spirit deal-ers are writhing under the New Act, beset on every side – they feel almost as if they were to be destroyed. they are talking away & have the Audacity to infer that because feeding the hungry & giving drink to the thirsty is Godlike that there [sic] accursed <trade> is the Same. fiendlike is the proper name for it.

T 13. Aunt & the rest away down to Kilmun. tis good to be well thought of. out seeking Money. up at St Pauls Meeting to night – a remembrance of old days – Cholera has again broken out amongst us & is carrying off some Victims –

The second diary

F 14 out a regular hunt to day, but was not rewarded as I had expected or desired, having only got about ten pounds. got £3 from Jackson to day. I wish he had given me more as I have need of it. I am indeed kept very bare. I must see & sum-mon courage shortly to ask a settle-ment from him. Mother dull & lonely to day, thinking of the last Fair when John so full of health & spirits was going away to Largs tis indeed a change. God only knows which of us may see the next – went away down to the Shows, was quite disgusted with them. I do not see how any reasonable being can take delight in such puny things, Men with Souls can be satisfied with such husks – only staid a few Minutes at them, then went down to Broomielaw, twas pleasanter there. saw several drunk persons on the Streets & saw two taken away upon wheelbarrows a fine specimen of godlike humanity (publicans). F was away at Kilfinnian [sic] Gilbert went to Largs Yesterday

S 15 got up about 8. took the ¼ to 10 Boat. had a pleasant Sail, it being a lovely day. came out at Greenock but wished I had gone down to Largs to see H.K – as I have not heard of her this some time – got dinner in Aunts & tea in Johns. spent the day very pleasantly. boats very crowded and as usual there was a number of drunk people. had a turn with Wm after he quit. her Uncle down slept with him. to bed about 12

S 16 rose about 8. went out & had a walk rather lowering like to day threatening rain. went to hear Mr Laughton in the Forenoon, very sleepy. in the Afternoon to Mr Starks Church an ancient like building. came on to rain slightly. down at Aunts – home about 9 – to bed about 10. I am not pleased the way this day Was [sic] been spent, far too much worldly talk & thought, nothing pertain<in>g to the Soul, no more than if we had none –

M 17. up about 6. got breakfast. feel grateful to Mrs C. for her kind-ness, must see & make her some slight acknowledgement. left per ½ p 7. train up about ½ p 8. might have waited longer as there was nothing doing. Mr J. came up in the Afternoon. down seeing Mrs Ronalds [sic], until about 10.

T 18 out seeking Money, tis a great absorbent, in fact the greatest of the thoughts & feelings & desires of Men. every one is seeking it & for all that they get, no one ever gets enough, those who have a competency cannot be satisfied with it & those who have it not are desirous [sic] to attain it. I have often thought that the life of a Servant was better than that of a Master, in this respect, that they had fewer cares & anxieties about Money. I wish I was serving one who was less hard up than the present one, or that his condition was bettered. down at the Shows to night – did not stay long at them. {W 19} F down at Jackson to day about his A/c. J wanted him to take a bill for the balance & for my Wages – this very properly F would not do – I did not think that I would have made such pro-posals –

W 19 out at Barrhead this After-noon – about a Bill – very pleasant drive nice place, if kept clean. shut about 7. down at Broomielaw for a short time then went to Teetotal Meeting. heard a lec-ture by Dr McGregor, on the pro-perties of Alcholol [sic] as an article of diet – he showed by experiment that there was no nutrition in it, but that on the Contrary twas a deadly poison. afterwards joined the Abstainers Union. paid 1/ as Entry Money. home about ½ p 10

July 1854

T 20. out @ the old job not very successful. have a good deal of walking about just now, more than I have had this long time. out at Barrhead this Eveng. home about 9. not out afterwards.

F 21 out today got some A/c's wish he would give me some Cash. I would not act toward any servant in such a way. he went down the Water this After-noon. shut about 7.

S 22 Mother went down to Green-ock to see about a Servant. she brought up with her a decent like Girl whom Aunt Cameron had recomme<n>ded to her. shut at 4 intended to have gone out to Bishopbriggs, but was too late for the train. had a very pleasant walk along by the Broomielaw & then came up by the Shows. the latter I enjoyed but little. home about ½ p 10.

S 23. rose about ½ p 8. had a short walk before Church – Duke St Forenoon, Mr. Johnstone. had W^m with us St Pauls being shut up. took a walk down High St. between Sermons. tis mournful to see so many Men & Women, old & Young paying so little regard to the Sabbath. if Christ wept over Jerusalem when he thought of her sins, our City is a fit subject for weeping to every Christian mind. how I talk, as if I were one. Aften. [sic] Duke St. Mr Johnstone. he seems to be a downright honest earnest Man. went down to the School tonight & taught but very imperfectly a class of Young Girls. what a vast Amount of ignorance has yet to be over-come, what a grand struggle to be {endured} fought what a victory to be gained – & what a vast, what a bloodless field shall be presented to us. when this struggle has been {ach} ended when this Victory has been achieved, what a Noble re-ward awaits those who are the champions of knowledge & the fear of God, happy they. May the time soon come. Amen.

M 24 Geo J. came up to day & said that his Father was unwell. Mr Brown of Wishaw has been at-tacked by Cholera. Mr J came up about 6. I am finding greater difficulty in managing Geo. he scarce ever obeys me – & he is spoiling Robt. I must tell his Mother first opportunity I have. up at R Gray's tonight, had a long talk with him about the Nation Kossuth Temperance & staid until about ½ p 10.

T 25. out to day, find it difficult to get Money just now. had a pleasant walk this Evening twas a beautiful one. was thinking on the goodness of God & of his love toward us in the death of Christ, of heaven & it [sic] glories of it [sic] green pastures & still Waters – of it [sic] Golden streets & gorgeous palaces, of the fellowship & joy of its inhabitants & wished that I might obtain an entrance there but feel that it sprang more from the feelings than the understanding. how long will I be in this frame of mind, how long on this Mount of Vision till a temptation comes in the way & lands me in the Mire of this Earths sensuality I wonder if there is ever another like myself, beset with a like Evil mind – Met with a tippler on the Way. asked him if he would be sorry if the Beer shops were closed every one. he said he would not, but would rather glory in it. I hope the time will come when such shall be the Case. in [sic] has been tried in the New World & has wrought well & I doubt not but its effects would be as beneficial in the old

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W 26 did not go out to Abstinence Meeting tonight, as I feel it close

The second diary

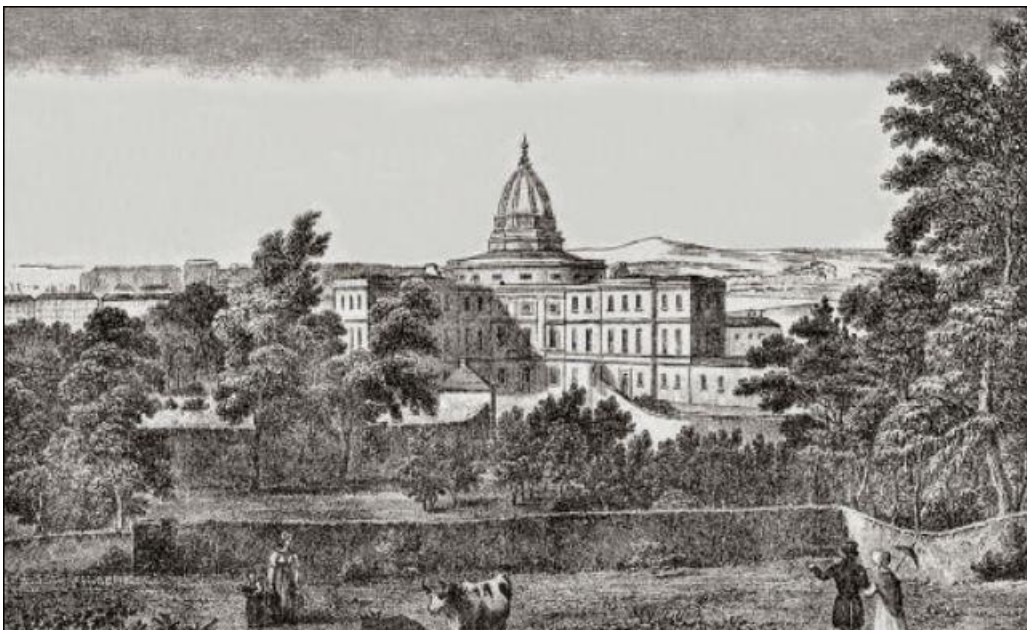
T 27 had a Letter from W Cameron this Morning in which he informs me that <h>is {presented} wife presented him with a daughter Yesterday. many may they have & plenty to give them Mr Brown is getting better, I hope he may soon recover. some of the Journals out to day.

F 28. my Natal day. Am 26. this day & what have I done during all that time. I have been an unprofitable Servant. may I make more resolut-ions or have I made plenty. fulfill the former ere you make New ones. tonight down at Aunts. she has been up all week. had some Conversation with her, regarding the Boys. home about 10. tried tonight to keep away evil tho-ughts & partly succeeded –

S 29. must ask some Money from Jack-son, as F wants a balance, & Bill, & A McKay. I hope I'll get it. dont feel so well. took a Sail down to Kilcreggan this Afternoon but it came on wet so that I did not get great enjoyment by it. home about 11

S 30. Duke St Forenoon. Mr J – in house between Sermons. felt very heavy & sleepy both in & out of Church today. Comunion [sic] this Afternoon, have not yet joined this Church – or Christ. would like to do so. have, thinking on those who were partaking of the Ordinance envied them their enjoyment. if this Evil Heart of mine were taken away & a new Heart given me, I should like – at Church in the Evening not feeling well enough to go to School.

M 31. in Shop mostly all day F. wanting Money. purpose seeking some from J this week as I very much need it – down @ Broom-ielow tonight – the last day of Summer. how Seasons fly, and I am still here – misimproving & spending time –



Glasgow Lunatic asylum, c. 1828. From 1845 it was used as the city's Poorhouse.

August 1854

Tuesday Aug^t. 1. 1854

out a good deal today. got heated & got cooled & got cold as a sequence [sic]. during the Night Cough bothered me & difficulty of breathing, but when I awoke in the Morning, I felt better

W 2 still feeling unwell, though better than I was yesterday – Jackson rather unwell –

T. 3. had a walk this Evening by the Broomielaw met Jas Reid & had a long talk with him about nonsense of course

F 4. out to day. understand Jackson & Jas McDonald had an alter-cation to day, because Jas tryed [sic] to benefit himself – the generosity to injure oneself for the benefit of another is not very rife at pres-ent. Jas & Smith seem to be well met, diamond cut diamond. have got an invitation to go to Kilmun tomorrow think I shall. intend going.

S 5. a beautiful day. shut before 4 got the 4 train. called on W Cameron to ask for the Wife – found she was getting better. met Cousin Marg^t & Bella & Miss Kate Jackson on the Quay. we all went down in the Boat together, got to Kilmun about 6. & had to walk about a Mile & ½ before we came to the house, which is pleasantly situated on the banks of a small Stream in a glen. after tea, went down to Kilmun & got a boat, met the Ladies on the way & gave them a row. passed about an hour & half very pleasantly. had a very pleasant walk up the Road, home about 11 – to bed soon after

S 6. looked out about ½ p 4. saw the Mist clearing of [sic] the hills, very clearly was too lazy to rise – & went away to bed again – up about ½ p 8. got breakfast & then went to Church. heard a very good Sermon, by a Young Man. walked home & got din-ner – afterwards walked about, until 6. when we went again to Church. there being no service in English in the Afternoon, had a walk in the "Evening grey". how pleasant it is to be in the Country, quiet, peace, & re-pose reigning all around, nought but Nature the purling Stream the Verd-ant fields the stately trees, the lovely flowers, the majestic hills – to hold Converse with these lower works of God would be sweet, not to speak of the serenity of mind to <be> enjoyed apart from the Cares & tricks of the World, trusting to a good providence rather than to the trickery of man. to bed abt 10

M 7. up about ½ p 5. had a short walk, got breakfast & started homeward, the better of the trip. got safely up to Glasgow about 10. & so ended our trip to Kilmun. in Shop all day, writing. in Shop till abt 7 –

T. 8. out Craving asked J for £10 this Week which I hope I will get

W 9. Mother unwell to day got cold some way, hope she may soon be better

T 10 at Meeting tonight. Mr Wylie if he has any sensitiveness at all he must have felt considerably {last Night} to Night his Essay was a paltry poor one.

F 11 got £6 from R J to day which I gave to F. he found fault with me for not having it sooner – I retalia-ted & perhaps was rather hasty with my words – Mother in bed unwell to day

The second diary

S 12. Mother not much better – shut about 4 – out at Bishop-briggs tonight at A McKays he seems to be in the fair way to com-fort – if he only takes care of him self. met a Young Woman out there, whose Company I had into the town, it made the Road less weary – home about 11 – did not feel quite as well as I would like

S 13 took some Brandy & Laudum [sic] as my Bowels were threatening to trouble me – in house in the Forenoon with Mother who is making a little better out in the Afternoon, but in house all Eving [sic] –

M 14 to have felt a dislike to write anything during this week, a repugnance –
S 19 knowing my heart is not right. Jackson got word of the Stoppage of Hyde & McInnes Barrhead a loss of £40 or £50

S 20. up about ½ p 9. Wm better to day. was Cold & unimpassioned in prayer, a mere form. Duke St Mr. Johnston, Phil 2. 1–4 on unity & love of Christ-ians towards each other, how much might be affected [sic] by cordial agreement & assistance & how much need there is of it. between Sermons went up to the Necropolis. Duke St Aftern. Mr J. Psalm 86. 5. "Thou Lord Art {good &} ready to forgive" had an impressive Sermon – showed how by the numbers of those out of every kindred tongue & nation who have already obtained forgiveness – God will & can give it still to us, & pressed upon us the necessity & the duty & advantage under pre-sent Circumstances of having this great blessing obtained. Now, I quite agreed with him in all these things as I feel assured that it is the best way to be always ready. You know this O my Soul, yet why do You not close with Christs offer, why not come & have that peace – which is so enduring – which the world cannot give – trials take away nor death destroy. O Come & be at peace with God. down at School & taught a Class, then went to City Hall to hear a Lecture on Temperance. home about 9

M 21. had a Letter from Jas Sayers to day in which he enclosed £3. for the benefit of W^m. [sic] Children, this is more than I had expected from him. Cholera is very bad in town at present, 40 or 50 Cases daily – these are trying times, the only security is to live near to God – it is likewise bad among the troops in the East, about 7000 French & 500 English have been slain by it about Varna. the British & French have taken Bomersand [sic] in the Baltic.

T 22. got the dralf [sic] cashed to day. W^m. away down to Largs to day, for a short time. up at Jeans tonight with the Letter. I see no way of using the Money for their benefit I shall I think put it in the bank until I see if ought comes to be done with <it>. home about 10

W 23. don't feel so well, intend to ask away for a few days, to see if it will re-cruit me any. I do not expect to be a long liver – or ever to have robust health – but will enjoy some of the air of the Country, for all that I hope. I am anxious about being prepared to die. I see day by day the folly of putting of [sic] & am desirious [sic] of the peace which the Certainty of it alone can give. "Lord Save Me". asked Mr J. for leave got it. busy posting today. down at Sandyford, saw Aunt & had some Con-versation, with her. on the Way home tried to preserve my thoughts from Sin, but the habit has got strong upon me, & I find it very difficult. What a change must Regeneration work upon me, what new thoughts to cherish, what old ones to mortify, how totally different from what I am must I be. have often felt this.

August 1854

T 24. a blowy day. purposing (D.V) to go down to day – Mother likewise going – took the 2pm boat Mother did not go, being Stormy – got Moored in Nelson St.

F 25 Mother came down tonight got a Room in Nelson St for her. Regatta to day. out in a Boat at Cumbrae – thinking of John –

S 26 down at Arran to day, Mother & I, nothing particular. Cold & regard-less as I usually [sic] am concerning the things of my Soul I am astonished at myself the way that I have come to this few days, Mind running on evil. I do not feel the Need of God as I do in the town.

S 27 at the U.P. Church twice, unholiness to the full in my heart. had a walk with J. McLean this Eveng. had to put on a Mustard plaster tonight, felt a little easier. God has affl*>*cted, if he would only sanctify it to me.

M 28 got up felt a little easier out in a boat today with Mother & a Young Lady Miss Faulds. I have luck in falling in with them. bad at night again had on another plaster. Oh how wearisome, to be tossing all the Night, wearying for the dawning for the dawning [sic] of the day. what few Moments of Sleep I got were filled with troubled dreams, the Mind roving & wandering where – through every conceivable & inconceivable place on earth, travelling over space at lightning speed, making me a great & a rich Man glorious prospects realized & cherished desires ful-filled – & every thing that I could wish until I awoke & when lo – twas all horror

T 29 was to have gone up this Morn^g but found my self so unwell that I could not – told W^m. to write up to R.J. which he did. W^m. went up today, feel more lonely after his leaving. to bed about 9 – up at HK. glad to see she is improving. passed as bad a night as the last & felt it worse owing to Bill being away. my mind never went upward, felt even worse than I do in health.

W 30. called upon friends, & left per {3} ½3 pm Steamer to Green-ock. went ashore to see friends. did not see Mrs W.C & my young friend – came up per ½ past 7 train found all well – which is cause for gratitude in these times of distress, worse now than ever I saw them. War & pestilence, the Ambition of one Man bringing so much desol-ation upon the Earth – when to all appearance if it had not been for this Man – the Earth {& the} would be blissoming [sic] as the Rose – but {its} one of its brightest leave<s> has been plucked & it now in some respects appears unpleasing in our eyes. & Spain has burst into Revolution, I think no wonder, benighted & enthralled, under priestly ty-ranny & Romish darkness, what wonder is it that they should desire some rays of light from glorious Sun & feel the pleasure of liberty, the birthright of all. China too see there & Australia & America & at home. it is see here & see there & there & there – turn where we will, tis some thing new, Startling & Strange that meet<s> our eyes. we seek for something Stable on which to rest our weary limbs & on which to fix our Straining eyes – but nought is to be found. the things New to day {&} are reckoned old tomorrow. He who orders all things, shall yet bring Good out of this appare-nt evil, & light out of darkness. this I do believe. got up about ½ p 8. home about 9

T 30 [sic] Slept better last Night & was refreshed. Cough troublesome. in Shop today posting some

The second diary

Friday September 1. 1854

still feeling a little easier W. Cam-eron up to day – telling me of the death by drowning of his Brother in law – how slight a hold we have of Earthly things, & [sic]

S 2. thinking of going to Largs to day but thought afterwards twould be as well to stay at home. F away down. – had a pleasant walk alone in the Eveng. meditating – I wish I could form a friendship with some one or two young Men or Women who I could look upon as equals, & walk & converse with. I seek not for Sweet-hearts for I have made up my mind that I shall not marry, until I have the pros-pect of better health – but just a friend – home about 11

S 3. Duke St, twice to day a Stranger. we dined alone went out & had a walk – to Sight-hill – among the tombs. home abt 8. thinking of the past. Oh for deepened Convictions of my Sinfulness & guilt before God that I might be led to lay hold on the refuge set before me. to bed about 10

M 4 Mr J. not up to day – nothing particular how the world runs away with our thoughts, not leaving but [sic] the bare Shreds of time to the Saviour & our Souls, things of Sight occupying far more of us than the things of faith. Aunt Cameron & Elizabeth up tonight & Staid in the house, F being not home yet.

T {4} 5. R.J. came up about 6. out Some today. am still keeping better & hope to be strong some time I Am still thinking & dreaming of Australia & America. If I were {as as} thinking as much of Heaven & the future there twoud [sic] be better for me. down at Broomie-law, for a walk. F came up to day. Aunt went away about 4.

W {5} 6. in Shop all day, a little busier. many sudden deaths are taking place just now tis Madness, to remain in a state of alienati<o>n from God as I am at present. down at Mrs Ronalds to-night, came home about ½ p 10 tried to keep my thoughts from evil Succeeded in part.

T 7 busy posting to day. Cholera still prevailing, bad in London. if when the “Lords works are abroad upon the Earth we would learn righteousness” tonight at Meeting of Young Mens Society Duke St. have been put down for an Essay, but have not yet fixed on a subject. “Modern Infidelity” “Jesuitism” “Drunkenness [sic]” each commend themself [sic] to me but know not which to chose [sic].

F 8. out some to day. R.J. away up to Wishaw. in Shop all Evening – down at Aunts after shutting, home abt 10. asked to get away tomorrow

S. 9. passed a {t} restless night, dreaming much of John, & thinking of death. am afraid at times to lie down lest I should never rise. this Morng Hosea 11.8 came to mind, How shall I give thee up &c. affected by this express-ion of his love toward us, as if the heart strings of the Almighty himself, would snap asunder at parting with his rebellious yet loved children. went down to Greenock per 12 Boat, staid until about 5. then to Largs. a lovely Even-ing, beautiful Sunset without a Cloud. out until after 10. the Moon rose in unclouded splendour over the hill tops shedding [sic] her brigh<t> ef-fulgence over land & sea. to bed about 11 –

September 1854

S 10 rose about 9, feeling unwell breathing bad. went to parish Church this forenoon, not out in Afternoon or Evening – getting worse. had on a Blister which relieved me a little. went to bed about 10.

M 11. passed a dreary desolate night. I am glad that twas W^m. that came down instead of F. else I {don} do not know well how I should have got on. I must give Bill thanks for his attention. managed to get on my Clothes about 9. bade farewell to Largs for a long time as it is evident that the place does not agree with my state of health the Air I think is too strong, howeve<r> I like it well. many a happy day & hour have I spent in it, in times past. Memory recalls many of the Scenes & Characters – tho' some of them now Sleep in the Narrow house – the high spirits & the enjoyments with our Mirth & gladness. left at 12. at Greenock – came up about 7 – all well

T 11 [sic] – rather better this Morning in Shop all day. the Country is look-ing well – all the Crops are about Cut & a great part of them are stack-ed in, it has been abundant God has kept famine from us this Year Still, tho pestilence & war are abroad upon the Earth. came on heavy rain tonight

W 12. [sic] in Shop all day

T 13 [sic] do

{W} F 14 [sic] out some to day. J told me to go away some place tomorrow & see if I would be bettered by it. went this Afternoon & got a tooth drawn which I hope will spare me some pain. left the shop about ½ past 6 down at Broomielaw then home. not out again

S 16. up about 7 took the 8–50 Boat & went to Dumbarton, wandered thro it for about 4 hours, seeing its new buildings & its extensions tis greatly improved since last I was there then went up Lochlomond [sic] as far as Inversnaid, enjoyed the Sail much, its quiet & placid scenery at the one End & its bold rugged & precipitious [sic] at the other. it threatened {Rail} Rain but it kept up, at Balloch about 7 – got train & Boat & home about 9. better I think of the Journey. got to bed about 10

S 17. up about ½ p 8. Duke St Foren Mr McRae of Gorbals. preached a good discourse on 1 Thess. 4.13 + 1.8. betwe<e>n Sermons in house After Mr Johnston Isaiah 9.3. 2^d Clause, "They Joy before thee as the joy of harvest" showed the Christians joy before God, how that the consciou<s>ness of God<s> presence did not spoil the Christians joy but rather increased it, & that his joy like the husbandmens is the fruit of much labour & faith. after dinner went up to see Helen Kirkwood who came up on Friday after 3 Months absence. found her well but likewise find that I should never visit on Sabbath Evenings, as the talk is almost invariably of a worldly Nature. staid about an hour with her, then went to the Mechanics Institution, to hear a Unitarian preacher. his subject was Slavery he exposed it well, but the behaviour of the audience was scarce such as became a Sabbath Evening – at times laughing outright some of them. felt uncomfortable & was out abt 9

M 18. feel a little easier, but feel something wrong with my right side must get it sounded. in Shop all day posting home about 8. have begun to write a letter to Jas

The second diary

Sayers. to bed about 11 a fire in a Vent in Back Lane raised me again however – but did not stay long up

T 19. the S.S. Petrel has put back having been dismasted & bulwarks swept away & having had several deaths aboard – saw her to day. pretty much bat-tered. in Shop {all} most all day, nothing stirring. death busy, Cholera bad about Hamilton & that way, decreased in town & in America glad of it. how many Souls has it swept hurriedly [sic] into eternity, many unprepared, but many likewise, whose lamps were burning & whose loins were girt, ready waiting for their Lord – there is an enviable state, there a desirable condition, "ready aye ready" the Motto of the Christ-ian & ought to be of all. I wish it were mine & that my Soul was cleaving unto the Saviour ready to depart & be for ever with him. at times I feel, were I in that state, a carelessness about life – esteeming it lightly & at others setting a high Value upon it loath to leave the World & its scenes. have omitted writing up this – until

T 21 – down at Gourrock & Greenock to day. Greenock fast day. went most economically about it. boat up. home about 8.

F 22. still hanging about me out at Paisley this Afternoon for an A/c – got it. came on wet how ever which spoiled the pleasure of the trip.

S 23. dry Morn^g. went to Kilmarnock per 10.30 train. came on pouring wet, however – for which cause I did not see the town in its most amiable aspect. was tolerably well pleased with it however. there are black spots in it too but on the whole good. home about 7 –

S 24 up about ½ p 8. feel better went to Morn^g Meeting, purpose to continue so. heard two ex-cel^lent discourses from Mr Johnston today. I wish I would attend to the doctrines & precepts he in-culcates. I am liking the Man & feeling a sort of affection for him. in house all Afternoon & Eveng

M 25. very bad this Morn^g, damp weather against me. W Cameron up to day. feel sometimes as if life was not worth having, the dark cloud flitting across the face of light & life, but the Cloud {passess} passes & life resumes it<s> cheerful look. took a Vapour Bath tonight. had a talk with Jackson tonight. he purposes to get another person for the Shop, & I am to keep the Books. it will entail additional expense on him which I am sorry for & perhaps reduce my wages which will likewise be a cause of regret to me –

T 26. feeling rather better to day. out seeking some A/c got a few

W 27. went up & saw D<r> Paterson. told me to be off to Australia as soon as possible as there was no use stopping here, that I would turn yearly worse & the danger was that the disease might degenerate into Consumption – I wish I was able to take his advice & go at once. up at HK's tonight, she is keeping better.

T 28. purposing to go to Rothsay [sic] for a few days, on Saturday – out at Aunts tonight had a conversation with her, regarding the Shop & the Boys, & regarding my own prospects they are dull enough, they trouble me a good deal. "Seek ye first the Kingdom &c". escorted home one of the Miss Jacksons – home about 10

September 1854

T 29. [sic] Mr. J obliged to go home with Bowel Complaint was not out much – a Bill returned on him today. I wish he was easier in his Monetary Circumstances, twould be a great relief to him & likewise to my mind. Aunt in Shop until 5. Shut about 7 – down at Mrs. Ronalds who was wearying to see me. home about 10

S 30. have finished reading thro the gospel of Mathew [sic] & commenced to <read> the Epistle of the Corinthians. weather keeping good. all the Crops I hope are now secured. Cholera has decreased in Glasgow, but still there are some cases, which causes us to turn pale at the Mention. W Sayers has sent home £10. for Betsy. I will write to James & tell him this & save his £3. not expecting to go from home to day. Aunt however came up & told me to go. got ready & per 3p.m. train went to Greenock got Boat at 5. Rothsey [sic] about ½ p 6. went to A Morris. spent the Eveng pleasantly & went to bed about 11.



Bridge Street railway station, on the south bank of the Clyde, opposite Broomielaw. From here, trains went to Paisley, and from there west to Greenock, or south to Johnstone, Beith, Kilmarnock and Ayr.

The second diary

Sabbath October 1 –

Rose about 8. went to the UP. Church Mr McNab Foren. Free Church Mr Elder afternoon. he had a good Sermon, but I was drowsy & lost part of it. in the Evening out & had a walk & a crack with Archie felt a little wheezing in my Chest. home about 8. to bed at 9 –

M 2 News of a great battle on the Alma. the British have gained the day the Bells rang & the flags were flying, rejoicing for what, for the murder of 3 or 4000 men & the sending of their Souls into Eternity. truly Men are not valued at their worth, one Soul is worth more than all the Russia's [sic] put together. may the time soon come when War shall cease, when Swords shall be beat into ploughshares – when the fear of God shall be be-fore the eyes of all Men & when his laws shall regulate a Nations as well as an individuals actions came up to Greenock about 3 after parting with A Morris & his wife, went to Aunts, got tea in W^{ms} & came up per ½ p 7. train – none the worse of the trip but not greatly better.

T 3. out some to day – am to send Geo for some of the Advertising A/c which will be a relief to me.

W 4. am not getting greatly better tis still hanging about me –

T 5. at the Soiree of Duke St Young Men broke up about 10½. passed very agree-ably but our sitting might have been a little longer without having exceeded the bounds of propriety

F 6 went per ½ p 10 train to Beith did not get anything there, then went to Kilmarnock, & only got part of what I should. passed two or three hours in the Country ground, it is a beautiful place. what a place for beauty must heaven be, when with all Earths loveliness, & Melody, it will not stand comparison, nor even the thought & Imagination of Man is not equal to form a scence [sic], so lovely [sic] left per ¼ p 5 train, saw the Sun setting behind Arran – home about 7. M<r> J not altogether pleased at my want of success

S 7. Nor East Wind don't feel so well to day. langour & h<e>aviness beset me. home about 4, went to bed about 8. but not to rest, was much troubled with breathing, fell asleep about 12.

S 8. awoke about 8. easier now, tis a distressing complaint. rose about 12 tryed [sic] to read to think & pray, but the mind wandered, thinking of Christs wondrous love & of my own stubbornness [sic] in not closing with his offers – but I have put off so long that now, I find it diffi-cult to do so. but if I will be saved I must do it to bed about 10

M 9. had a letter from W Sayers last week which I answered on Saturday. my own mind still running on going there, but I feel sometimes as if It were a thing I should not do – seeing the Slim hold I have of life. Jackson spoke of it to me tonight – & advised me to go as soon as I could, want of Means keeps me. feel easier to day – busy posting – there has been a terrible fire at NewCastle property to the Value of a Million & several lives destroyed

T 10 out some to day

October 1854

W 11. commenced rubbing my Chest with Cold Water from which I derived benefit. pretty badly this two days but I think tis begining [sic] to go away – up at HKs tonight.

T 12 down at Aunts tonight got Tea. home about 10. better tonight Consi-derably than I was –

F 13. a melancholy accident attended with great loss of life happened to the "Artic" [sic] American Steamship off Cape Race in Newfoundland. a french St<e>amer struck her, & she in the course of an hour filled & sank, the Number of lives lost is not known yet, but tis supposed about 300 have perished down at Uncle Colins tonight.

S 16. [sic] in Shop mostly all day. on coming home heard that Betsy was out of the poors house & had sent down to me for Money

S 17. [sic] up about ½ p 8. got ready & had but short private prayer. how much I lack those qualifications fit for heaven, purity, prayerfulness, delight in holiness & in holding communion with God. this Mark convinces me if there were no others, that I am not born again. Oh Holy Spirit come down & burn out of my heart all unholiness & sin & make it a receptacle fit for the Master's use, a pure throne for the Son of God to sit upon. went to the Meeting, but did not derive delight from it. what takes me there, what the Motives that prompt me to go – Duke St. Foren Mr Johnston Phill<i>p</i>ians [sic] 2.25 to end on Epaphroditus illness. I enjoy his Lectures much during the time he is delivering them, but almost as soon as they are over I forget, I am not one of the faith-ful hearers. Afternoon – took a walk between Sermons – Duke St. Mr Johnston 2 Corinthians 5.7, "We Walk by faith not by sight" I wish I could say this, that I was comitting [sic] myself soul & body all my interests for time & eternity to him. I often think & feel that I am a great fool, for continuing as I am & not mak-ing Christ my portion, I think of that text "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God &c" & feel that I am & will be a loser for time & eternity in not appropriating it to myself. he showed the advantages of walking by faith 1st Glory to God. 2^d good to ourselves & 3^d the greater joys of sight when it should be realized. spent the Evening on the life of Joshua –

M 16. R. Logan came home from America Yesterday, he is looking fresh & well. not very busy in Shop to day, making up some Accounts in the Books. a raw misty day – no further particulars from the Seat of War – home about 8. intending to write Jas Sayers tonight. wrote part of a Letter

T 17. in Shop all day. Mr Jackson gave me a ticket to go to the Wesleyan Soirée. went with Geo & Robt. got a good Tea & plenty to it, heard some good speeches but some of them were spoiled by the way in which they upheld their sect. "We are the Salt of the Earth." came out about 10 & went home with the boys. home about 11

W 18. nothing new. out at Aunts tonight, did not stay long – as she was coming in to see M<r> Logan who is laid up with gout, very bad –

T 19. Weather very Cold, like January Wm. laid up to day with Sore throat & Chest, he has not been so well this some time. tonight at Meeting in Duke St, Mr Johnstone gave us an address on the immortality of the soul, proofs apart from revelation, he reasoned the subject well & proved it to satisfaction.

The second diary

F 20. Wm. rather better to day. Mr J. unwell to day obliged to go home – an overflow of blood to the head. has been cupped, & has been a little relieved. down tonight, had the Company of Miss b Jackson out & home. Mr. Logan is unwell likewise at present gout. great deal of trouble prevailing here & every where at present. Where shall we go from it, whither fly, nowhere disease dwells wherever Man is Wm. had on a Mustard blister, he seems to me to be very desponding

S 21 Mr J. Mr L & Wm all reported better to day, I hope it may continue & that they may soon be all restored to health. went down to Sandyford & found Mr J easier & better home about 10

S {23.} 22. rose about 8. went to Meeting but was not prepared to appreciate the Meditatory on Noah. had been nothing in prayer that I could wrestle with God as did Jacob in prayer. Foren. M<r> Johnston Phillipians [sic] 3–1–3, had a very practical Lecture on the subject, on the duty of Min<i>ster & people. between Sermons up at the Nec-ropolis. Afterno [sic] Mr Johnston. 2 Corinthians 13.5. mid. Clause, gave us Marks by which to know ourselves, & to judge ourselves by – 1st things which were not an evidence of a change & 2^o Necessary evidence of a change – under the first head there was Freedom from {Gross} habit of Gross sins, perusal of the Word & attendance at the House of God, Zeal for doctrine, fluency of expression & earnestness to proseliteze [sic], & deep conviction of sin 2^o head Regeneration, all the former are to be found wher<e> this is, the Marks of Genuine Sorrow, are a respect to God as having sinned against him David "against thee", accompanied by a feeling of personal unworthiness, feel ourselves vile & not because of danger, & leads to an abandon-ment of Sin, & not only that, but make resolutions plans & prayers – & obedience to the whole law of God not to bring the Law down to us but to raise ourselves to what God requ<i>res of us –

M {24} 23 during the night had an attack of breathlessness, which still continu<e>s managed to crawl down to the Shop but its duties tho' light were very irksome. very bad coming home.

T 24 easier to day. Mr J not up, still keeping better. Wm. out to day

W {24.} 25. about same way as Yesterday doing a little in Shop, shut @ 7 –

T 26. Fast day. a very cold Morn^g. Duke St Fore. 2 Corinthians 5. 18.19.20. Afternoon had a Walk down the River side, then went up to Aunts staid until about 7 – Gib at Paisley, Father at Gourrock –

Cash Book

1854

Jany	1	Doorkeeper 6 ^d . {Expenses at Greenock}	£	"	"	6
	2	Expenses at Greenock 3/6 Mother 3/		"	6	6
		Oranges 1/ 14 Diorama 8 ^d . 15 Collect<i>on 6 ^d		"	2	2
		G.P. Soles 1/. S'dries 5 ^d . CJ & LH 6½		"	1	11½
	29	Collection 6 ^d . S'dries 1/.		"	1	6
Feby	13	Collections 6 ^d . H. Cut. 2 ^d . Seat 4/6		"	5	2
	14	NBS 3/6 26 L.H & C.J 6½ Post. 1 ^d . 28 M 1/.		"	5	1½
Mar	4	Expenses to Greenock 6 ^d . Coll 2 ^d . Bath 1/. Salve 1/2		"	2	10
	7	Bus 2 ^d . 12 Coll 2 ^d . 13 th . Case LH 1/1		"	1	5
	14	To F 60/. M 4/6 Shirt Sorting 1/		3	5	6
	21	" Hogg 1/3 C.J 3 ^d Gilbert 2/6		"	4	"
	25	" Ferry ½. 26 Coll 2 ^d Biscu<i>t ½ Leisure H 3½		"	"	7½
	28	" G.p. Soles 11 ^d .		"	"	<u>11</u>
				4	18	2½
April	1	" Cloth for Trousers & Vest		1	2	"
		" Olive oil 1/- M 6 ^d . Fare to G. 6 ^d . 2 ^d Coll 2 ^d		"	2	2
	2	" Mag ^t Sayers 1/- Fare to R 1/ Dr Paterson 2/6		"	4	6
	4	" Boat Fare from R 1/- Rail from G 1/		"	2	"
	5	" Pumps 2/10. C.J. 3 ^d . 8 th . M. 1/- Coll 2 ^d .		"	4	3
	9	" Coll. 8 ^d . 13 Lecture 6 ^d . 14 Books 1½. 20 F. £4		4	1	3½
	22	" Fares to Bowling 1/ Wharf 2 ^d . Biscuit 2½		"	1	4½
	26	" Coll 4 ^d . Mother 4½ Ferry ½ Bus 2½		"	"	11½
	29	Hair Cutting 2 ^d Newspaper 1 ^d . 5. 18. 9½		"	"	<u>3</u>
				10	17	—
May	2	To Handkerchiefs 10 ^d . 6 Coll 1½		"	"	11½
	9	" North Britons Society		"	3	6
	13	" Greenock 7 ^d . 14 Coll 2 ^d		"	"	9
	17	" Bill		3	14	"
		" Gilbert 3/. A McKay 15/		"	18	"
Mar	15	" W ^m . 20/.		1	"	"
		" Sundries unaccounted for		"	15	"
May	20	" Greenock 1/6. 23 Mother 10/		"	11	6
	24	" Leisure Hour 3½ 25 Olive Oil 1/		"	1	3½
	25	" Sunday at Home 3½ 28 Coll 3 ^d		"	"	6½
	31	" Binding Leisure Hour		"	"	6
		" " Hogg		"	1	<u>10</u>
		" Balance		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
				20	7	7½

Cash Book

1854					
Jany	2	By Cash in Bank	5	"	"
		" Do on Hand	"	8	7½
		" Do M.T.	1	"	"
Mar	11	" " form [sic] Gilbert	"	2	6
	15	" " " Bill to date	4	5	"
		" F. 32/6. 16. Wm 5/6	1	17	6
	28	" Bill 1/.	"	1	"
	31	" Robt. Jackson	2	"	"
			<hr/>		
			14	14	7½
May	9	By Cash from Gilbert	"	3	"
	17	" " R Jackson	5	"	"
	23	" " from W ^m .	"	10	"
			<hr/>		
			20	7	7½
June	1	Balance	2	2	9

Enter Ledger

Notabilia [sic]

1854

Jany	2	went to Greenock
	3	returned from do
		Ship "Tayleur" wrecked off Lambay Island Bay of Dublin 350 lives lost
	31	Parliament Met
Feby	3	Betty left the House
	5	Uncle Jackson unwell
Mar	1	A Walker died
		Letter from W Sayers
		Uncle Jackson out 1 st time today
	18	Dugald Mains died 5½ A.M.
	27	War with Russia declared
April	7	Gilbert Weir (E. Camerons child) died
	12	S.S. Glasgow, damaged in Clyde
May	1	City of Glasgow supposed foundered
		Odessa Stormed
	13	at Johnston & Greenock
	20	at Greenock
	26	Helen K went to Largs, unwell
		Letter from W Sayers
	28	Cranstonhill Loaf Factory, burned
June	30	John Sutherland died 12 pm
July	6	Mr Mc Ewan died 1 A.M
	26	Mrs. W Cameron a daughter
Augt		Allies Captured Bomersand [sic]
		Mrs W. Camerons Brother drowned at Denerara
Sept	11	came from Largs
	17	S.S "Petrel" put back
	25	Battle of Alma in the Crimea
		Allies lost about 3000.
	30	at Rothesay
Oct	4	Letter from W Sayers
	6	at Kilmarnock, Beith
	7	destructive Fire at New Castle
		D. Robertson died of Cholera
Sept	26	S.S Artic [sic] Lost off Cape Race
Oct		Arch ^d McLellan died

NOTES

NOVEMBER 1853

24 (line 2) The diary begins in mid-sentence. The first part of the sentence was probably something like *When I heard that John was worse, I came as quickly as . . .*

up from his lodgings in Partick to the family home in George Street, where his brother John was gravely ill.

Aunts Aunt's. Aunt Jackson, née McKay. The Jacksons lived in Sandyford, between Partick to the west and the city centre to the east.

(5) **agitaged [sic]** Mistake for *agitated*.

(11) **{aw}** George was going to write *awful*.

(12) **has the issues** 'controls the outcomes'.

25 (line 11) **Aunt J.** Aunt Jackson.

short work An echo of *Romans* 9.28 "For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness."

(30) **W.** William, George's brother. He and his father had probably been working in the latter's boot shop.

(31) **Gib** Gilbert, George's brother.

(46) **Morn^g** Morning.

(49) **{Betty she}** Betty is Elizabeth Buchanan, the McKays' servant. George was probably going to write *shed a tear*.

(56) **to do it** i.e. to give up excessive drinking.

(59) **10 days** A miscalculation. John was born on 10/10/1836, so was 6 days older than George says.

26 (line 1) **up** 'at home'.

(7) **F** Father.

Menzies Andrew Menzies ran the largest bus company in Glasgow. It seems that the company also provided hearses and coffins.

(10) **Jean Sayers was over** Jean Laird Sayers, George's cousin. "Over" implies that she lived in Glasgow,

(11) **Uncle nor Aunt** 'neither uncle nor aunt' (a chiefly poetic use).

(12) **Jas Logans** James Logan's. His mother Agnes was the sister of Robert Jackson (1).

(14) **deffered [sic]** Mistake for *deferred*.

(15) **World [sic]** Mistake for *World's*.

27 (line 1) **St. P.** St Paul's, George's church. It was Free Church.

Dr. J Dr Jamieson, the minister.

(2) **Comm** Commandment.

(3) **Colin** Colin McKay, George's uncle.

Uncle Alex Alexander McKay.

28 (line 1) **loose [sic]** Mistake for *lose*.

& for the dead 'even for the dead'.

29 (line 6) **W.C.** William Cameron, George's cousin, who lived in Greenock.

30 (line 1) **Shop** The boot shop of George's father.

little little [sic] An inadvertent repetition. The first *little* occurs at the end of a line.

(2) **above** 'on top of' (to save space).

(3) **Aunt Tennent** Margaret Tennent, née McKay.

Grandfather George McKay.

Sables 'black mourning clothes' (mainly poetic).

(9) **"that we"** At the end of a line, hence the closing inverted commas.

Notes

“would see his face no more” Acts 20.38 (Paul’s departure from Ephesus) “Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more.”

DECEMBER

03 (line 1) **on the way home** i.e. going from his lodgings to the family home.

my place ‘my job’ (at the mill).

(3) **the Shop** His uncle Robert Jackson (1)’s bookshop.

04 (line 2) **Fore.** Forenoon.

(3) **Aft** Afternoon.

Rev. 21 *Revelation* 21.4 “And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.” 22.5 “And there shall be no night there . . . for the Lord God giveth them light.”

(8) **through [sic]** Mistake for *though*.

05 (line 1) **Gartnavel** west of the river Kelvin, and a short distance north of Partick.

R.K. Robert Kirkwood, who in 1850-51 was George’s closest friend.

(4) **like Job** *Job* 1.21.

06 (line 3) **the Deacon** It is unclear who this is.

08 (line 4) **Rothsay** The main town on the island of Bute (see map 2).

(6) **Logan’s Place** The job offered by Robert Logan (1).

09 (line 1) **the Sheet** ‘the accounts’.

Collector The man who collected money owing to the mill used some of it to pay wages.

11 (line 1) **down** ‘back to my lodgings’.

(4) **blister** ‘poultice’. George also speaks of “mustard poultice” and “mustard plaster”.

and Unusual. He nearly always uses an ampersand.

(10) **in neither of these are now** Confused and clumsy, but the sense is clear (‘as neither of these is now the case’).

Uncle Jacksons i.e. his bookshop.

(12) **&c.** etc.

JANUARY 1854

01 Aften [sic] Afternoon. *Aften* occurs again on July 23.

School a Sabbath or Sunday school.

02 (line 1) **Wet Sheet** See entry for January 9.

(2) **Greenock** Greenock is about 21 miles west of Glasgow (see map 3). Total cost of the trip was 3/6 (*Cash Book*).

03 (line 3) **shoes** skating shoes.

(4) **Aunt** Aunt Cameron (née Jean Sayers).

Elizabeth Aunt Cameron’s daughter.

in Wm. ‘in William’s house’.

04 for good by preventing the spread of disease.

{T4} W.C. George probably wrote this on Thursday. After writing *T4*, the heading for the day, he realised that the Camerons had arrived on the previous day. He therefore wrote the *W.* of *W.C.* over the *T4*.

& C and Cameron. The third Cameron is the unborn child in Mrs Cameron’s womb. A daughter was born on July 26.

up from Greenock.

05 Euphemia Perhaps the E. Cameron who is the mother of Gilbert Weir. See Introduction p. 14.

Notes

07 enclosing them in envelopes.

H.K.'s Helen Kirkwood's. She was Robert's sister.

08 After Afternoon.

"& yet there is Room" *Luke* 14.22.

09 (line 2) **writing** i.e. doing the accounts.

11 (line 5) **"Why stand I in jeopardy every hour"** *Corinthians* 15.30. George has forgotten to close the inverted commas.

(7) **"Make your calling & Election sure"** 'Make sure you are one of those summoned and chosen' (to go to heaven). 2 *Peter* 1.10.

13 (line 1) **the Turks and the Russians** Turkey had declared war on Russia in October 1853. In March 1854, Great Britain and France also declared war on Russia, and the Crimean war (1854-6) began.

(3) **"if Nation would not lift up Sword against Nation"** *Isaiah* 2.4.

14 (line 4) **to shop** i.e. to John McKay's boot shop.

the Diorama It cost 8^d (*Cash Book*).

(8) **Horeb** An alternative name for Mt Sinai. Moses saw the burning bush at Horeb (*Exodus* 3.1-3).

Taba Not mentioned in the Bible. It is a small Egyptian town at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba, and is a popular starting point for tours of Mt Sinai.

(10) **Cloud of Witnesses [sic]** *Hebrews* 12.1.

15 (line 2) **24 Exodus 1** *Exodus* 24.1.

(5) **a [sic]** Intended as the initial of Provan's first name. Having replaced it with a capital, George forgot to cross it out.

A pro-van A. Provan, someone George knew.

(7) **"Lord let it alone this Year"** *Luke* 13.6-8 "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, 'Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?' And he answering said unto him, 'Lord, let it alone this year also ...' "

(11) **throngest** 'busiest' (Scottish and northern English).

(22) **ecomium [sic]** Mistake for *encomium*.

(41) **his Great Cities** John Todd, *The moral influence, dangers and duties, connected with great cities*, 1841.

17 (line 3) **Mrs Logan** Agnes, wife (and almost certainly widow) of Andrew Logan (2). She was Robert Jackson (1)'s sister.

Mrs. Jas Logan Agnes' daughter-in-law.

Buss an early alternative spelling of *bus*.

18 (line 7) **{a}** George was probably intending to write *at least*.

20 Fishers [sic] Mistake for *Fisher*, presumably a doctor.

21 (line 1) **the Broomielaw** Street by the river Clyde. It was flanked by quays, where boats were constantly coming and going.

22 (line 3) **UP** United Presbyterian (church).

(4) **"with thee ..."** *Psalms* 130.4.

(5) **Mr Johnston** The first of many mentions of him in the diary. George sometimes spells the name with final *e*, sometimes without.

(9) **School** a Sabbath or Sunday school.

(11) **Johnies Age** John was 17 when he died. One would expect most Sabbath school pupils to be younger.

(16) **abt** about.

Notes

23 (line 2) **Sorley** William Sorley, a friend who emigrated to Canada in 1850.

(3) **Belle-ville** Belleville, about 116 miles east of Toronto.

(5) **Book** 'ledger'.

24 400 lives In his *Notabilia* George gives the total as 350.

The Tayleur The *Tayleur* sailed from Liverpool on 19/01/1854, bound for Melbourne on her maiden voyage. 2 days later, in fog and a storm, she ran aground on the east coast of Lambay Island. Compasses were not working properly because of the iron hull. Of more than 650 people on board, only 290 survived.

25 W 24 [sic] Mistake for *W 25*.

26 T 25. [sic] Mistake for *T 26*.

27 F 26. [sic] Mistake for *F 27*.

28 (line 1) **S 27 [sic]** Mistake for *S 28*.

(9) **{after}** The sentence George had begun to write follows below.

(11) **the length of** 'as far as' (Scottish).

(12) **Govan** about 2½ miles west of the city centre, on the south bank of the Clyde.

29 (line 4) **Limekilns** a village in Fife.

(6) **last clause** The last verse of chapter 2 is "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

(10) **2C, 3V** 2nd chapter, 3rd verse.

(13) **made a profession** i.e. professed to believe in Christ.

30 (line 1) **Edin.** Edinburgh.

FEBRUARY

03 (line 1) **back** to the shop.

(3) **where [sic]** Mistake for *were*.

(6) **Gavazzi** See first diary, 20/08/1851.

(9) **Betty** Elizabeth Buchanan, the McKays' servant, who had been with them since at least 1841.

04 (line 2) **Bridgeton** A district east of Glasgow Green (see plan 1, where *BR* is visible bottom right).

the Shop Robert Logan (1)'s new shop, which opened on March 14. Apparently he wanted George to manage it.

(3) **coarse** 'stormy'.

05 (line 1) **Ananias & Sapphira** Acts 5.1-11.

(2) **Luke 15.10** "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

07 a Crack 'a gossip, an intimate talk' (Scottish and northern English).

12 Balfours i.e. Balfour's Sabbath school.

13 {12} George has crossed out 12 but not corrected it. The *Cash Book* tells us that on this day George paid 4/6 for a seat at the Duke Street United Presbyterian church.

14 John John Boag, the "other lad" in the shop.

when out sc. when I went out to visit her.

N B Society North Britons Society. The *Cash Book* shows that George paid his quarterly subscription of 3/6.

19 Do Ditto.

25 Cousin Margt Margaret Tennent, who lived with the Jacksons.

Notes

26 (line 6) **but** 'merely'.

28 (line 1) **Scences [sic]** Strange mistake for *Scenes*. (Same mistake October 6.)

(10) **one Man** Czar Nicholas I.

(13) **W Sayers** William Sayers, George's cousin, who had recently sailed for Australia, leaving behind his wife Betsy and their young children.

MARCH

03 (line 5) **hopes** of Adam's eternal salvation.

04 (line 2) **Johnstone** SW of Paisley (see map 4).

(13) **train to Greenock** Expenses for the trip were 6^d (*Cash Book*).

06 (line 4) **a Vapour Bath** The bath cost 1/-, a salve 1/2 (*Cash Book*).

07 (line 1) **Partick** He went by bus (*Cash Book*).

08-11 **posting my Books** 'writing up my accounts in a ledger'.

S. Saturday.

13 **R.J.** Robert Jackson.

15 **Barony** a northern district of Glasgow.

16 (line 1) **Beith** SW of Johnstone (see map 4).

27 **wheezling** Scottish and northern English variant of *wheeling*.

30 **War has been declared** Great Britain and France declared war on Russia on March 27, the date George gives in *Notabilia*.

APRIL

01 (line 1) **the Boat down** to Greenock. The fare was 6^d (*Cash Book*).

(3) **Aunts** Aunt Cameron's.

Neil Neil Cameron, George's cousin. He was 22 or 23.

home William Cameron's place, where George was staying.

02 (line 2) **Mr Laughtons** i.e. the church where he was minister.

(5) **29C. 14** chapter 29, verse 14.

(10) **at Aunts** 13-year-old Margaret Sayers, George's cousin, was probably also there. George gave her 1/- (*Cash Book*).

03 (line 1) **3^o. tertio** 'thirdly' (incorrect here).

(3) **the Boat** The fare was 1/- (*Cash Book*).

04 (line 1) **Patersons [sic]** Mistake for *Paterson*. The consultation cost 2/6 (*Cash Book*).

George saw Dr Paterson again on July 5 and September 27, each time in Glasgow.

(6) **John Cameron** George's cousin, now 44. He was an auctioneer.

(9) **left** by train. The fare was 1/- (*Cash Book*).

05 **Largs** on the east coast of the Firth of Clyde (see map 1).

06 (line 3) **Craigs** a town in Antrim in northern Ireland.

(4) **2 – 11** chapter 2, verse 11. The last clause is "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

3 – 20V chapter 3, verse 20.

(5) **E. Cameron's** Possibly Euphemia Cameron (see Introduction p. 14).

her poor boy Gilbert Weir. He died on April 7 (*Notabilia*).

Mrs. Logan Sen^r. & Jun^r. The former was Agnes Logan, née Jackson, the latter was the wife of Agnes' son James.

(6) **Aggie** Agnes Logan, now 2, the Jacksons' youngest child.

Notes

09 (line 11) **Aunt up** Aunt Cameron up from Greenock.

(12) **M<r> White** Presumably the “lecture” for which George paid 6^d (*Cash Book*).

10 (line 2) **Rutherglen** about 3 miles SE of the city centre.

(5) **M** Mother.

12 (line 3) **Lower Bells** Unexplained.

15 (line 4) **keep . . . up** George has conflated *keep back* and *hold up*.

16 (line 5) **Sight-hill** About a mile north of the cathedral. A cemetery was opened there in 1840.

18 (line 1) **pr 12'** per 12 o'clock.

(4) **of it** ‘as a result’.

(6) **met** The start of an unfinished sentence.

20 (line 1) **Milngavie** about 6 miles north of the city centre (see map 3).

(3) **Duty Women** Unexplained.

(5) **Tudhope [sic]** Elsewhere spelt *Tudehope* (3 times).

22 (line 1) **out** ‘at his place’.

(2) **to Bowling** Fares were 1/-, wharf 2^d, a biscuit 2½^d (*Cash Book*). Bowling is west of Glasgow, on the north bank of the Clyde (see map 3).

23 (line 2) **announced** i.e. Mr Johnstone announced.

Wednes-day The Government had declared Wednesday 26 April “a national day of fast and humiliation”, in support of the troops who had set off to fight the Russians.

25 Engines A fire-engine station had been opened in College Street in 1851.

Butts water butts, presumably on carts.

26 at church Not the Duke Street church (see entry for 23rd), probably St Paul's.

30 for a Collection Unexplained.

MAY

01 Sum-mer George's definition of summer (May to July) is that of the old Gaelic (Irish) calendar.

15 (line 1) **long delay** On Tuesday 9, he attended a meeting of the North Britons Society, and paid the quarterly subscription of 3/6 (*Cash Book*). On Saturday 13, he went to Johnstone and Greenock (*Notabilia*).

(2) **HK's** Helen Kirkwood's.

City of Glasgow She left Liverpool on 01/03/1854, bound for Philadelphia, and was never seen again.

(3) **Amissing** ‘missing’ (chiefly Scottish).

16 (line 1) **stormed** on May 1, according to *Notabilia*. The naval bombardment, by a combined British and French fleet, actually happened on April 22.

(2) **Charles Napier** British vice-admiral.

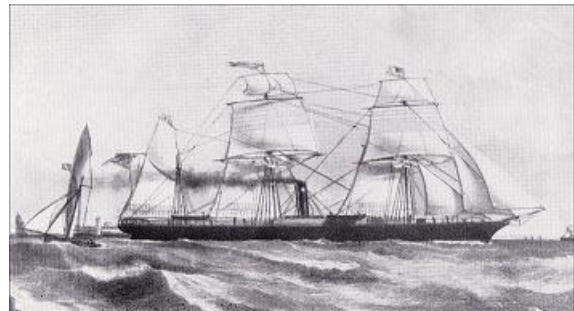
(4) **Geo Jackson** Now 13.

(5) **his Brothers** Robert (11) and William (10).

Alex McKay George's cousin.

17 (line 3) **James McDonald** see first diary, 19/02/1851.

down ‘bankrupt’.



S.S. City of Glasgow

Notes

18 (line 2) **Young Mens Society** Rules for the Society were adopted on April 27. The Society met fortnightly on Thursday evenings, to discuss religious, political and social issues. George attended on May 18, June 1, 15, 29, August 10, September 7, October 5, 19.

(5) **Edwards, Buller, Paley** Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758, theologian and metaphysician. Charles Buller, 1806-1848, politician and reformer. William Paley, 1743-1805, theologian and philosopher.

19 (line 2) **acqui-<anted> [sic]** *acqui-* is the last thing written on the page, and George forgot to finish the word on the next page.

(5) **anex [sic]** Mistake for *annex*.

20 (line 5) **Mrs Sayers** Margaret Hyndman, second wife of James (1).

(8) **hard [sic] off [sic]** Mistakes for *heard of*.

(18) **of this kind** the evening of a holiday.

21 (line 8) **Phillip/n [sic]** Mistake for *Philippians*.

(9) **1-2** chapters 1 and 2.

(13) **the green** Glasgow Green, beside the river (see plan 1).

22 (line 1) **Mrs. Kirkwood** mother of Robert and Helen.

flit 'move house' (chiefly Scottish and northern English).

(4) **Uncle** Colin McKay.

in Colin and Mrs Ronald seem to have lived in the same house. The nature of the relationship is unclear. Colin moved house on May 29, and was apparently still living with Mrs Ronald on July 6.

23 (line 5) **the Emperor** Czar Nicholas I.

(11) **pascals Letters** Blaise Pascal, *Provincial letters*.

25 6 Months dead John actually died early on November 26.

26 (line 1) **F 27 [sic]** Mistake for *F 26*.

(8) **Ame [sic]** Mistake for *Aim*.

27 (line 4) **Uncle A.** Uncle Alex.

(8) **disappointed** 'proved wrong'.

(12) **the White Throne** *Revelation* 20.11 "And I saw a great white throne . . ."

(19) **I am** – He hesitates to call himself "a demon".

28 (line 3) **Hebrews 7.25** "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

(7) **an Iron Church** In the 19th century some corrugated iron churches were sent out to Australia in kits.

29 (line 1) **Uncle's** Colin McKay's.

(5) **Cranston hill** See plan 2, bottom left.

Baking Factory 'bakery'. In *Notabilia* he calls it a loaf factory.

31 alone John Boag left the bookshop on April 29.

a piece 'for a while'.

JUNE

01 Mr McEwan See May 22.

Voluntaryism The principle that the Church or schools should be independent of the State, and supported by voluntary contributions.

03 to Kilmun to visit his sister Agnes (Mrs Logan). Kilmun is 7 miles NW of Greenock, across the Firth of Clyde (see map 1).

04 (line 2) **Necropolis** beside the cathedral. See illustration p. 40 and plan 3.

Notes

06 Ja. Jackson.
down 'depressed'.

08 (line 1) **Wishaw** SE of Glasgow. See map 4 (Wishawtown).
(4) **the Canal Bank** probably the Monkland Canal, shown at the top of plan 3.

09 Craving 'asking debtors for payment' (Scottish).

10 (line 6) **planting** 'plants' (chiefly Scottish).
(7) "**the Earth her fruit shall yield**" *Leviticus* 25.19 "And the land shall yield her fruit."

11 (line 7) **Phillip [sic]** Philippians.

13 (line 6) **Vapour** 'vapour bath'.

14 Mrs Kirk Mrs Kirkwood's.

15 (line 1) **Betsy** Elizabeth Conway, wife of William Sayers.
(4) **a cut up** 'stinging and effective criticism'.

17 home i.e. back to Mrs McLean's.

18 Parish i.e. parish church.

U.P. i.e. United Presbyterian church, which George went to in the afternoon.

20 Steppy Nickname for *Stephanie*?

22 (line 2) **writing** i.e. doing the accounts.
(3) **Ragged School** These schools were set up in the 1840s to provide education for the working-class poor. By the Industrial Schools Act of 1854, they became institutions for looking after "vagrant and homeless waifs". The children were housed and fed, and taught practical skills.

her Children Isabella (6) and Agnes (3), and possibly a younger child.

23 (line 1) **soft** 'rainy' (chiefly Scottish and dialectal).
(3) **Pearson** Rev. Thomas Pearson, 1740-1781. His essay on infidelity (lack of faith in God) was published in New York in 1854.

25 (line 2) **Verily** ... *Psalms* 58.11.

althog [sic] Strange abbreviation of *although*.

(3) **the Saltmarket** A street which runs down to the river. See illustration p. 53 and plan 1.

(5) **F. McKenzie** 1807-1862, Scottish Conservative politician. In 1853 the bill known as the Forbes McKenzie Act was passed, regulating public houses in Scotland.

(9) **regardless** 'paying no regard' (to God).

(15) **there [sic]** Mistake for *they*.

(18) **1-7** chapter 1, verse 7.

(22) **Ch.** Charles, unknown.

(27) **Chap** Chapter.

26 (line 1) **Jas Sayers** James Sayers (2), younger brother of Betsy's husband William. He lived in Greenock.

(2) **J.S.** John Sutherland's.

28 (line 1) **put... about** 'inconvenienced' (chiefly Scottish and northern English).

(3) **The Lamplighter** a popular novel by Maria Cummins (1827-1866). The book tells the story of Gertrude Flint, an abandoned and mistreated orphan, who is rescued at the age of 8 by Trueman Flint, a lamplighter. Trueman raises Gertrude lovingly, and teaches her to put her faith in God.

30 (line 5) **stayed** This spelling occurs only here (elsewhere *staid*).

Notes

JULY

01 (line 6) **by the Way** 'along the road'.

02 (line 4) **how little** sc. how little I had thought.

03 coming up 'when I was coming home'.

05 Croton oil obtained from the seeds of *Croton tiglium*, a tree of the spurge family.

09 (line 2) **the Syro Phoenicia<n>s daughter** *Mark* 7.26. In the King James Bible, the spelling is *Syrophœnician*.

(4) **the Calton** a district east of the city centre and north of Glasgow Green. The Calton burial ground is shown on plan 1, bottom right (to the right of the *STR.* of *CLYDE STR.*).

(9) **John 10 ...** *John* chapter 10, last clause of verse 15 to first clause of verse 17.

10 Wortaburn [?] If this is what George wrote, it is probably a mistake for *Waterburn*. If he wrote *Wortabury*, that is probably a mistake for *Waterbury*.

11 (line 2) **the poorhouse** The Poorhouse was opened in 1845, in what had been the lunatic asylum (see illustration p. 58). It had 1500 beds, and life for inmates was grim. George's lack of sympathy is surprising.

13 (line 1) **the rest** i.e. the children. Robert Jackson (1) was in the bookshop on the 14th. **well thought of** as Mrs Agnes Logan was.

14 (line 5) **Fair** The current Fair ran from Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 July.

(8) **Men** i.e. how Men.

(11) **Kilfinnian [sic]** Mistake for *Kilfinan*, which is on Loch Fyne, and SE of Lochgilphead (see map 2).

15 (line 5) **quit** He was a painter.

her Uncle the uncle of William's wife Elisabeth.

16 (line 1) **like to day** This shows that the entry was written after the 16th.

(4) **Was [sic]** Mistake for *has* (George was going to write *was spent*).

17 (line 3) **came up** He had probably joined his wife and children in Kilmun on Friday or Saturday. The others probably returned on Sunday 23rd.

18 (line 1) **absorbent** 'preoccupation' (a highly unusual sense).

(8) **at** 'confronting'.

a bill 'a promissory note'.

19 (line 1) **Barrhead** about 7 miles SW of Glasgow (see map 4).

22 (line 3) **Bishopbriggs** about 4 miles N of Glasgow. See map 3 (Bishopbridge). George was presumably intending to visit his cousin Alex McKay (see August 12).

23 (line 10) **{ach}** He was going to write *achieved*.

24 (line 5) **Kossuth** Lajos Kossuth, 1820-1894, Hungarian politician, who played a prominent part in Hungary's struggle for independence from Austria. In 1854 he was living in exile in England.

25 (line 7) **Mount of Vision** Mount Nebo, from which Moses saw the promised land (*Deuteronomy* 34.1-3).

(11) **in [sic]** Mistake for *it*.

27 (line 4) **out** i.e. from shop to customer.

28 (line 3) **up** i.e. back in Glasgow from Kilmun.

29 (line 1) **A McKay** George's uncle. George ordered a coat from him on May 18.

(2) **Kilcreggan** on the north bank of the Clyde, opposite Greenock. See map 3 (Kilcraigan).

Notes

30 (line 5) **like** 'be pleased' (Scottish).

31 (line 3) **misimproving & spending** 'misusing and wasting'.

AUGUST

01 **sequince [sic]** Mistake for *sequence*, 'consequence'.

04 (line 3) **Jas & Smith** See May 17 and 24.

05 (line 1) **the 4 train** to Greenock.

(2) **Bella** Isabella, Robert Jackson (1)'s daughter, now 16.

Miss Kate Jackson Probably a niece of Robert Jackson (1).

on the Quay The ladies had probably come from Glasgow by boat.

06 (line 5) **no service in English** It will have been in Scotch Gaelic. In 1800, about 298,000 people in Scotland (18.5% of the population) spoke only Scotch Gaelic. In 1881, the figure was about 231,500 (6.1%).

(9) **apart** 'far away'.

10 **{last Night}** The entry was obviously written on the following day.

12 (line 2) **in the fair way to comfort** He had presumably been unwell.

(4) **the Road** A walk of about 4 miles.

13 **Laudum [sic]** Mistake for *Laudanum*.

threatening 'threatening' (Scottish).

14-19 **Stoppage** 'bankruptcy'.

20 (line 5) **{good &}** The words are accurately quoted, but George has put a thick line through them.

(11) **that peace . . .** Cf. *Deuteronomy* 14.27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you."

21 (line 1) **a Letter** in response to George's of June 30.

(5) **Varna** On the Black Sea coast, in modern Bulgaria.

(6) **Bomersand [sic]** Mistake for *Bomarsund*, an island in Åland, in the Baltic Sea. On August 16, after a 3-day bombardment, Russian troops on the island surrendered to a combined British and French force.

22 (line 1) **dralf [sic]** Mistake for *draft*. George apparently thought the word rhymes with, and is spelt like, *calf*.

(2) **Jeans** Jean Laird Sayers, sister of William and James (2).

23 (line 1) **ask away** i.e. ask to get away.

24 **down** to Largs.

25 **Cumbrae** Great Cumbrae (see map 4).

26 (line 2) **the way** sc. of thinking.

27 **sanctify it to me** The intended meaning seems to be 'sanctify me, so that he doesn't need to punish me with bad health'.

28 (line 2) **them** young ladies.

(3) **for the dawning [sic]** The repetition is at the top of a new page.

29 (line 2) **W^m.** We are not told when he came down to Largs.

(5) **in health** 'because of my health'.

30 (line 2) **my young friend** The Camerons' baby girl, born July 26.

(4) **one Man** Czar Nicholas I.

Notes

(8) **Revolution** The Vicalvarada revolution, which compelled Queen Isabella II to replace a corrupt and oppressive Government.

(9) **enthralled** 'enslaved'.

(11) **China too** The Taiping rebellion (1850-1864).

Australia The gold rushes began in 1851. Finds in Victoria were particularly impressive, and between 1852 and 1860 290,000 Britons emigrated to Victoria (among them George and Gilbert McKay).

America Slavery was provoking much debate and conflict, leading eventually to civil war.

at home The Crimean war.

(17) **up** to Glasgow.

31 T 30 [sic] Mistake for T 31.

SEPTEMBER

02 **down** to Largs?

04 (line 1) **up** i.e. back to Glasgow.

(2) **not leaving but** [sic] 'not leaving anything but'. George has conflated *not leaving* and *leaving but*.

07 (line1) **if** 'if only'.

(4) **Infidelity** 'lack of faith'.

09 (line 1) **{t}** George was perhaps going to write *troubled*.

12 T 11 [sic] Mistake for T 12.

13 W 12. [sic] Mistake for W 13.

14 T 13 [sic] Mistake for T 14.

15 F 14 [sic] Mistake for F 15.

16 (line 1) **Dumbarton** NW of Glasgow (see map 3).

17 (line 6) **came up** from Largs.

19 (line 1) **put back** on 17th (*Notabilia*).

(3) **most** 'almost' (dialectal).

Hamilton SE of Glasgow (see map 4).

(5) **lamps were burning . . .** Luke 12.35 "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning."

21 **fast day** Proclaimed by the local church.

it the town.

22 **still hanging about me** i.e. his poor health is still bothering him.

23 **Kilmarnock** SW of Glasgow (see map 4).

28 (line 3) "**Seek ye first . . .**" Matthew 6.33

(4) **one of the Miss Jacksons** Probably a niece of Robert Jackson (1).

29 (line 2) **Bill** 'promissory note'.

returned on him i.e. was not honoured.

OCTOBER

02 (line 1) **battle on the Alma** In September 1854, the British and French armies advanced towards Sebastopol from the north. On the 20th there was a major battle at the river Alma, in which the British lost 2,000 men, the Russians 9,000. In *Notabilia* George gives the date as September 25, and says that the allies lost about 3,000 men.

Notes

- (4) **Russia's [sic]** Mistake for *Russias* (e.g. West, East, White, Great, Siberian).
(5) **Swords . . .** Biblical, e.g. *Isaiah* 2.4 "and they shall beat their swords into plowshares".
- 03 Geo** George Jackson, now 14.
04 tis i.e. his poor health is.
- 06** (line 2) **Country ground** Probably Dean Castle Country park, still a major tourist attraction.
(5) **scence [sic]** Mistake for *scene*. (Same mistake Feb. 28.)
- 09** (line 1) **last week** on October 4 (*Notabilia*).
(5) **terrible fire** on the 7th (*Notabilia*).
- 11 pretty badly** sc. I have suffered pretty badly.
13 (line 3) **sank** on September 26 (*Notabilia*).
- 14 S 16. [sic]** Mistake for *S 14*.
15 (line 1) **S 17. [sic]** Mistake for *S 15*.
(14) **that text** *Matthew* 6.33.
- 16** (line 1) **R. Logan** Probably Robert Logan (2), now 30.
17 (line 2) **Geo & Robt** George Jackson (14) and brother Robert (12).
18 M<r> Logan Robert Logan (1).
- 20** (line 2) **down** sc. I went down to Sandyford.
(3) **Miss b Jackson** Probably a niece of Mr Jackson (perhaps the Miss Jackson whom George escorted home on September 28).
- 22** (line 2) **Meditatory** 'meditation'. A strange word, not in the O.E.D.
that 'so that'.
as did Jacob *Genesis* 32.24-30.
(3) **3-1-3** ch. 3, verses 1-3.
(5) **mid. Clause** "Know ye not your own selves?"
(9) **proseliteze [sic]** Mistake for *proselytize*.
(12) **David** i.e. take for example King David.
"against thee" *Psalms* 51.4 "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight."

CASH BOOK AND NOTABILIA

George wrote *Cash Book* and *Notabilia* at the back of the diary, turning the book so that the back cover opened to the left. The inside back cover and the next 3 pages are blank, the *Cash Book* occupies the next 4 pages, 4 blank pages follow, *Notabilia* occupies 2 pages, and the page after that is the last page of the diary proper.

CASH BOOK

a) Expenses

George's arithmetic is almost perfect. The only mistake is the total for March 25, which should be 6½^d, not 7½^d.

JAN. 01 Doorkeeper At D. More's Sabbath school?

15 G.P. Soles Presumably extra soles which prolonged the life of shoes. I cannot explain *G.P.*

CJ & LH *Christian Journal* and *Leisure Hour*.

FEB. 13 H. Cut Haircut.

Seat In the Duke Street U.P. church.

Notes

14 NBS North Britons Society.

28 M Mother.

MARCH 04 Coll Collection.

Bath The vapour bath he had on the 6th.

07 Bus to and from Partick.

13 Case LH A case in which to keep copies of *Leisure Hour*. He pays for binding on May 31.

21 Hogg The journal *Hogg's Weekly Instructor*.

APRIL 01 G. Greenock.

02 2^d Coll 2^d April 2 Collection 2^d.

Magt Sayers George's 13-year-old cousin.

R Rothesay.

13 Lecture Probably the talk given by Mr White on the evening of the 9th.

14 Books Perhaps stationery.

26 Bus from Sandyford.

MAY 17 These payments are mentioned in the diary on May 18.

b) Income

Again there is only one mistake in the arithmetic. On March 15, second line, the total should be £1/18/-, not £1/17/6.

JAN. 02 M.T. Margaret Tennent, George's cousin. Probably repayment of a loan.

MARCH 11 form [sic] Gilbert from Gilbert. This and the other payments by his brothers and father are probably also loan repayments.

NOTABILIA

TITLE Notabilia [sic] Mistake for *Notabilia*.

JAN. 03 Ship "Tayleur" The date is wrong. The ship was wrecked on January 21. Reported in the diary on the 24th.

31 Parliament Met This was the first sitting of Parliament since 20/08/1853.

FEB. 05 Uncle Jackson Diary says he was confined to bed on the 6th.

MARCH 01 Letter Diary says it was received on Feb. 28.

18 Dugald Mains Diary says he died on the 19th.

27 War Reported in the diary on the 30th.

APRIL 12 S.S. Glasgow Diary says she was damaged on the 11th.

MAY 01 City of Glasgow Reported in the diary on May 15.

Odessa The attack was on April 22. Reported in the diary on May 16.

JUNE 30 John Sutherland The month is wrong. He died on July 30.

AUG. Bomersand [sic] Mistake for *Bomarsund* (same mistake in diary). The island was taken on August 16; reported in the diary on August 21.

Mrs. W Camerons Brother Mentioned in the diary on May 20 ("lost at sea") and September 1 ("death by drowning"). *Denerara* is probably a rare variant spelling of *Demerara*, a town (now Georgetown) and region in British Guiana.

SEP. 11 came from Largs He went there on the 9th.

17 S.S. "Petrel" Reported in the diary on the 19th.

25 Battle of Alma Reported in the diary on October 2.

30 at Rothesay He returned to Glasgow on October 2.

OCT. 07 Fire Reported in the diary on the 9th.

Notes

D. Robertson The only Robertson mentioned in the diary is the preacher Dr Robertson. Is *D.* perhaps a mistake for *Dr*?

SEP. 26 S.S. Artic [sic] Mistake for *S.S. Arctic* (same mistake in diary). The ship sank on September 27; reported in the diary on October 13 (hence the wrong position of George's entry here).

OCT. Arch^d McLellan Unknown.



New Bridge, designed by Thomas Telford, and completed in 1833.
(Steel engraving, not later than 1866.)

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- Wortaburn, Mr. [The surname is probably a mistake for *Waterburn*.] Gives talk on prophecy. 55
- Wylie, Mr. Speaks at meeting of Young Men's Society. 59