

The History of Antony and Dorothea Gibbs & of the early years of Antony Gibbs and Sons

By John Arthur Gibbs - 1922

CHAPTER XI 1808-12 (Part 2) LONDON AND SUBURBS

We may now turn back to the family life. Among the first old friends to call on Dorothea after her move to 34 Great Russell Street, London, in October 1808 were the Bedford Square party (Sir Vicary and Lady Gibbs, Marianne and Helen Fraser), Major and Maria Pilkington, Dorothea's brother-in-law H. T. Ward, Sarah (Mrs. William) Hucks of Dulwich with her niece Maria (Mrs. John) Warner and the children of the last named all cousins to Dorothea. When, in January 1809, the family removed to Denmark Hill, and still more so when they moved to Dulwich Common at the end of May 1810, they came to be quite close to Mrs. William Hucks and the Warners, and at both places they were between Sir Vicary's house on Hayes Common and his house in Russell Square (to which he moved from Bedford Square in 1809), so that he or some of his party on their frequent drives to or from London could often visit them. Another cousin, William Harding, brother of Mrs. Warner, also lived in Dulwich. The mental state of Robert Hucks of Aldenham and Great Russell Street, London, no doubt prevented any intercourse with him, but it will be seen below that before long acquaintance was made with his niece Anne Noyes and afterwards with her sister Sarah.

Whether in London or the suburbs the family were in touch with many old friends who lived in or visited London. John and Mrs. Merivale of Barton Place were often in London, and their son John Herman Merivale 5 was now living there as a young barrister. Antony's old Lisbon friends Charles Lyne, and some of the Stephens family were there: also Mrs. Edwards and her daughter, the former the sister of Susan (Mrs. William) Gibbs of Topsham. In December 1808 "Mr. Jackson called," probably Francis Jackson who has been referred to several times before. He is again mentioned in June 1809, which was just before he was made our minister to Washington, whence he was to return on the outbreak of the American war in 1812 in such ill-health that he died in 1814. Anthony Merry, another old friend of their Madrid days, came to see them in November 1812.

Several young men living in London were frequent callers and often came to dinner and sometimes for a night, especially Robert Remmett, the doctor's son (from October 1808), who was now a barrister-at-law; José (Pepe) Maria Boom (from April 1809), son of a Cadiz friend, who was a clerk in A. Gibbs & Sons (later on he became a partner in the Cadiz House); William Mardon (1810-11), Antony's former apprentice; and John Ley Gibbs (from June 1809), the 2nd son of Captain William Gibbs of Topsham, who was from 1808 to 1816 a clerk in the merchant

firm of Thomson Hankey & Co. Lewis Kelly, Matilda (Mrs. John) Hucks' nephew, spent some weeks at Antony's in December 1812.

Antony and Dorothea were always very hospitable. During 1809, 1810 and 1811 they had staying with them at different times, some of them more than once, the Banfills of Exwick, Sibella Gibbs of Exeter, George Gibbs (sen.) of Bristol, and his daughter Joanna, Dr. Remmett of Plymouth, the Edmund Grangers of Exeter, Fanny, daughter of John Merivale of Barton Place (afterwards Mrs. Mallett), Susan (Mrs. William) Gibbs of Topsham, and Helen Fraser. Some of these visits lasted for 2 or 3 months.

The move to London brought the family into much closer touch with the Crawleys of Stowe-nine-Churches and Heyford. During January and February 1810 Antony's sister Mary and her husband the Rev. Charles Crawley with their two sons Charles, and George Abraham, and three of their 6 (then living) daughters were staying part of the time at Antony's, part at Sir Vicary's at Hayes, and there was much coming and going between the two houses. Sir Thomas Crawley Boevey of Flaxley Abbey, and his son the Rev. John Lloyd Crawley, rector of Heyford near Stowe, who had married in 1806 his 1st cousin, the Rev. Charles' daughter Anne (the only daughter so far who was married), were visiting in London at the same time. Early in 1811 two other of the daughters, Mary and Caroline Crawley, were three months at Antony's, and their mother part of the time. Caroline Crawley's diary records that on 4 May 1811 Henry Gibbs and their aunt Mrs. Banfill escorted them in the coach from Antony's at Dulwich to the Bull and Mouth Inn, London, where at 7 a.m. they took the Northampton coach for Stowe in company with a friend. In November 1811 some of the family were again there. J. Lloyd Crawley, his wife, and children, were staying there in January 1812.

Dorothea sometimes had the use of Lady Gibbs' carriage. Henry Townley Ward completely atoned for his coolness to her at the time of his wife's death by many attentions. He had since then immersed himself in his business, but Dorothea's advent to London stimulated him again to other interests. He "set up his carriage" again, chiefly for her benefit. In August 1809 she and all her family went to Windsor for a night and dined at his country house The Willows.

Ward distributed the estate of Dorothea's mother Eleanor Hucks in September 1809 as executor. There were not only her legacies to Dorothea and the children, viz. £500 to Dorothea for her life and afterwards for her children, £100 to Joseph Gibbs, and £400 between Henry and Harriett, but also £200 being a share of certain stock which had belonged to her father William Hucks and to her brother Joseph Hucks. Further Ward made over to Dorothea, as presents from himself, his late wife's share in the same stock which was £195, and the legacy from Eleanor Hucks to himself which after certain deductions came to £450. All this money (about £1,850) was placed on deposit at 5 per cent. interest with Ward, the £500 on Dorothea's account, the rest apportioned among the children.

Ward had also previously, when he told Dorothea of his intentions regarding his own legacy from her mother, offered to contribute £50 a year for her son Joseph's education. This she said she would not allow, and it is not recorded whether he afterwards overcame her reluctance to receive it.

Ward died in February 1810, aged 67. He was buried at Aldenham with his wife. The parish register records of both that they were "buried in linen." His will, dated 19 October 1808, was remarkable alike for the explanations which he gave in it of his motives as for the number of its

codicils of which there were ten. He described himself as of Covent Garden; The Willows, Berks; and Bullocks Hatch, Berks. He left all his landed property in Lancashire, Berks, Kent, Middlesex, Bucks, and Herts, and in Drogheda, Ireland, to his great friend Patrick Crawford Bruce of Fitzroy Square [who was also of Taplow Lodge], whom he made his sole executor and residuary legatee, subject to the payment of legacies totalling £20,700. Among these his bequests to Mrs. Courant, and Miss Caldwell, have been already quoted. In the 4th codicil (16 May 1809) he cancelled a bequest which he had made to Matilda, wife of John Hucks, "the friend of my late wife," of the £1,200 which he advanced [in 1801] to John Hucks "to enable him to occupy a farm near Bideford Foxdown, and left it instead to be called in for Dorothea's benefit during her life, and afterwards to be distributed among her children as she might direct. The codicil went on to explain that he had done this for the same reason as he had for making her the presents referred to above, namely "in consideration of her straitened circumstances and of the very small provision made for her by her Mother, and that he was convinced that had Mrs. Hucks known the value of her estate she would in justice to Dorothea and her family have made a much larger provision for them, more especially as that already made was in no ways adequate to the fortune devised to John who was without children while Dorothea had a numerous family in a great measure unprovided for save for a sum of £1,400 which at the request of his late wife he [by a bond entered into in 1797] engaged his executors should pay."

By the 6th codicil, dated 29 September 1809, he left Dorothea further £1,500 on the same terms. By the 7th of the same date, £250 to Matilda Hucks "my dear friend." By the 10th, dated 12 February 1810, he left Dorothea £5,000 more on the same terms as his other legacies to her.

Dorothea, by a deed executed by her and her son Henry, in January 1811, exonerated John Hucks from payment of the £1,200, for which she probably did not receive much thanks as he had contended that he owed nothing to Ward. Leaving this sum out of account, she and her children had received from Ward, in his lifetime and by his will, and from her mother by her will, not far short of £10,000.

On Henry's arrival home from Spain in March 1810 his uncle George Gibbs wrote to him: "What a happy change you find in your Father's situation since you left the country. From a state of anxiety and uncertainty he has been providentially raised to one of comparative ease and independence." Even before Ward's death Henry himself had written home and as early as May 1809: "We have every prospect I think of being able to live comfortably in future without sighing every time we spend a guinea," and, though, as we shall see, bad times in business were to come again, the profits of the firm up to 1810 fully justified for the moment Henry's forecast, and, with Ward's benefactions, George Gibbs' letter.

But though he had been so successful in his business, Antony's attitude was doubtless still in accord with his fixed scheme for his own life as reasserted in the following extract from one of his letters to Sir Vicary of October 1808. "I have during many years sought diligently for the faults of my children and made considerable sacrifices in the endeavour to remove them - but in whatever part of their success I may live to partake I cannot nor do I ever wish to look to any change in my own situation for I am as steady as ever in my own determination not to incur the expense of any sort of luxury for myself till old accounts are all paid of which you see how very little chance there is for my time." No sooner had his old Spanish affairs been put on a sound basis than he wrote to Sir Vicary, in January 1809, that he thought it right again "to assist in the

payment of the most sacred of my old debts," the expenses of his sisters Sibella and Catherine." You know I made an ineffectual attempt before, but my ground is better now, and in any case it will show you that my wishes have never varied, and you will still be the staff on which the family has to depend: God knows what they would have done without you." Sir Vicary would not allow it, and Antony wrote: "Whatever you approve will be thankfully taken by me till my fortune improves." There is no further reference in the letters preserved to this matter of payment to the sisters. We have already seen reason to believe that Antony paid off some of his debts of honour out of his first profits from A. Gibbs & Sons.

The change of house from Denmark Hill to Dulwich Common in May 1810 gave the family more garden and a small farm, and Henry and William could each keep a horse there. (The rent of the house was only £68 a year.) Antony desired the leisure from close attendance at the office, which his illness in 1809 from overwork showed that he needed. Henry's return from Spain gave him the opportunity, and perhaps the change of house, affording him as it did the occupation of a little farming of which he was so fond, was arranged with that object. He invested about £250 in the stock which he kept in his few fields. Perhaps too it had social advantages for the children. Dorothea's diary speaks of taking them to balls in Dulwich. Plays in London and concerts given by Lady Gibbs at Russell Square were other amusements sometimes indulged in.

Mary Elizabeth Catherine Gibbs, the only child of Abraham Gibbs of Palermo, came to stay with Antony's family in May 1810. Mary was then 16 years old. Her mother, youngest of the three daughters of Sir James Douglas, British Consul general in Naples, Knight, had died in 1797. In November 1803 Lord Nelson had offered Abraham, who managed his Sicilian estates, to send her home in a battleship for her education, and presumably the offer was accepted: anyhow she came to England that year. Henry saw her in Spain on her way. She was at Bristol, or rather no doubt with her aunt, Elizabeth Richards, at Abbots Leigh nearby, in 1806 and 1807. Antony's family had all become acquainted with her in London in 1800. There she had been much under the direction of Lady Hamilton, and it was to remove her from that influence that Antony and Dorothea offered to take her into their own family and attend to her education. While she was with them Antony, by consulting lawyers and by a clever letter to Sir Richard Neave, who was trustee under the will of Sir James Douglas, was able to effect a settlement, which Abraham had been unable to bring about, with regard to a legacy due to Mary and to her aunt Mrs. Harris. Mary became a great favourite with Antony's family and stayed with them a whole year. The Crawleys of Stowe when visiting them got to know her too. After the year she returned to the Richards', who had meanwhile gone to live at Ilfracombe on James Richards' retirement from George Gibbs' Bristol House in 1808. Mrs. Richards was not an easy person to live with, as we saw in 1792, and Mary did not enjoy her company, but she was somewhat insistent of her rights, and doubtless Abraham did not think it becoming to impose too much on the kindness of Antony and Dorothea. In 1811 Mrs. Richards tried to get Mary to marry a Mr. Lee, but her father wrote to support her in refusing him, and meanwhile she went to stay in January 1812 with her uncle Captain William Gibbs at Topsham. While there she became betrothed to a Mr. Robert Corrington of Ide, Devon, but the engagement was broken off, and later in the year Captain William Gibbs took her out to Palermo, where she rejoined her father who had asked for her return. Her cousin William Henry Gibbs (eldest son of Captain William) was at that time living

with Abraham, having joined his business in 1808, and he too made a proposal of marriage to her without success. In 1815, however, she married in Palermo Colonel Charles Ashe a' Court.

From the time when Antony's family moved to London in 1808 there seems to have been no going away for visits on the part of any of them till 1810, except to Sir Vicary's at Hayes.

Antony's son William, who "had not had 5 hours amusement" the whole of 1809, went in April 1810 to stay with his relations in Bristol. While he was there Sir Vicary came on an official visit as Recorder of Bristol, and there were grave fears of riots, but nothing worse happened than that one of the glasses of the Lord Mayor's carriage was broken as Sir Vicary was getting out of it. In June 1810 Henry and William paid a visit to Charles Crawley jun. at Oxford, where he was at College (University College). From July to September Dorothea, with her daughters and Joseph, stayed with the Crawleys at Stowe and Heyford, Antony, Henry, and William going there also successively at different times. While they were there Mrs. William Hucks of Dulwich died, a loss keenly felt by Dorothea. In November Antony and Henry visited George Gibbs (jun.) at Stapleton. In January 1811 William went again to Stowe, and Henry to his uncle George Gibbs at Redland, who in the previous December had been staying at Antony's at Dulwich. In May 1811 Antony, Dorothea, and her daughters went to Cheltenham for a month to enable Dorothea to take the baths there. They then spent a month between George Gibbs' and his son's houses. George Gibbs jun. wrote after they left: "I never saw my [step] mother so kind and hospitable to any of my father's family and she really appeared to take much pleasure in their society." A letter from her to William of 9 July bears out her enjoyment of them and in it she speaks of Joseph as "without exception the sweetest fellow I ever saw." After Bristol they went in July to visit their old friends and haunts in Exeter, for the first time, so far as is recorded, since they went to London. Branscombe, who, as has been mentioned, had come from Spain in the latter half of 1810, was with them part of the time there. They stayed with the Banfills at Exwick House, and then with Sibella Gibbs, who, in March 1811, had changed from her former house on St. David's Hill (Exeter) to another on the same hill.

Catherine Gibbs, who for a long time had associated very little with the family, came to see them there. They saw and were entertained by many old friends, amongst them Sir Stafford Northcote at Pynes, and the Cresswells at Newcourt. After Exeter they went to stay with Susan Gibbs at Topsham, and then to Exmouth.

While they were at Exwick Antony's former faithful apprentice William Mardon (Banfill's nephew) died (12 July) in his mother's house at Newton Abbott. Antony's son William attended his funeral. A brother of Mardon is spoken of at the time, probably Samuel Banfill Mardon, who was afterwards a partner in A. Gibbs & Sons' S. American Houses.

From Exeter Antony returned home in August with William and Joseph. He had been absent, he said, from his office the greater part of 6 or 8 months, but he had returned occasionally to allow one or other of his sons to be away. The Peninsular war and the long continued siege of Cadiz had reduced A. Gibbs & Sons' current business to small dimensions, so that it was the more easy for him to absent himself from the City.

The rest of the party, who had been joined by Henry after he had entertained George Gibbs (sen.) and Charles Crawley (jun.) at Dulwich, paid a visit (4 September) to Dr. Remmett at Plymouth, which was cut short by Dr. Remmett having to go to Exwick to attend Samuel Banfill who had been nearly killed by being thrown from his horse.

Dorothea, with Henry, Harriett, and Anne, started from Plymouth on 10 September on a journey to visit John Hucks at Foxdown, which is half-way between Clovelly and Bideford and about a mile from the coast. They went in a 4-oared boat up the Tamar 20 miles to the weir, where navigation ceased, Robert Remmett (jun.) accompanying them thus far. Thence Henry rode, while the rest drove, through Lidford and Okehampton to Torrington. Henry tried a short cut for himself thence, but the roads were so bad that he could not get beyond Sheepwash that day and his horse had to have a quart of beer to carry him even so far, and he had to leave the remaining 14 miles till the next day. The rest of the party slept at Torrington, and John and Matilda Hucks rode to meet them there, returning again next day as far as Buckland to escort them to Foxdown. William went from London to join them there for a week, travelling in "heavy coaches" to avoid the expense of the mails. After another visit to Exeter Dorothea went home to Dulwich and arrived there on 16 October, after sleeping on the way at Ilminster and Overton. Henry, who had whooping cough, remained at Exeter for a time and then paid a visit to Salisbury before returning to London.

Robert Remmett proposed to his cousin Harriett Gibbs in 1809. He had also it seems made love to Mary the 2nd daughter of the Rev. Charles Crawley. There is a letter to him from Antony (2-9 December) assuring him that he had no chance with his daughter and pointing out that the means of subsistence were lacking on both sides. At the same time Antony took occasion to give him a long lecture expressed in the most kindly way on the imperious manner in which he treated domestic servants.

Salvina, the wife of George Gibbs (jun.), died in November 1809, in the house of Dr. Lovell in Berkeley Square, London; a matter of great grief to all the family. His sister Joanna, writing on this subject to her cousin Henry in March 1810, declared that she reckoned among the highest blessings which she enjoyed was "the privilege of being so nearly connected with a character so exalted as my dear brother," who had borne "his very severe affliction with a pious resignation that could not be exceeded, and a religious fortitude rarely equalled." A letter from George to William Gibbs of January 1810 fully bears this out.

George Gibbs (jun.), who had gone to stay with his aunt Sibella in Exeter while Dorothea and her daughters were there in 1811, proposed to Harriett in August 1811, and there are many letters on the subject written by Antony from London or Dulwich to his wife and to his brother George. George had been too precipitate, and Harriett at this time would have none of it. Much as she liked George, the thought of leaving her family had not yet come into her ideas for her life. Her parents favoured the match, and Antony wrote to his brother: "If I had a daughter with £100,000 I should give her to him in preference to any young man I know"; he saw in George "as near perfection as can be found in a character formed." Her parents determined at once not to press her in any way. Antony even suggested to Dorothea that they should show her all their correspondence about it so that she should feel that nothing was concealed from her. He displayed the youthfulness of his own mind in writing to his wife: "I could talk to any of my children by the hour of any virtuous attachment they might form and enter with them in as interested and lively a way as youth could inspire into whatever honest and delightful contrivances might be necessary on the score of circumstances to the completion of their wishes," but the time had not come to talk to Harriett in this way. He did however write her (15 September) in a general way about her present feeling of reluctance ever to leave her family:

Your mother and I can speak with more than usual strength because we have both keenly felt the force of that separation and still have always approved of it. We found that instead of either of our parents losing a child each got an additional one to whom all were equally attached, so it would be with you and your parents' family which is so tenderly attached to you, but, you little monkey, do you think your brothers and sisters will be such numsculls as yourself and that the family will always remain as it is now? Our greatest joy will be to see as many of you happily settled as possible. I have thought it well, my dear girl, to explain to you the truth of this, and I wish you to say nothing to me now about it.

George Gibbs (sen.) was almost angry with his son for his untimely proposal, but there are also letters from George himself to William (27 September) and to his aunt Sibella (October and November) in which he shows his reasons for proposing when he did and in which his high views of marriage are expressed. George's deeply thoughtful and religious mind, coupled with some weakness of physical constitution, tended to give him at least the semblance of a rather melancholy disposition. Harriett's lively nature may have been repelled by this and she may also have been intuitively aware, as his letters to others seem to disclose, that time had not yet sufficiently restored him after the deep affliction of his wife's death.

His cousins Henry and William always had the greatest affection and respect for him and the intimacy between them is well shown in his letters to them. In some of his letters to Henry he speaks of the enjoyment to both of them of their friendship for one another

which can only be interrupted by those occasional anxieties which must sometimes be excited when the blessing of health is sparingly bestowed. This my dear friend is certainly the case with us and ought to direct us to other enjoyments than those which depend on the *corpore sano*,

for Henry like him was from his boyhood somewhat prone to ill-health.

It was after the cousins had had many serious talks together in Bristol that on William Mardon's death Henry wrote to his father:

I have always considered religion in a very serious light but have never looked to it so much as lately as the only source of real happiness. I may say that I have found the greatest comfort from it and from the reflections to which it gives rise.

To which Antony replied:

I am much pleased at your having spoken to me on the most important of all subjects. I should more often dwell with you upon it if I did not clearly perceive that your religious instruction implanted early in your mind by the best of mothers and myself has taken root as we wished.

He went on to speak of his own convictions as to what are the essentials of religious life and of the necessity of cheerfulness under all circumstances.

Early in the year (1811) Dorothea had for the first time met her cousin Miss Anne Noyes, then apparently living at Croydon. A correspondence began between them in October founded on their mutual friendship with the late Mrs. William Hucks of Dulwich and with the Warner family. She paid a 10 days' visit to Antony's at Dulwich in April 1812. Some reference is made in the letters of 1811 to the recently contracted mental affliction of Anne's sister Sarah Noyes (who

was at that time living at Camden Town), from which she never entirely recovered. However by 1818 she was sufficiently normal again for Anne Noyes to introduce Dorothea to her.

The Daubeny family enter upon the scene for the first time in 1810. Dorothea's diary mentions meeting "Major and Mrs. Daubeny" at Warwick on a trip which she made there from Stowe in August. On 16 October "Mr. Daubeny dined" at Antony's house. On 24 December the diary records the engagement of Elizabeth, 4th daughter of the Rev. Charles Crawley, to the Rev. George William Daubeny. They were married 24 September 1811.

During his time of leisure Antony had taken a great interest in the bullion question, which was so much exciting public attention at that time, and in March 1811 he published, under the name of "A Merchant," a pamphlet called *An Appeal to Common Sense on the Bullion Question* (69 pages), criticising part of a pamphlet by William Huskisson issued in 1810 on the report of 8 June 1810 of the Bullion Committee appointed by Parliament. It was written and printed without consultation with his brothers or sons. Of his brothers, Sir Vicary was pleased with it, though George thought its tone not quite serious enough for the subject. There is also in existence an undated MS. paper by Antony headed "Remarks on the late publication of Mr. [William] Spence entitled *Britain independent of Commerce*." The latter was published in 1807. Samuel Banfill also entered into the controversy and published a pamphlet, dated 1 April 1811, called *A Letter to Davies Giddy Esq. M.P.* in answer to Giddy's Plain Statement on the Bullion Question. Banfill, in 1792, wrote "a very clever pamphlet on the affairs of the East India Co."

Henry, who had not yet got over his illness, was ordered to spend the following spring in the West, so, after a visit to his relatives at Bristol, he went again to Exeter in March 1812 to stay with his aunt Sibella Gibbs, and at the end of the month, with her and George Gibbs (jun.), to Torquay, where the Banfills also spent some weeks with them. In the middle of May he and his aunt returned to Exeter, where also were staying his uncle John Hucks (who while Henry was at Torquay had ridden all the 60 miles from Foxdown to spend two days with him there), and Miss Harriett Caldwell, Eleanor Ward's former friend, who was often staying with John and Matilda Hucks at Foxdown. From Exeter on one occasion the Merivales of Barton Place sent a "sprightly" to fetch him to dine with them. Another day he and John Hucks rode

to Bradfords Peak [the parish of his old home at Cowley Cottage] and when I got to the porch of the churchyard the most natural thing would have been to have set my mother down on the leaping stock from the pillion behind me and have taken Captain [his horse] into the Farmyard opposite to stay there till after church.

After another visit to Bristol Henry was back in London in the middle of June 1812.

While Henry was away, in May 1812 the family gave up their house on Dulwich Common "owing to the failure of the owner," with intention at first to find another in a few months in the same neighbourhood. Antony retained his small farm there for some little time longer.

Antony's youngest son Joseph was at this time, and since at least January 1811, at the Rev. Robert Bree's school at Camberwell, but in 1813 he was moved to Mr. Phillips' school at Turnham Green (where his education cost £100 a year).

Before the family gave up the Dulwich House, William, who had had to live at the office during times of press of work, had taken lodgings, in April 1812, at 36 Compton Street, Bloomsbury, not far from Russell Square, with his cousin John Ley Gibbs, and Henry joined them there when he returned from the West. Their father while engaged in the disposal of his

household goods was sometimes with Mr. and Mrs. Bowles of Dulwich who were great friends of the family, but afterwards he also went to the Compton Street lodgings. Living there he saw much of Sir Vicary and Lady Gibbs and the Fraser family.

Sir Vicary was so greatly overcome owing to the murder on 1 May 1812 of his friend the Rt. Honble. Spencer Perceval, the premier, by John Bellingham, that he gave up his Attorney Generalship, his seat in Parliament, and his private business, and accepted (29 May) a puisne judgeship in the Court of Common Pleas, being made a serjeant at law on the same date. He would still, so he told Antony, have £7,000 a year, and would keep on both his houses. The prosecution of the murderer fell to be conducted by Sir Vicary as Attorney-General. The trial of the man took place at the Old Bailey and he was hanged at Newgate on 18 May.

Referring to his brother's resignation, "I have no doubt," wrote Antony to Dorothea, "but that the most pleasant days of his life are still to come. No man ever established a fairer claim to the best happiness this world can give than he has done nor ever ran the race as far as he has gone with a better prospect of future reward." And again in September: "It is a pleasure to see my brother. I am sure it may be said that for many years his friends have had very little enjoyment of his company and he very little enjoyment of himself. You would perhaps like him as much as you did before he made himself such a slave to business," and, he added modestly, "I don't think that he has much taste for my company but I certainly have a great taste for his. This is not at all extraordinary when one considers what his attainments are and what are mine."

Sir Vicary became Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer on 8 November 1813, a Privy Councillor on the 30th of the same month, and Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas on 24 February 1814.

It was decided that Dorothea and her daughters should take advantage of the break up of their home to make another long stay in the country, and, as her health was far from good, should spend some part of the time at Leamington for a course of the waters, Antony and his 3 sons, one or other of them, paying her visits whenever they could. After spending a night at Sir Vicary's in London, William conveyed them to the Charles Crawleys' at Stowe on 30 May 1812, starting at 5 a.m. and arriving at 4 p.m. They remained there till 10 July and then went to the Lloyd Crawleys' at Heyford close by till 28 August. Dorothea's diary records, on 6 July: "we all went to Guilsborough [to Rev. Thomas Sikes', the vicar] and slept there," and the next day, "Mr. and Mrs. Crawley Mr. Gibbs [Antony] and myself left Guilsbro', drank tea with Judge Gibbs at Northampton, and slept at the Inn." Sir Vicary was sitting as Judge at the Assizes there for the first time. On the following day they went back to Stowe. They were at Leamington from 28 August to 9 October, some of the Crawleys of Stowe being with them part of the time, and they then went back to Stowe till 16 October. On that date, till 3 November, they went to Sir Vicary's house 35 Russell Square, which he had lent them in order that they might look for a new house for themselves, but Sir Vicary or one or other of his party came occasionally from Hayes for a night or two. On 3 November Dorothea and her daughters, sleeping a night on the way at Sir Vicary's at Hayes, went to Tunbridge Wells, where Antony and George Gibbs (jun.) joined them.

After all the family had decided to make London their home in future, and in November 1812 Antony took at £100 a year the remaining 6 years of a lease of 2 Powis Place, Gt. Ormonde Street, and bought about £550 worth of the furniture which was in it. Dorothea came up from Tunbridge Wells on 16 November and they went into occupation that day. The Compton St.

lodgings (which were nearby) were given up, and with them a plan which had been formed for George Abraham Crawley, the 2nd son of the Stowe family, who, like his brother Charles, had been at school at Rugby, and who was just going to join the firm of Jones and Green, Solicitors, to live with Henry, William, and John Ley Gibbs there. The Powis Place house was the home of Antony and Dorothea for the remainder of their lives. Why they decided to live in London is not stated, but since Henry and William were going to Spain shortly, as will appear below, there can be little doubt but that the necessity for Antony to live near his office instead of at Dulwich was the reason. We hear of Antony even from Powis Place sometimes going to his office before breakfast to take that meal there and spend all day at work.