

# DIARY OF GEORGE HENRY GIBBS (1785 - 1842)

The diary covers the years 1802 - 1840 but there are many years missing

- pp. 1 - 4                    1802   5th - 29th September.  
George Henry, aged 17, travelled from Exeter to Cadiz, through France, with his father Antony Gibbs.
- pp. 5 - 10                    1825. 3rd June - 1st July. Visiting the West Country with his wife Caroline and sons Harry (Henry Hucks) aged 5 and Antony aged 2, to see family and friends and do some sightseeing.
- pp. 11 - 17                    1827. 1st - 8th May  
Travelling to Paris with Caroline.
- pp. 18 - 25                    1827. 6th July - 5th Nov.  
Visiting the West Country with his family.  
Malvern - Ross - Chepstow - Monmouth - Tintern - Bristol - Bridgewater - Porlock - Lynmouth - Okehampton - Tavistock - Exeter - Teignmouth.
- pp. 26 - 113                    1836 - 1840. The diary records the birth of the Great Western Railway, with regular comments about family affairs and the business of Antony Gibbs & Sons.  
  
This section was published in 1971 under the title "The Birth of the Great Western Railway. Extracts from the Diary and Correspondence of George Henry Gibbs", edited by Jack Simons. Pub. by Adams & Dart, Bath. It did not include the comments about family and business affairs.
- Then follows an Index in Henry Hucks handwriting (now attached at the end of the typed pages) and some blank pages.
- pp. 114 - 115                    Bound in upside-down and entitled "Trees, General and Observations".
- pp. 116 - 130                    1840. 22nd June - 1st Sept.  
Journey to Carlsbad and Marienbad with Caroline and the children.

# PRIVATE JOURNALS - GEORGE HENRY GIBBS

## Journal from Exeter to Cadiz through France 1802

Start from Exeter on Sunday ye **5th September** & dined at Honiton from whence we proceeded with heavy rain for Axminster being on ye whole from Exeter - 23 miles. Left Axminster without alighting & arrived at Bridport about nightfall after a stage of 12 miles where we lighted our lamps, changed horses & again set off for Dorchester where we slept - 15 miles from Bridport. We recommenced our route next mor(ning) after a hearty breakfast of which my Father did not par(take?) but he made up for it at Blandford 16 miles from the place we last left -

From Blandford to Southampton we changed horses 3 times at Ringwood, Weelburn & a small house by the road side - these 3 last stages were by far the pleasantest we had met with especially for a few miles before we came to Ringwood being a beautiful open country interspersed here & there with Gentlemen's seats farm houses etc wch made me look forward with but little pleasure to the rugged mountain & barren soils we sd. have to pass over in both France & Spain -

Immediately on our arrival at Southampton we called on Mr. Charles Ward who gave us some disagreeable information respecting Duty on Carriage & other expenses on our arrival in France wch we did not before know - we at last made an agreement with the Captn to sail next day.

**Tuesday 7th** still at Southampton which we found a very neat place tho' very dear - shipped our carriage this morning - sailed at 5 in the afternoon after having with a great deal of trouble changed our English money for French -

**Wednesday the 8th** arrived in Havre de Grace wch we found a dismal dirty place, the houses very high & black & the manners & dress entirely changed tho' so near England. The women wear wooden shoes covered with fur - & large caps with frills at least 5 inches wide covering nearly their whole face, the mens dress is nearly the same as ours. The inside of their houses are dirtier than the outside & their whole appearance put me much in mind of the Spaniards -

**Thursday 9th** got up at half past 5 & went on board the Rose to fetch our money - disembarked the carriage & put it on board the Honfleur Packet Boat in wch we saild about 5 in the afternoon after having obtained a pasport by the kind endeavours of Mr. Homberg - We landed about 8 & went immediately to ye maison de Poste where we were soon joined by an Emigrant a fellow passenger of ours from Southampton -

We rose early next morning to disembark our carriage wch we found in a miserable condition from the shamefull usage it had receid on board the Packet - at nine o'clock we set off having made up our minds to meet with a great number of difficulties & we found that our expectations wd not be disappointed for hardly had we left the Inn 10 minutes when 2 of our horses (for we had 4) fell plump down with their drivers under them but the immense wooden boots they carry prevented their receiving any hurt. The Postillions soon remounted & we proceeded 12 miles as far as Pont Eveque over a much better road than we expected to find. They have established

turnpikes every Post where you pay 1/6 wch we did not at all grudge - from Pont Eveque we went 2 Posts to Liseux the roads still tolerable & lined all the way with stones & flints to improve them - The horses we met with were on the whole as good as those in England & some much better. Our next stage from Liseux was Snt Aubin 1 post & ½ - & from Snt Aubin to Maul which the Driver persuaded us was better than by Carson but we heartily repented having followed his advise for we found it a very uneven road through a narrow lane full of water & bogs - & to compleat the misfortunes of the day in a proper manner one of the horses was taken ill & fell down continually - in ye meantime we lost our way & were obliged to be directed by some people we met, some of whom told us to go a little way & then turn to the right & others to the left - and we by chance hitting on ye road we looked for arrived about 9 oclock at Lan [ ] 2 posts from Maul but our misfortunes were not yet ended for about half way to Falaise (2 posts) one of the main hind springs gave way.

**Saturday 11th** till the evening at Falaise busy at repairing the spring but we found too late that English springs will not do for French roads - we meant to reach Argentan that evening & we set off about half past 6 for that purpose but the spring again gave way & we were obliged to return & sleep at Falaise - another plan was proposed to us by putting a thick piece of wood under the spring to support it - which we followed & set off **Sunday the 12th** & arrived without farther accident at Alencon. ¾ posts through Argentan - Gnd Morte & Sees - at Alencon we found a tolerable good Inn tho' much dearer than we had yet been charged - **Monday 13** got up at 5 & set off directly meaning if possible to reach La Rue that night but we went even father than we expected for having arrived at La Rue just as the moon began to rise & the road being very good the thoughts of a good bed & supper tempted us to go on as far as Tours. The places we changed horses at are hardly worth mentioning being but small villages & some only 1 house.

They are as follows - La Hutte, Beaumont - La Baruche - le Mans this indeed is rather a large place but very old fashioned. We here had our wheels greased - the next stages were Ecommoy & Chateau de Loir - from here through La Rue as far as Tours the road is as fine as I ever saw it in England - it is bordered all the way with Poplar Chesnut Walnut & apples trees loaded with fruit - indeed the whole way from Honfleur we were astonished at seeing so many Orchards & at their giving us such a plenty of good fruit at the farms - Outside the road from La Rue to Tours were large vineyards & at Tours they gave us the first good grapes we had tasted - here we were again obliged to wait to have the Braces & wheels of our Carriage mended - in the morning we went out to see the town & bridge wch has 18 Arches & is very elegantly built - 6 Arches were formely washed away by the rapidity of the current wch they are now repairing - the river itself is of an immense width but it is always low in the summer. Our Inn (les trois Barbeau) is on its Banks commanding a full view of the Bridge & the oposite shore.

**Tuesday ye 14th** set out from Tours & arrived at Bourdeaux **17th**; the places we passed thro' are called as per book - The country is all the way very fine & the roads excellent - the quantity of Vineyards is surprising - the sight of such fine Grapes more than once made my mouth water - At Bourdeaux went in the evening to see the Theatre which I did not think so fine as the Lisbon

one - the house was full & the performers very much applauded - tho' in my life I never saw worse actors -

**Saturday** set off from Bourdeaux & found the roads as our landlord had told us very bad - heavy sands all the way which they call Les Lands - they extend nearly to Bayonne which we reached **Tuesday 21st** - we then met Mr. Sinclair an old Lisbon friend of my Fathers who told us that it was very dangerous for Englishmen to send letters to England on Politicks for that they were always opened at ye Post Office - we soon found out some Spanish London Muleteers with one of whom we agreed to take us to Madrid in ten days with 6 Mules for 53 Doblones - With him we set off **Wednesday 22** & dined at St. Juan de Luz - here begins as far as the frontiers one of the worst roads I ever saw - full of great stones nearly as high as the wheels almost to render it impassable - France is divided from Spain by a fordable river with the Pyrenees on each side - we went across in the Carriage & were directly accosted in Spanish by a Customhouse officer whom we were obliged to fee - We slept at Oyarzun that night where as well as all the way to Victoria the common People speak nothing but Basqueure which does not at all resemble Spanish or French - most of the People understand Spanish the same as in all the South of France where the(y) speak 2 or 3 different languages & French men of other parts of France can understand it no better than an English man who never saw a French book in his life. They write it but have neither Grammar or Dictionary to it.

**Thursday 23rd** set off early for Villa Real where we slept but we do not as when we travelled Post in France...: fastz till the evening but stop to dinner every day for 2 hours. From Villa Real **Friday Sepr 24th** to Victoria where we obliged to go to the Customhouse with the carriage on which we paid 23 Duckat to be restored on our return - here ends the Basqueuna & one of the most mountainous countries I ever passed through - we followed (all the way to Victoria) the source of the River which we crossed at the Frontier - it is a very winding one occasioned by the high mountains with which this part of the country abounds. **Saturday 25th** set off from Victoria early & dined at Quinta Olarte a single house by the road side before you come to Miranda through which we passed in the evening in our way to Pancorvo - Pancorvo (where we slept) is surrounded by mountains as is likewise the Road to it - as we arrived early we took a walk up one of the hills & found it uncommonly fresh & even cold tho' in the month of Sepr. - as in Sintra near Lisbon - the place itself is very shabby & poor - all the genteel People were assembled under an open poarch near the Inn - they consisted of a Frier - The Curate - Governor & Barber - I should think the pasturage round this place must be very favourable for sheep as we saw a large flock in every hill which they keep merely for their wool, **Sunday 26th** left Pancorvo very early having 11 leagues to finish 5 before & 5 after dinner. We dined at [-] where William was not very well - at Burgos he & my Father went to see the Cathedral after which we all went to bed & slept about 12 hours - at Burgos we turned out of the highway by which we saved a day - we found this cross road very bad - as the whole days journey was but 7 leagues we did not stop till we arrived at Lyrma where we slept & set off **Tuesday 28th** after breakfast for Aranda 8 leagues where we arrived early in the morning about 11 oclock - we passed ragged & ugly looking fellows each with a pr of Pistols in their sash mounted on very fine horses - they looked very sharply into the carriage as they passed but said nothing - the muletiers remarked them

before they came up to us & set off on a gallop which lasted till the bad road made us slacken our pace - they had not passed through the next village we came to which confirmed us in our opinion of their being Robbers - at Lyrma we were informed that at Aranda we should find a very good Inn but we were much disappointed - it was chiefly owing to Coaches loaded with passengers who arrived just as our supper was ready - it was very unfortunate for us as they had but just enough for 2 or 3 people - **Wednesday 29th** set off from Aranda for Borsequillais 7 leagues where we dressed our own dinner & proceeded in the evening 3 leagues.

**Visiting the West Country with his wife Caroline and sons Harry (Henry Hucks) aged 5 and Antony aged 2, to see family and friends and do some sightseeing.**

**1825 June 3rd** - Left London with Caroline Henry & Antony - Slept at Oxford 4th. arrived at Knole having stopped at Malmesbury on our way & gone over the Abbey a beautiful Saxon structure half destroyed by Cromwell & now converted into a Parish church. Found Ch, & Elvira at Knole

**8th** All went to Tintern except Caroline & me

**9th** Rode with Caroline to G & on our return found Lloyd & Anna ?

**10th** Went to see the 10th Hussars reviewed on Clifton Down

**11th** Went to Berkeley

**13th** Had a dreadful hot journey in the coach to Exeter & were amazed by an electioneering row on our arrival at the New London Inn. Got out of the window & proceeded in a chaise to Exwick.

**1825 June 14th** Staid at home & Mrs. Branscombe & Honor who came yesterday left us in the morning

**15th.** Staid at home. Miss Cole came

**16th.** Had a glass & went into Exeter where we called on Mrs. Grainger - walked round their garden (magnificent Lombardy Poplar) Spent an hour in the Cathedral & went up to the tower. Took our lunch with Mrs. Branscombe at Heavitree & returned to dinner at Exwick.

**17th.** Edward having arrived on the 15th with the horses, & the black appearing very uneasy & pointing exceedingly I took him in to Rogers the veterinary surgeon who pronounced him to have the [-] disease in the Cuspin bone of the foot, ordered him to have the coronet annointed twice a week with an ambrocatation. Returned by Alphinton & Cowick - Walked in the evening with Caroline & the children to Cleve which is now to let for £50 a year,

**18th.** Rode with Caroline beyond Exminster & back over Countess Wear Bridge to Northbrook Cottage where we took our luncheon with the Davys -

**19th,** Went to St. Thomas's Church in the mornng in a coach,

**20th,** Took a beautiful ride by Cowley (?) Cottage, Barton Place, Marypolehead (?), & by the new road to Stoke from whence passing by near Silverton we went round Sir Thos Ackland's place at Killerton & returned by the old Cullompton road through Exeter. We were sorry this

evening to lose Miss Cole as we had found her a very sensible, agreeable & friendly young woman (47)

**1825 June 21st** Walked into Exeter with Caroline & Henry & spent the day with Miss Cole - saw at Burt's a very ingenious clock made by a poor man who died in the workhouse here about 100 years since - Paid my third visit to the Cathedral, & went with Henry up the One Bell & Ten Bell Tower, through the Nave galleries & over the leads & roofing, with the whole of wch I was exceedingly pleased. This is a small Cathedral being only 408 feet long, 76 broad, 69 height to the vaulted roof but it is a very beautiful, Gothic structure. The foundation was laid in 1104 during Henry 1st reign, but Bishop Quivil in the 13th century during Edward the 1st reign appears to have built the edifice as it now stands. Walked back to Exwick in the evening & found Aunt Bett? in bed with a bad headache

**June 22nd** Mrs. Grainger called this morning before breakfast. She is very much alter'd having become crooked & toothless. Changes indeed of all sorts have been going on since I was here last, The streets & buildings have been much beautified & improved, but I cannot say as much for the inhabitants. I mean those who remain of its former inhabitants who are passing away & leaving their places to be occupied by new faces & new names in wch I have no interest - Took a beautiful ride with Caroline through Ide to Dunchidoc & Sir Lawrence Palk's private road & returned the same way very much pleased with the scenery.

**June 23rd** Rode today to Belmont & saw Mrs. & Miss Snow & Miss Cole Returned home through Exeter & by the Okehampton road through the lane to Cleave & Exeter.

**24th.** Rode today to Topsham & saw Captain Gibbs who appeared to be very low - Returned by Topsham bridge & met Mrs. Creswell - dined with Mr. Davy & spent a pleasant day there, met Dr. & Mrs. Love ? Miss Caley Powells, Mr. Dale etc.

**25th,** Mr. Bomfill ? set off early this morning for Holbeton to make his report to the Committee & returned in the evening. C & I rode into Exeter after dinner by Maypolehead & got very ?

**June 26th.** Went to Church at St. Thomas's in a coach. C walked to evening Church,

**27th,** Spent an idle stupid morning at home not being able to go out on acct, of the weather. Mr. & Mrs. Grainger dined here, & Captain Bond called on C. & me.

**28th,** Went out on horseback but rather notwithstanding the rain & called on Captain Bond,

Mrs Creswell of Newcourt, Mr. Davy, Mr. Callings, Miss Cole & paid Mrs. Berry at Heavitree £30.2.6. to complete the 66.2.6. having sent her £30 before.

**29th.** The Black horse, having fallen with Edward & broken his knees I rode out by myself today & went by the Cleave lane across the old Okehampton road, by Upper Barby ? to the new Oakn road & beyond the 3 mile stone turned up a steep lane wch, took me again into the old

road, from whence by Addlewater & Cleave I returned home. This was probably the most beautiful ride I have yet taken -

**30th.** Took the same ride today with Caroline extending it to Whitstone, from a hill above which we had a most extensive view in every direction - Dined at Mr. Granger's & met Mr Sanders & his son, and Dr. Granger there. Walked home in the evening. Mr. G. was very agreeable but appeared unwell, & oppressed.

**1st July.** Took a ride by myself towards Whitstone & set off in the evening by the Subscription Coach for London. Had a pleasant journey & arrived in Bedford Square about 4 o'clock on the

**2nd July.** Charles & Eliza drank tea with us. Disappointed at finding the little progress that had been made in painting the house, the ugly color of the door in the Attics & best bed rooms & the misplacing of the papers.

**3rd.** Charles & Eliza dined with us & we walked in the evening in Mecklenburg Square.

**4th -** read at the Compting house Moens' Long dispatches from Lima & Guayaquil, & Wm. proposed in the evening to go to Lima wch I did not altogether discourage.

**5th,** dined at the Compting house

**6th July.** Dined today at the City of London tavern with my fellow directors.

**7th** Dined today with George at the Temple & met my Uncle Crawley & Charles & Eliza - set off immediately afterwards in the mail for Bristol with William to consult with George on the propriety of William's going to S.A.

**8th** arrived at Knole - George, Anne & Joseph dined at Mr. Sheppards -

**9th** Mr. Darvil dined with us.

**10th** Sunday at home

**11th** returned to London in the Mail

**12th** after arrival, at the Compting house all day -

**13th** at the Compting house all day

**14th** dined at Charles & met Uncle G.

**15th**

**16th** nothing particular -

**17th**

**18th** William not well & in the night threw himself out of window under an attack of nightmare, providentially escaped with only a few wounds on the head & leg & the separation on the temporal artery.

**19th** William in bed & went to the compting house where I found an unpleasant letter from Johnston dated Lima.

**20th** removed to avoid the heat of our room over the wash house, to Charles's

**21st,22nd** - nothing particular

**23rd** - C & Eliza & Uncle C went to Hayes, George arrived fm Knole. Wm better.

**24th** West to Hampstead & took a lodging for a month at 3½ Gs pr. week,

**2nd Augst.** William set off for Knole by Cheltenham with George - Hayne set off for Liverpool to embark for Lima as partner in our S.A. business. Lloyd arrived last night with his son Charles on their way to Portsmouth.

**24th Sept.** Caroline taken ill

**11.12.13th Oct,** recovering from effects of her fever

**14th** increase of fever

**15th** very poorly & in bed all day

**1st May 1827.**

Set off for France with Caroline in the Dover mail.

**2nd May** - arrived at Dover at 6 a.m. & sailed for Boulogne in the Steam Packet at 12 o'clock - four hours & a half on the Passage & had some difficulty in making the Port on acct. of the fog.

Engaged an English Chariot ? for £5 the first week & 8 a day afterwards - dined & took a long walk about the town.

**3rd May.** up at 4 - took Cafe au lait & off at to after 5. dined at Abbeville & were delayed there for want of Horses nearly two hours in consequence of wch we did not arrive at Dieppe till ½ past 10. Went to the Hotel D'Angleterre - an English Inn but an indifferent one - & the Hotel de Londre looked like a much better one. found next morning that the Axle tree of the carriage was broken in two wch delayed us till 3 p.m.

The above days journey went through the following

Samer	2 Posts
Carnioul	1 Post
Montreuil	1½

Bernay	1	
Nouvion	1	
Abbeville	1½	dined here
Valmies	2	
Ville d'Eu	2	
A very old fashioned place with a handsome Church surrounded by very high walls		
Toqueville	1½	dark
Dieppe	2	"

We started at 3 p.m. from Dieppe for Bourg D'Un 2  
a small village with a beautiful old Anglo Norman church with a square tower & balustrades & spire in this form detained here an hour & had some conversation with the old post master & mistress

Valery De Caux	2	
Cany	1½	a very pretty village in a hilly country
Fecamp	2½	

Here we slept at the hotel de la Poste a country Inn & were shown into the kitchen there being no parlour, but we preferred the Coffee room. Next morning we started for

Goderville	1½	& met on the road a great many people going towards Fecamp
Epouville	1½	
Havre	2½	

Here we were much disappointed at finding that William had set off for Paris two days before. Went to the Hotel [-] York where Wm. had been & found it a poor place with no sitting rooms but we learned that all the Inns in Havre were bad - I called on Bonaffe & Baisgerard, & Darham & Bardel & went round the Docks wch, are fine & capacious. The Steam Boat started for Honfleur opposite our Inn whilst we were there - as soon as we had dined we set off post for Rouen on our way to Paris by the Route d'enbas or lower road which runs along the banks of the Seine & is extremely beautiful. The first stage is to La Batte - 2½ - and you leave on the left the Hill on wch, all the Havre people have their country houses. At Bolbec - 1½ - the lower road turns off to the right & nothing can be more beautiful & romantic than the whole course of the Seine from this point. The roads are very fine & extensive & the cottages & villages which are scattered amongst them enhance the Seine exceedingly. At Lillebonne - 1 - there is a handsome church & the remains of an old castle on a very commanding situation. This was said to have been the residence of Wm, the Conqueror when Duke of Normandy, & that it is here that he is supposed to have planned the invasion of England - from hence to the pretty village of Caudebec the road winds among the woods & becomes prettier than ever & the views of the Seine from every point are very striking - as we left Caudebec the moon began to rise & we soon reached Duclair. 1¾ through the same description of scenery - the Post house is quite close to the river tho weather now becoming stormy & dark & we saw nothing more of the country. At past 11 we reached Rouen - 2½ - & went to bed after taking our Caffé au lait between 12 & 1. extremely tired - Our Inn was the Hotel d'Angleterre wch. proved to be a very comfortable one. The next morning it rained & blew very hard but we ventured out with our umbrella & saw the Cathedral & Palais de

la Justice which are extremely rich Anglo Norman Edifices. We regretted afterwards that we had not seen the Church of St. Antoine wch we understand is still more beautiful in the same stile. - From Rouen we proceeded after breakfast on our way to Paris by the Route d'en bas to Port St. Ouen - 2½ - The road on leaving Rouen lies through the public walks which is lined as usual with rows of trees & as the Seine runs past it on one side & the high grey cliffs come close down to it on the other it must be a delightful promenade in fine weather. On approaching Port St. Ouen we got out of our Carriage & walked up a long hill which commands a beautiful view of the Seine & its numerous Islands & Villages - this view is in the stile of that from Richmond terrace but on a grander scale. Louvier - 2 - is an uninteresting place but the road to it from the last stage runs through some pretty woods & the Seine is crossed at Pont de l'Arche

From Louvier to Gaillon -	1¾
Vernon -	1¾
Bonnieres -	1½
Nantes -	1½

The whole of these four stages the road runs close to the Seine at the foot of steep Hills covered with verdure in most parts, with grey rocks peeping out amongst the trees, & vineyards. In some places these rocks have fallen from above & strew the sides of the road, & all along in the [-]between the foot of the rock & the road there are fine walnut trees all in a most thriving healthy state. Nantes is rather a large place, but the weather was bad & we saw nothing about it that was interesting; it was here that Wm. the Conqueror received his death-wound. Close to it is the Chateau de Rosni formerly the residence of Sully (Duc de) & now belonging to the Duchess of Barri (?). The garden is pretty & overlooks the River & the wood [-] of La Butte Verte.

At Meulan - 2 - we discovered that our carriage was in a most shattered condition & we were obliged to wait nearly an hour whilst it was temporarily repaired - From this place we went to Triel - 1 - & to St. Germain - 1½ - slowly & in the dark. The next morning, the 7th, we set off at ½ past 7 for Paris expecting that the carriage would break down every minute. The weather was bad & the roads very heavy & wet except over the pave. Courlesair ? 1¾ is the first stage & from thence the road is as straight as an arrow to Paris - 1 - & the arch de l'etoile to be much nearer than it really is. Paris looked gloomy enough as we entered it and on driving to Meurices we were disappointed at finding his house full but we soon found Wm. who was anxiously expecting us at the Hotel au petit Montmorency in the Rue de St. Marc & here we engaged rooms at 80 fr. a month

**7th.** Engaged about the Bristols

**8th.** business & making calls weather very bad and gloomy.

## Travelling to Paris with Caroline.

**6th July 1827** Hired a carriage at £6 p. month & set off this day at 3 o'clock in the evening with Caroline & Harry for Malvern. The weather was very fine but I was exceedingly tired before we got to Henley & we determined therefore to sleep there - after tea we took a very pleasant walk along the Banks of the river by moon light - Had a bad night & did not set off the next morning till past 9. The Red Lion at Henley a very good Inn

- distance from town m. 35

Fm. thence we went to Benson 11

& Oxford through Dorchester 1

Then to Woodstock. 8

In our way to Chipping Norton we drove through Blenheim Park wch. adds a mile to the distance & makes it 12

Here we had a very comfortable dinner & staid an hour & half at the White Hart a capital Inn. The next stage was Broadway 16 miles.

through Moreton in the Marsh and the latter part of the stage from hence is very hilly - on leaving Moreton you ascend a long steep Hill passing through Bourton on the Hill, & the descent into the Valley in wch, Broadway is situated is likewise very steep & winds around the Hills for more than a mile & half. Malvern Hills are seen from this point & during the whole of the next Stage wch. is 12 miles to Pershore. Here we arrived at ½ past 9, too late to proceed to Malvern as we were already a good deal tired. We put up for the night therefore at the Angel a clean country Inn & staid there the whole of Sunday - In the morning we went to the small parish Church & in the evening to what they call the large church wch. must formerly have been as large again as the western half & one wing of the transept was destroyed in the time of Cromwell - the square tower is still standing & it is still a very beautiful Church both inside & outside - The clustered columns, round gallery & groining of the Ceiling put me in mind of Exeter Cathedral - On **Monday the 9th July** we left Pershore after breakfast & drove through a very beautiful country to Great Malvern where we arrived about 12 o'clock, & soon made ourselves at home at the Foley Arms. We were disappointed at first with the appearance of the Hills wch. tho' beautiful at a distance did not answer our expectations on a nearer approach. They were neither as high nor as wooded as we had hoped to find them & appeared to offer little variety of scenery. The great feature of the situation appeared to be the extensive view from the Hills, wch. tho' perhaps unequalled anywhere was not the sort of thing I expected or hoped to find at Malvern - I had pictured to myself something like Cintra & found nothing at all approaching to it. The Foley Arms too had little or no garden & open'd on the road so that we regretted that we had not stopped at Essingtons every door & window of wch, opened on the Hill itself or on their large garden - We sallied forth in the evening & found our way to the top of the Worcestershire Beacon, the highest point of the Hills & were much pleased with our walk - the weather was beautifully clear & the air on the summit very fresh & exhilarating. It was blowing hard from the S.W. whilst below in the Village there was a steady breeze from the North arising from the position & height of the Hills.

**10th July** I walked this morning round the Northern extremity of the hills, & in the evening we took a pony chaise & went in the same direction but by a lower to the woods of Cowley Park a farm house, - these woods are very pretty & we found many pleasant walks amongst them - After tea I walked to the end of Lacey ? terrace towards the Wytch -

**11th July** I took a ride this morning on a pony to the Worcestershire Beacon by the Blindman's walk & we afterwards went in the carriage to Worcester & dined with Mrs. Remmett - we found her very well & her Boys much improved in their manners. I called on Mr. Dent & saw his pasture after wch, we went over the Cathedral & were exceedingly pleased with a bust of a Dr. Johnson by Westmacott & a monument of Bishop Hough by Roubillac

**12th July** - We rode this morning over the Hills to the Wytch & returned by the road, & in the evening we returned to the Wytch by the road, & rode fm. thence over Perseverance Hill to the Herefordshire Beacon where there is a very large fortified Roman encampment. This was a very beautiful ride as on the Herefordshire side the country is extremely rich & woody to the very edge of the Hill wch, is not so high on this side as on the other. On arriving at the foot of the Beacon you find on the Eastern or Worcestershire side 3 or 4 Hills comparatively low & covered with fine fern, forming a basin or valley at the end of wch, the tower of little Malvern Church rises very prettily amongst the trees. This is an exceedingly beautiful spot - On winding round the Beacon & before you reach the top you come to an opening wch. leads you to a rock in wch, there is a natural encavation, but not of any great interest called the Giant's cave. The view from here of Eastnor castle, wch. is just below, & of all Lord Somers's grounds is very thrilling indeed - after walking round the Roman Camps we descended again to the road, & walked through the wood to little Malvern Church with the situation of wch, we were much pleased. By this time we were a good deal tired & were glad to mount our pony & donkeys again & return home by the shortest way wch. is at least 4 miles -

**13th,** Rode over the North Hill with Henry & found the two Remmetts at Malvern on our return. In the evening we hired a pony chaise & one donkey & went again with them to the Herefordshire Beacon.

**14th.** The Remmetts left us & at ½ past 4 we set out ourselves for Ledbury & Ross not without regret, for we had found the Foley Arms a quiet comfortable Inn, & Malvern itself a much pleasanter place than from our first view of it we had expected to find it. Ponys, Donkeys & Pony chaises at 1/6 - 1f & 2f an hour are to be had and [-] so [-], & there are many very agreeable rides over the Hills where the air is delightfully pure & exhilarating - the principal points are the North Hill, the Worcestershire Beacon, Perseverance Hill & the Herefordshire Beacon, & the highest namely the Worcestershire Beacon, is about 1300 feet above the plain. From all of these the view is most extensive embracing Worcester, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hereford, EdgeHill, the Welsh Hills etc. etc. but in all Birds Eye views of this sort the plains look too much like a map to be very interesting, tho' from many points, & at favourable moments the prospect from the Malvern Hills is certainly very striking. Great Malvern has a great advantage in this respect as far as the view from the windows is concerned over the Well house or Essingtons; these Inns too being situated between great & little Malvern and mostly two miles

from either church, but the walks on the Hills near them are probably prettier because there is more wood - they have the advantage too of being nearer the pretty walks about the Herefordshire Beacon & the rich scenery of Eastnor Castle - The Church of Great Malvern is a fine old building & a beautiful object from all the country round.

The Nave is Saxon with very large plain pillars supporting low circular arches - the rest of the church is gothic of the time of Henry 7th.

The road to Ledbury crosses the hills with Herefordshire at the foot of the Herefordshire Beacon & is very pretty the whole way - it passes very near to Eastnor castle about 2 miles from Ledbury & is beautifully situated on one of a range of Hills very inferior in point of height to those of Malvern but well cultivated & fairly wooded in every direction - The road to Ross runs also through a very fine country, & on looking back about half way Ledbury is seen to great advantage with Eastnor Castle on the right & the Malvern Hills in the distance - We easily recognised our old friend the Worcestershire Beacon, & regretted that we were leaving it behind.

We spent the Sunday at Ross & set off on Monday the **16th July** for Chepstowe by the Wye in a boat for wch we paid 4 guineas - breakfasted at a small inn under an oak near Goodrich Castle, an old ruin belonging now to Mrs. Griffin of Monmouth - Spent an hour in walking over it & then crossed the fields to join our Boat - after passing Colwall rocks, the most beautiful part of the Wye, & walking across Symonds Yat wch. commands a most extensive view of the surrounding country. We dined on the Banks of the river near a spring of water called St. Martin's well, & arrived about 4 o'clock at Monmouth very much pleased with what we had seen of the Wye - Here we took horses for Ragland Castle wch, is a very fine interesting ruin well worth the drive & we returned [-] Monmouth. The next day we joined our Boat again & continued our cruise down the river the Banks of which we found high, & more wooded than the day before but not so interesting as there is much less variety & the trees are all low ? [-] the reaches too are longer & therefore less pleasing - We dined amongst the ruins of Tintern of which I had heard so much that I was rather disappointed but I admired exceedingly the elegance of the arches & the beautiful proportions of the pillars - When perfect it must have been a most elegant structure, very much in the stile of Salisbury Cathedral. Of the abbey very little is left. The secluded & beautiful situation of Tintern is very striking indeed - From Tintern the river scenery impresses very much & in passing the heights of the windcliff & approaching Chepstow it becomes very fine or rather magnificent for the rocks & woods on both sides are strikingly grand & imposing - The River itself however is here thick & muddy & a perfect contrast in this respect to what it was all the way above Monmouth.

Chepstow Castle stands on a long ridge commanding the town & the river but being a good deal tired, we went immediately to the old Passage in our Carriage wch had previously arrived by [-] frm. Ross. The distance being only 3 miles, & the [-] boat being ready we went down on the other side, & we reached Knole just as they were sitting down to dinner with Company.

A few days afterwards we crossed again with Harriett, Anne & 2 of the Hendys & went to the Windcliff after which we dined at the Moss Cottage, & drove by the new road as far as Tintern -

After a very pleasant excursion we returned to Knole & reached it about tea time. On the **12th** I went to London, & spent the **18th & 19th** at Richmond & Hampton Court with William. Set off on the **22nd** on my return to Knole in a chaise with Mary, & slept at Maidenhead where we were taken up the next morning by the Regulator at 9 o' clock,

On the **27th August**. I left Knole in the Carriage with Caroline, Nurse & the 3 children for the North of Devonshire & arrived that night at Dunster - at Bridgwater we were obliged to take 4 horses, the stage to Dunster being very hilly & 24 miles, & we did not get in till half past 9 - Spent the next day at Dunster for want of horses to go on, & took two or three pleasant walks - it is a small secluded town, 2 miles fm. Minehead, & one from the sea & on a Hill very near it stands Dunster Castle belonging to Mr. Luttrell - The only striking thing about the castle is the entrance gate & square stone tower above it which are fine, & of Saxon origin, but the Castle itself is of the time of Elizabeth, & built of brick. The grounds & Park are very wild & beautiful & are bounded almost all round by high hills wch. at this season were covered with purple heath & yellow furze blossom. We met Mrs Thos. Pemberton & Mr. Wright here on their way to Ilfracombe - On the **29th** we left Dunster with 4 horses to go another hilly 22 miles stage to Linton. The road for the first 8 miles to Porlock is extremely beautiful winding through a rich valley, with woody, or wild hills on each side - at Porlock you begin to ascend a steep hill of 3 miles long, but instead of taking this route ourselves we sent the Servants & Antony on & took such horses as we cd. get after waiting till they were brought from the plough, & proceeded through the woods by the village of Culbone - the path winds round the steep precipices wch. overhang the Sea, & are covered with [-] oaks to the very summits. In the narrow valleys between the hills there are fine ashes & other trees, & at the foot of one of the steepest & highest of these woody hills is the little village of Culbone consisting of 3 houses & a small church. It stands at the very bottom of a glen through wch. a brook wch. in winter is no doubt a rapid torrent, finds its way to the Sea & so completely is the village hemmed in by hills & woods that during the months of December & Jany. the sun does not rise high enough to be seen in the valley. In Novr. & Feby he just gets a peep at the little Churchyard before he descends again to the sea- after ascending for some time from Culbone through a steep & winding path in the woods we reached the downs & joined our carriage after a ride of 6 miles wch, we had enjoyed exceedingly. The downs wch. we had now reached are bleak, wild & very extensive. They are full in every direction of deep irregular ravines, with very few trees & the whole of the road fm this point to Lynmouth must be very dreary indeed in the winter.

The situation of Lynmouth itself however is very beautiful. It lies in a little bay close to the Sea & in the very gorge of one of the deepest of these ravines wch, runs more than 3 miles back into the country & is thickly cover'd with wood the whole way - a clear trout stream dashes along the bottom of the glen over a rocky bottom, & every here & there fina grey rocks peep out between the trees at different elevations. The paths wch, intersect the hills, the fine patches of purple heath, & the thatched cottages amongst the trees add to the beauty of the scene & form altogether a very beautiful picture. The road by which you descend into Lynmouth is excessively steep, & on reaching the bottom you cross two bridges, & immediately begin to ascend another Hill even steeper than the other. We all got out of the carriage but even then no horses but

those of the country could have dragged it to the top - On the very summit stands the Church & the village of Linton, & here at the Valley of Rocks Inn we determined to stay for a few days to enjoy the walks & views of this beautiful spot wch. put me more in mind of Cintra than anything I had ever seen before. In the evening we sallied forth & took a walk with the Children by the Sea.

**30th.** This morning we crossed the river & took a walk under the rocks beyond the bathing place - After dinner we went to the Valley of Rocks by the outer walk wch. is out on the side of the Hill & overhangs the Sea & returned by the inner road along the valley. This stupendous collection of rocks is situated in a sort of natural amphitheatre & exhibits a strange scene of ruin & desolation. To the Geologist it must afford ample food for speculation & conjecture, & no one can see it I think without astonishment & a feeling approaching to awe. Rocks are piled on rocks in every possible form, & the whole scene is extremely interesting & impressive. After we had taken our tea we took a very pretty walk on the Ilfracombe road.

**31st** After breakfast today we went to Lynmouth & sketched for two or three hours on the other side of the bridge & in the evening we walked again on the Ilfracombe road & crossing a pretty stone bridge on our left, we went through the wood up a very long & steep hill to the summer house wch. overlooks Linton & Lynmouth. The view from there is a very fine one but it was getting late & we were tired so we returned home immediately regretting that we had so long a walk to take to reach our inn, wch. fm, the summer house, or rather Eagle's nest, appeared to be but a very short distance from us.

**1st Sept. 1827.** I sketched for an hour beyond the Bridge & then hired 3 ponys & a guide to take us to the Watersmeet. We crossed the little bridge on the Ilfracombe road & after passing the farm on the top of the Hill we went across the downs to the head of the dell, wch. is wider here than in any other part & very woody. Some woodmen with their horses were engaged in removing timber wch. they had cut down, & two fishermen who supply the neighbourhood with trout were angling on the banks of the stream wch. is here divided into two branches. A rustic bridge over each of these branches completed the picture, & a very pretty one it was. We here left our horses, & following the course of the water proceeded on foot along a narrow path, which carried us through some beautiful scenery to the watersmeet; the wood comes down on both sides close to the waters edge, & the stupendous grey rocks with wch. the channel of the river is loaded produces immeasurable water falls & keeps the water in almost a continual foam. When it is for a moment tranquil it is as clear as crystal - It winds about exceedingly & the path wch. follows it is of the most romantic [-] character. Nothing indeed can exceed the beauty of this walk & we longed for a large party of our friends to enjoy it with us. The ground is everywhere cover'd with a rich moss, & amongst the trees. we particularly remark'd the mountain ash wch. is here very large & fine - many grew on the rocks in the middle of the stream, & their beautiful red berries enhanced & enriched the prospect exceedingly - The hills on each side wch. are completely cover'd with wood are from 5 to 800 feet high - at the Watersmeet two streams unite & here we staid some time enjoying the extraordinary beauty of the situation which certainly surpassed every thing I had seen of the kind elsewhere. The remainder of the walk from hence along the dell to Lynmouth is not so woody, & the path is

further removed from the water that is higher up but it is still extremely interesting. The whole of the excursion was 6 miles, 3 on horse back & 3 on foot.

In the evening we walked through Mr. Harries's grounds & along the dell in wch. the Ilfracombe road is cut. The rocks in the bed of the river here are perhaps more striking than any one had seen, & the impenetrable barrier of rocks & woods by which the walk is [-] is particularly fine. Upon the whole this is decidedly the prettiest home walk about Linton.

**Sunday 2nd Sept.** Went to Church at Linton & walked in the evening by the Sea & in Mr. Harries's grounds.

**3rd.** Took a pretty ride to Doubty point & through some woods to a little beach beyond. Set off at 3 o'clock with 4 horses for Ilfracomb 20 miles - the greater part of this stage is over downs which in any other season & weather must be very bleak & dreary except here & there is wood & shelter. We arrived at Ilfracomb about 8 - & the next day took a little excursion in a car to Mort Sands 6 miles off where we amused ourselves for a couple of hours collecting cowries & other shells in a very pretty cove. There are some fine Hills about Ilfracomb, but very little wood & the town wch. is now a very considerable one is by no means pretty. It is not a place in short to be visited after Linton & we were sorry that we had come out of our way to see it.

**5th.** called on Mrs. Richards, & set off for Bideford through Barnstable at 12. The country improved on approaching the latter place wch. is a very pretty clean town - at Bideford we dined & saw Mrs. Taylor. From hence to L --- we had only two horses, & we reach L in time for an early tea. 16 years had elapsed since I last visited this place, tho' the house had been enlarged & the trees were very much grown I found it less altered than I expected. The improvements however appear to have been judiciously made & the situation is altogether a very pretty one but on leaving L in any direction the country struck us as bare & uninteresting.

**7th.** Went today to Clovelly, my Uncle & Aunt & the two children in the Gig, & Caroline & myself & their boy George on horseback. Between the 8 & 9 mile turn from Bideford, we entered Sir James Hamlyn's ? grounds by his new road wch winds round the cliffs, through a beautiful dell for 4 miles to his home. Some parts put us in mind of Culbone & some of Lynmouth & the whole is extremely beautiful, & well wooded - the romantic village of Clovelly is seen creeping up the steep hill, from various points with Sir J.H. woods & Clovelly point behind, & Lundy Island in the distance. We walked down to Clovelly wch, we found extremely hot & full of bad smells; the lodgings too were very small & inconvenient but we'd have liked to have spent some hours there every day for the purpose of drawing - on leaving Clovelly the Gardener conducted us through the woods to a very beautiful & commanding situation where we opened our basket & had a very comfortable dinner after wch, we returned home through another part of the grounds wch. led us close to the house. We had ridden on the whole 16 miles & were a good deal tired but we enjoyed the excursion exceedingly. The Cliffs about Clovelly are of a firmer & more enduring texture than those near Linton wch. is much in their favour. It is a great drawback however from the beauty of all this coast that the currents of wind from the sea & during the winter check the growth of the trees, & disfigure them sadly - Notwithstanding this however they

have turned their woods to the best advantage at Clovelly Court, & in the dells & sheltered situations they have some good sized trees.

**9th.** went. to Appledoor a neat but very old village with very narrow streets near the mouth of the Torridge - took a pleasant walk on the sands & returned home to dinner.

**11th.** rode to the new road carried on the Bank of the Torridge & was much pleased with it.

**13th.** Went today to Hartland point & Abbey & went over Stoke Church.

**20th.** Left L --- today in the rain & proceeded by Torrington, Hatherly, & Oakhampton to Tavistock where we slept. We were much pleased with the situation of Oakhampton with Dartmoor in the background. The river Oakment runs through it, & Oakhampton Castle wch is now a fine old ruin is a very fine object on the bank about ½ mile from the town on the Tavistock road. On approaching Tavistock we passed some large copper mines. At Tavistock there is a good inn the Bedford Arms on the site of the old Abbey. On the **21st** we arrived at Plymouth & took up our abode with Dr. Yonge in the Crescent.

**24th.** Went to Antony & staid there till the **26th** when we went to Puslinch - left Puslinch on the **28th** & returned to Dr. Yonge's where we staid a few days longer & then removed to Mrs. Yonge's at Mount Pleasant. During our stay there we visited Bonason Bay, the Devonport Column, the new works at the Devils Point, & the Breakwater. On the **11th Oct.** we set out for Exeter & reached Exwick by dinner time.

Aunt Bell & Mary & Mr. Banfill arrived the next day -

**17th Oct,** rode from Exeter to Teignmouth with Caroline & got very wet, Aunt Bell Mary & the Children arrived soon after in the Carriage & we took up our abode at Cockram's new Hotel on the beach - the next day we took a ride with Mary to Dawlish, & the day after were on our way to Torquay when the mare fell with Caroline & broke her knees. On the **22nd** we removed to a lodging we had taken & we went a few days afterwards in the Carriage to Torquay to see the place. I called there on Mr. McHenry & saw his collection of Bones from Flints Hole which on my next ride to Torquay I went to see - it is of large dimensions & 600 feet long - I went once on Horse back alone & once with Caroline & Henry in a Gig to see the Pottery, & the formation of Coal at Bovey ? Heathfield, Another day I rode to Hayton & saw the Granite quarried, & new excavations for Iron.

**3rd Nov.** Mary & I dined today with Mr. and Mrs. James Powell at their house on the beach a little beyond Dawlish & spent a pleasant day there.

**5th Nov.** Left Teignmouth & returned to Exwick by Dawlish & Star Cross, Henry came after us with Hutton on the outside of the Stage Coach.

## Visiting the West Country with his family    March 1836

Blanche came to us on the **2nd**.

Aunt Bell left us on the **3rd**

### **5th March**

The affairs and prospects of the Gt. Wst. Railway have very much engrossed my mind for the last fortnight. I have taken an active part in all the proceedings connected with it fm. the first formation of the London Comm two years & a half ago when it was looked upon by the public with apathy & distrust, to the present moment when it occupies so great a portion of the public attention. I regard it as a great national work, calculated to effect an important change in our internal relations, & to produce a great balance of good; & having shown my confidence in the undertaking by becoming a large shareholder, my mind has been more particularly engrossed with the subject lately in consequence of the rapid rise wch. has taken place in their vlaue. On the act being passed in Augt. 1835 the 5000 reserved shares were apportioned & the number which were allotted to Wm. and me on that occasion, added to those which we had taken at different times whilst the bill was in jeopardy, made together 330 wch. we agreed to divide equally, & we afterwards bought on acct, of the house 105 more at about [-] premium. These last we sold at different prices which gave a profit on the whole of about £1500. Of our own we have wold

16 at 25½

30 at 26.

The price is now 37, & I fully expect that they will go up to 60 before the end of the summer.

G. Gibbs holds	106
C. Crawley	40
G. Crawley	55
G. Crawley junr.	4
Lloyd Crawley	5
Wm. Crawley	5
Duke Yonge	2
Joseph Gibbs	2
Anne Gibbs	1
Harriette Gibbs	1
Rd. Bright	160
S. Bright	30
Casson	365
Douglas	10

Today, **March 8th** I have been rather out of sorts about Railroad matters - Our own shares have fallen to 34 & our Cheltenham Brch. is threatened with an opposition from the Birmingham Co.,

wch. is advertising a line from that place to Tring, On their line, through Oxford. A wretched day & a headache have contributed to make bad worse.

I find too that Brunel had been too hasty in speaking of the line leading to our new terminus as a dead level, & that he is now making a section of another line nearer to Wormwood Scrubbs.

On the **9th** Mr. Valle, Lloyd, Casson, & Mr. Charles & Mrs. Lewis Vaughan, & Miss Cumming dined with us - Miss Hall came in the evening.

Shares at 30  
10 & 11th 28

### **10th & 11th March**

A deputation from the Cheltenham Railway attended our meeting on the 10th for the purpose of soliciting pecuniary assistance, & we offered to lend them £5000. Saunders brought forward the evidence given last year by Creed and Stephenson against the Tring line now brought forward by the Birmingham.

On the **11th** I called on Glyn to remonstrate against his lending the sanction of his name to a scheme so hostile to our interest & so ill founded in every respect as the Tring line - Casson as a Bm. .. Proprietor called at the same time on Creed. Saunders & Brunel went to Oxford.

**12th March.** In the course of this week I have felt more than once worried & disheartened about the railway. The Tring line if established wd. deprive us of a great source of traffic by cutting off two important branches & whether I look to the value of the shares which is now an important consideration with me, or to the prospects of the undertaking itself I feel that a great deal depends on this scheme of our opponents being defeated. I have put myself a good deal forward this week to assist in accomplishing this object & with some success, but I fear that in spite of the injustice of their cause & the badness of their line the Bm. Proprietors will persevere. I shall be disappointed if we are not in a situation to advertise our Oxford branch next week in a triumphant manner -

The section for our new terminus proceeds slowly & I do not expect that we shall be able to get that line this year.

On the 12th at the suggestion of Mills I went again to the Bank with Gover & asked for C. Mills who saw the force of our arguments & promised that our representations be attended to - Mills told me afterwards that Glyn had appeared to do everything in his power to redeem the false step he had taken, & that he had written a very strong letter to Cropper.

I saw Frank Mills about Cockerell & Merton.

Shares 29 & firmer

**13th** Called on the Miss Noyes's -

**14** Shares 26

<b>15</b>	Shares	25
<b>16</b>	Shares	24

**14th** our deviation Bill went through Committee. Heard from Davy. Mr. Thompson called upon me with a very unfavourable acct. of George's conduct at Leamington - I wrote to him & Lloyd on the subject.

**15th**, bought 5 shares for Lloyd at £25. Saunders gone to Oxford to attend the meeting. Boothby to oppose - A Deputation came up from Banbury to get us to extend the Oxford line to that place.

**17th.** Agreed to advance money if necessary on certain conditions to the Cheltenham. Saunders reported that the Oxford meeting had unanimously resolved to adopt our branch, & that a Provisional Committee had been appointed with Mr. Harcourt & Lord Norreys at the head -

Shares	28
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On the 17th we had the following party Mrs. & the Miss Snaiths Barnwell Two Mr. Sykes's, George Crawley, F. Barnwell, Mr. Vaughan, Miss Hall & Ellen & Eliza & Barnwell & L. Vaughan came in the evening.

Our railway prospects look better this week - The Tring line, by our attacks on Glyn's banking feelings, & by the result of the meeting at Oxford, appears to be knocked on the head. - The Oxford branch will probably pass next session without opposition. The Exeter line has already passed the Committee of the House of Commons, & in the Cheltenham there are better hopes of arranging with Gordon & the Canal.

Some progress is making too with regards to the new terminus.

<b>18th</b>	Shares	29
<b>19th</b>	Shares	30
<b>21st</b>	Shares	31
<b>22nd</b>	Shares	31
<b>23rd</b>	Shares	31
<b>24th</b>	Shares	30
<b>25 &amp; 26</b>	"	28½ - 29

On the 24th the Cheltenham preamble was proved.

**25th.** Getting up a new line from Gloucester to Swansea.  
Bishop of London asks an enormous price for land at Paddington.  
Heard from Harry. Dined at Charles's.

**26th.** The Cheltenham Committee having arranged with Gordon & the Canal, the Bill passed the Committee of the Commons with a faint attempt only on the part of the Birmingham to have

it reported that there was a competing line - shares have flagged this week & the terminus seems to be as far off as ever.

**29th.** Meeting at Abingdon & resolutions adopted in our favor.

**31st.** Made a call of £10. Shares from the 28th to the 2nd April 29½ to 28.

Voluminous & very interesting despatches this week from Lima by the Exquisite & Oberon. The only drawbacks are the political state of the country, the state of Schutte's acct. & the large quantities of Bark coming home.

**April 2nd.** I feat that no progress has been made this week with regard to the terminus, & by the exertions wch. the Bm. people are still making to establish the Tring line, I expect that we must be prepared for opposition to our Cheltenham line in the Lords.

**April 7th.** A deputation came up from Worcester to request that we wd. join them in getting a line from that place to Oxford which we wil on every acct. were well disposed to do, & Gower, Fenwick, Lewis, Bushell & Col. Hudson were named as directors.

Dined today with Mr. Norris.

Shares this week have been from 28 to 25½ & the fall is attributed to the continued opposition of the Tring line.

We have had melancholy accts. this week from Antony & fm. Oxford & but faint hopes are entertained that Duke & mrs, Jones will survive their present attacks. Mr. Flower one of the St. Giles's curates died this week after a very short illness.

**April 9th.** We find that an attempt is to be made on Tuesday next to have our Cheltenham bili recommitted. No fear, however, is entertained on this head, & there is reason to believe that the failure of this attempt & the promulgation of the Worcester Scheme will raise the value of our Shares. Hardwick now says that he shall succeed in getting the assents on the line of our terminus - next month will decide this.

Poor Mrs. Jones died yesterday.

**14th.** Wm. attended her funeral today.

**15th.** Charles left us for Belmont. A deputation came up from Worcester this week to arrange with us for carrying a line from that town to Oxford & so on to London by the Gt. Western. The Birmingham Company defeated in their attempt to get our Cheltenham branch recommitted in the Commons.

Shares about 27 all this week.

**April 23rd.** A favourable meeting at Paddington on y subject of our terminus. A violent opposition is getting up in the Lords from the Tring party against our Cheltenham branch. Shares, which had been at 27 all the week, fell suddenly to 25, & I bt.

5 ? for Lloyd C

5? for Wm. C

5? for Mrs. Hipkins. (The diary has been bound so close to the margin it is difficult to read the number of shares)

I went for the first time to the Royal Institution & was much pleased with a lecture of Farady's on heat. The wet backward season continues.

The question of the terminus still lingers on &, notwithstanding the Paddington meeting I am afraid we shall not do anything this year. Our business at this moment appears to be as prosperous as possible but success in this respect is not without its alloy. It gives us too much to do, It obliges us to go on fagging from mornng to night, & to think more of business than is either right or agreeable at our time of life - at the same time we are annoyed by finding that with regard to Compting House details things do not go on as well as they should. Three of the Clerks are too young & Squire is exceedingly inefficient. Fox too, with all his excellent qualities does not appear to be exactly the man to be at the head of a compting house where there is a great deal of business. This cannot now be helped but we must take immediate steps for placing the compting house generally on a more efficient footing.

For some time past almost all articles have been rising, & wool, cotton, silk, iron, copper, tin all now at most exorbitant prices. The necessaries of life are also advancing. Is all this the natural effect of the general prosperity & increasing population & consumption of the country, or is it to be traced, in a great measure, to overtrading & undue facilities from the joint Stock banks? at all events an over supply must be the consequence. I shd. think before long, as machinery backed by Capital has a natural tendency to overtake consumption.

The difficulties attending the arrangements with the landowners have driven us to so advanced a period of the session that there is little hope of obtaining our terminus.

**27th.** Williams, & his nephew - Maitland, Casson - Lloyd & Lloyd Crousley dined with us.

**28th.** Mr. Joshua Watson Miss Watson - Barnwell Mr. & Mrs. Norris, Mr. Sykes, Lloyd C - Antony & Miss E Powell dined here.

All our old opponents appeared in the Cheltenham Comtee & under the cloak of a landowners petition the Tring people obtained a hearing.

**1st May.** Unusually cold easterly winds continued to this day. Shares this week 26.

**8th May.** Cold east wind still with dry weather & a hot sun Casson, Wm & I walked along our terminus to the Cemetery - & Casson & Lewin dined with us - made great progress this week in our negotiations with the land owners etc on our extension line. Saunders suggested a clause which it was hoped wd. have the effect of enabling us to carry a branch from Acton to Paddington & so attain our object of having an independent terminus - This clause was submitted to Lord Shaftesbury & the Speaker, & sanctioned by them.

Shares still about 26.

Our contracts were taken this week on favourable terms. The struggle still going on in the Cheltenham Committee. Dined on the 6th at Patteson's.

Mr. Spring Rice brought forward the Budget last week with a flourishing report on the State of the Country. He stated the income to be 4 ? millions, & surplus £600,000

He takes off the duty on Stained Paper, & the S.S. duty, & reduces that on first class writing paper frm. 3d to 1½, & on newspapers frm. 4d to 1d each. P. Thompson took occasion to state that new joint stock companies advertised lately were from 3 to 400, with nominal capitals amounting together to 200 millions. As a further caution he added that the system of the J/S Banks of sending up Bills to London to be discounted, virtually increased the circulating medium very considerably.

**13th May.** Dined at Miss Hall's & met the Dean of Chester, a pleasant man. A subcommittee appointed to consider the questions of going to parliament for our extension line this year, & of acting on the clause introduced into our deviation Bill. Resolved not to go for the former because the session is so far advanced that if the House consented to dispense with their Standing Orders, we sd. still have to ask for an extension of the time for receiving the reports of Comm, & it was fear'd that even if no opposition were offered by the Birmingham or Thames junction this might be too much to expect. Besides which, if we failed we should have more difficulty in acting upon the clause because, 1st the attempt wd. appear to show that we had no confidence in the clause itself, & 2ly the acting upon it after the attempt wd. have the appearance of setting Parliament at defiance.

With regard to the clause it was resolved that as it had been submitted openly to Ld. Shaftesbury, & the Speaker, & it was not proposed to do anything without the entire approbation of every proprietor & occupier on the line, there would be no impropriety in proceeding on it, provided the lawyers could keep us clear of legal difficulties.

**14th.** Shares have been rising all this week & are now as high as 31.

Deviation bill passed the Lords.

Cheltenham Commtee does not meet again till Monday 30th May.

**21st May,** Shares this week between 29 & 30. Subcommittee had a long consultation with Mr. Ward about the clause, in consequence of his having consulted Preston - nothing settled. Increased a bad cold at the Royal Institution, & came home with lightness on my chest & fever. Miss Hall, Mr. & Miss Tomlinson, Mr. & Mrs. Lucena dined here & Miss Hipkins came in the evening. George & Harriett, With Anne, & Georgey & Willey arrived on the 17th. Easterly wind still continues.

**22nd May.** Confined to my bed all day - took Calomel last night wch. made me very sick.

**23rd.** put a blister on last night which relieved my chest, but I did not go down stairs again till the 27th.

Did a great deal however towards getting up the Bedford Square & my private accounts.

**29th.** Still confined to the house by my cough but I hope to go out tomorrow.  
Wind still easterly Shares down to 26.

**June 1st.** Wind came round the westward,

**June 6th.** Irish tythe bill carried this week by a majority of only 39 (300 vs 261)  
Shares 27  
Mary left us on the 6th

As Parliament has not been sitting this week, & there have been no foreign arrivals in consequence of the easterly wind, it appears to have been a flat heavy week; but having got my work close up at the compting house, & having been kept at home by my cough. I have employed my time well in bringing up my private accts, & balancing Caroline's Books for last year & to the day,

The long absence of letters from S.A. has enabled me to bring all my work up closer than I ever remember it to have been before.

**June 7th.** Three important questions were brought before the railroad committee this day. 1st that of authorising Brunel to prepare specifications for a contract fm. Hanwell to Acton.. - 2nd that of immediately giving out orders for engines, & 3rd that of commencing the difficult part of the work between Acton & Paddington without waiting to obtain an act - The two first questions involved the necessity of our making up our minds at once as to probability of our obtaining our act next Session for an independant line from Acton to Paddington, because the lands from Hanwell to Acton will be different if we are to come afterwards to Paddington from what they will be if we join the Birmingham, & because the width of our rails, & consequently that our engines will also be different. - It was determined unanimously that having already obtained the consent of all the owners, & occupiers, & parishes on the line there can be no doubt that we shall obtain our act whenever we apply for it in the next Session, & that the contract from Hanwell to Acton, & the order for engines should be proceeded with immediately on this supposition. It was also determined, with reference to the 3 question, that after obtaining the sanction of our proprietors at our August meeting, we shd commence the works between Acton & Paddington without delay notwithstanding the opinion of Mr. Preston that any proprietor or proprietors may obtain an injunction & institute a suit against the Directors for any thing they may do which is not sanctioned by Parliament - It was argued that it was very unlikely that any Proprietor wd take such a course after we had obtained the sanction of a public meeting - that if they did the act wch we felt sure of obtaining wd effectually silence them, & that if we did not succeed in obtaining this act, the expense incurred for the works undertaken & for replacing the land in its former state (25 to 50000£) ought not to deter the directors from adopting this course when it was considered that the effect of it wd be to open the whole line 6 months sooner than it would otherwise be open.

Received accts this week of a decisive victory gained by Santa Cruz over Salavery on the 8th Feby near Arequipa - the Army of the latter was annihilated, & he himself tried & executed with 8 of his chiefs a few days after.

During the last week two or three letters have been received from my Aunt Hicks speaking of my Uncle as being in a very weak & precarious state -

**10th June.** Received a letter today from Mrs. Bruton announcing his death on the mornng of the 8th.

**11th.** Left town this evening by the Bristol mail on my way to Foxdown & spent the next day, Sunday, at Aunt Bell's. Met Mrs. Snow & two of the Miss Snows there & found Aunt Bell very comfortable & enjoying their company exceedingly. Proceeded to Foxdown by the Barnstaple mail on the **13th** & arrived at Foxdown at before 10°C at night. Returned again by Barnstable on Saturday the **21st** - Spent the **22** with Aunt Bell & reached London early on Monday morning by the mail

I was surprised to find at Foxdown that 7 or 8 years had elapsed since my last visit there with Caroline. In the mean time my Uncle had become an infirm old man, & had sunk into the grave. My Aunt was much altered, & the trees which I had seen planted myself were assuming the character of large forest trees. These changes led me to reflect that amidst the engagements of a busy life I had myself made a great & almost unheeded advance towards my latter end, & it grieves me to think that I was probably not better prepared for that last and greatest change than I was on my former visit to this place. Under the influence of these reflections, I prayed to God that I might have strength & resolution to devote more of my time & thoughts in future to the concerns of that eternity to which we are hastening, & which will come whether we prepare for it or not.

## **The birth of the Great Western Railway, with regular comments about family affairs and the business of Antony Gibbs & Sons.**

**Belmont 15th Aug. 1836.** I have very foolishly neglected my Journal for the last two months & the following memos must serve to supply the deficiency -

**June 14th.** George & William left us for Belmont

**27th** Harriett Anne, & lady left us

**July 1** Went to Hanwell & was much pleased with the works, & spent a very pleasant evening afterwards at the Tonophalite.

**4th.** Harry came from School

**6th.** Went to a very pretty Garden party at the Rodgers.

**7th** Mr. Grant, Mr. & Mrs. Merrivale & Reginald, Mr. Wm. Adams & his sister - Mr. Maitland Chs & Eliza & Mr. and Miss Tomlinson dined with us

**14th** Dined with the Snayths

**15th** Saunders, Chs. & Eliza - Short - Barnwell Antony - Allen - H. Pattison & Lewin dined with us.

**9th** Went to Hayes with Caroline, Harry, Antony, Johnny, & Mary & staid till the

**12th** A very pleasant visit,

**16th.** Went to George's at Highgate; staid till the 18th

**25th July.** Took Harry, Antony & Anthony Crawley to Hanwell, Watford, Aldenham & St. Albans.

**3rd August.** Set off in a carriage for Belmont with Caroline, Miss Graham, Nurse, Steel Charley, Willey, Johnny, Mary & Francis. Slept at Newbury & arrived at Belmont at 6 in the evening.

**4th do.** Harry & Antony had gone off by coach two days before, & Thomas followed on the **5th**. Since we have been here we have had very hot weather with the wind at east, but we have enjoyed ourselves very much, particularly one day which we spent at Cheddar. William is with us having determined not to return to London till tomorrow night, & we have been much pleased with Mr. & Mrs. Jones of Northop who have been on a visit here for the last 3 or four days with a Miss Conway.

Harry delighted us exceedingly with the acct. which he brought from school on the 4th of last month of his progress in the last half. Dr. Arnold's, & Mr. Lee's reports of his conduct are highly

satisfactory in every respect, & I feel very much gratified & satisfied with what I have seen of him during the last month. It is evident that he now takes an interest in his studies & that it is a great pleasure to him to give us the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing well. I look forward therefore with great hope to the result of his labour in the 6th during the next two years, trusting that I shall be able to send him to College at the end of that period well prepared to make his way in the world - but I have still greater comfort in the reflection that he is a boy of sound steady principles & that he is therefore armed against the temptations which he will have to encounter as he advances in life - God grant that he may ever retain his present purity of mind, that he may be proof against the example of the gay, thoughtless, or wicket companions into whose company he may be thrown.

Antony has taken great interest in his Brother's success, & I was glad to receive a better acct. of him from Mr. Hope, but he is still it seems very deficient in exertion, & requires too much to be driven - this we have found to be very much the case at home where he shows a disposition also, of which, Mr. Hope likewise complains, to argue & dispute instead of submitting to those who are older than himself - I have held out to him as a stimulus, & reward for improvement in these points that if I receive a favourable report of him at Xmas from Mr. Hope he shall go to Rugby with Harry wch, he is very anxious to do - I have determined on this step, 1st because I am sure it will be a good thing for Antony to be some time at a public school, because he will have the advantage of his brother's example, & protection for a year & a half, 2nd because I have no intention of his staying till he gets into the 6th & therefore there is no fear of his imbibing Dr. Arnold's principles, & lastly because I do not like to withhold from him the benefit he wd probably receive at Rugby merely an account of the principles of a man who is so very likely to be appointed to some other situation as Dr. Arnold - At the same time I must say that, much as I admire Dr. Arnold's system, & management of the boys, I so utterly abominate his political principles, & think them so false & dangerous in every respect that I wd never send any son of mine to Rugby if I felt that he wd run the slightest risk of thereby adopting those principles in after life.

Politics on the 7th July there was another important division in the House of Commons on the appropriation clause when Ministers obtained a majority of only 26 - 290/264. An election at Newcastle went also against the Radicals. The House of Lords throughout this session has rendered the greatest service to the country by boldly throwing out most of the pernicious Bills introduced by the Commons.

Gt. Western Shares. For the last six week there has been a great & general depression in the share market everything being neglected with the same indiscriminate folly with wch some time since everything, whether good or bad, was bought up - As I entertain, however, a better opinion than ever of the Gt. Western, our works being further advanced, two main branches having received the sanction of Parliament, & another payment of 10 per cent having been secured, I purchased for the House 109 shares at different prices from 15 to 9 per cent premium, averaging with changes about 12 - & I consider the speculation an excellent one. They are now at 18.

See two separate sheets wch begin in Sept. 1837 so that I must have suspended my journal from 15 August 1836 to Sept. 1837 & yet I do not remember this. This was the period of great commercial danger & alarm & we were driven very hard indeed Particularly about the 20 Apr.

**28th Sept. 1837** Wind N.E, fine - Railway meeting - proposed if legal to rent from the Swindon the line from thence to Cirencester for 15000£ a year - they making it & we working it. Offered the British Iron Cy. to take 1000 tons at 10£ including drillers - placed in Newport.

Sold 220 S. Bark at 3/4.

Prices wch. have been mending gradually for the last two months seem to be at a stand still again. Very little doing in wool - or cotton.

**1st Oct.** S.W.drirly rain - dined with Charles.

**2nd Oct.** Wind S.W. fine & very warm.

**3rd.** do. do. Lasenbeck ? returned from Germany - Business seems to be in uncertain whether rather a doubtful state & it is feared by some that partly on acct. of the needs of commerce being supplied & partly on acct, of terror of the Presidents message, there will be very little doing till next Spring. We certainly find it difficult to sell our wool, nitrate, or wood readily.

**4th Oct.** S.W. very warm & fine.

**5th.** S.W. & fine but rather colder letter from Valpo 5th July.

Brunel returned from the N. Grand Junction accidents proceed from bad switches, imperfect gauge of rails, & sharp curves made to save expense. The engines were too weak for train & they were more than an hour & ¼ late. Offered the Cheltenham to rent their line to Cirencester when completed for £17000 a year for 7 or 10 years which will pay 6 per cent to their proprietors. If we cannot make this, we shall make up the loss by the traffic which it will bring on the GWR for 80 miles - Dined at Charles's with Mr. L

**7th.** Wind S.W. fine.

Some [-] - Anxious busy day, but all right. Letters to 24 June from Lima. Bark prohibited for 6 years.

**8th.** Wind S.W. rain early then fine.

**9th.** S.W. fine fair, Mr. Shaw retired & the chair offered to me, which troubled me exceedingly - anxious not to shrink from, but doubtful whether my powers were equal to it. Wrote to Robert & George to ask their advice.

**10th,** W.S.W. fine - Wm. went to Englefield to meet Joseph & return with him.

- 11th.** Wind S.W. fine.  
Finance & appointment Committee. Saw Mr. Seymour Clark. George went home, proposed him to the Committee - much oppressed the last 3 days with the pending question of the Chair.
- 12th.** S.W. fine -  
A letter from George recommending me strongly not to accept the situation of the Great Western Railway, in consequence of which I at once declined it, not without regret, though it relieved my mind from rather a heavy burthen. Letters from Valpo. to 8 July - Still [-] largely on us.
- 13th.** N.E. fine & cold - went with Brunel & Saunders to see the Engines of the Gt. Western Ship - they weigh 300 tons & are of 420 horsepower. Then talked about prices to charge on our line. I say that our prices sd. be low enough decidedly to exclude the competition of coaches, and to secure the multiplication of travellers on wch, we have relied so much, & as low as we can go consistently with the probability of our being able by-and bye to reduce them still further.  
Coaches to Maidenhead are now 8s. to 10s. inside, 4s to 5s outside.  
We may safely charge them 5s, 5s & 3s, all under cover.
- 14th,** Wind N.E. fine.  
Dined at Highgate with Charles. Staid there till Monday morning.
- 15th.** W. N.E. very fine & cold.
- 16th.** Colder Wind N.W. very fine. Sims agreed to act as Chairman.
- 17th.** Foggy & in the evening, a little rain. Wind N.V. Went along the line to Maidenhead - pleased with the rails, but alarmed at the continual subsidence of the embankment at Hanwell - Found some of the timbers rotten, & the Maidenhead Bridge backward - The impression on my mind is that it will be impossible to open the line before the very end of December, if then. Heard from B that Le Valteau & Le Petletier had arrived at Bordeaux & were disposed to buy back 34
- 18th.** Fine weather. S.W. dined at Charles.
- 19th.** S.W. fine - had an offer of 1/9 for 50 of Bark!
- 20th.** N.W. very fine. Order from W.L.C. to buy 1000 bottles of Quicksr. @ 3/4. Charles taken ill.
- 21st.** N.W. still fine. Received an important proposal today from Pelletier, Le Valteau ?
- 22nd.** W. fine. Dined at the Mallets & Met M

**23rd.** W. & blowing hard. Letters from Lima via Jamaica to the 13th July. Still drawing upon us & still without any advices from England. Saw the Rothschilds about the order for Quicksilver from L & W.L.C.

**24th.** S.W. rain & wind. Casson arrived & showed a good deal of dissatisfaction at our not having paid his call. Rothschild has refused to sell us the 1300 Bottles of Quicksilver for L at 6 & all this added to the uncomfortable day, make it a very disagreeable one indeed.

**25th.** N.E hard rain & cold. Bought the 1000 bottles of Quicksilver for the W.L.C. at 3/4.

**26th.** W. rainy. A very unpleasant day as determined to speak to Bankers & ask for some assistance from them wch, they gave me to the extent of 15,000£ for 2 mths. Mr. Barnett spoke to me about Brooks's accommodation Bills. Board whence I proposed Sims, who took the chair. Having spoken to the Committee some days ago about George, I gave him a letter to Saunders yesterday saying that if a better man could not be found I'd be glad to see him appointed to the Maidenhead Station. He recommended him to write a letter which he did, & today he told me that he saw the gentlemen were rather disposed to appoint a more experienced person to that Station, & that perhaps, if that should be the general feeling, I might like George to be appointed to a minor station that he might work his way up to a better; for instance if he gives satisfaction, he said he might to to Twyford on the Railroad opening to that place,

**27th.** W.W. Rain. Public meeting went off well & Proprietors pressed us not to open too soon. On Sims leaving the chair I made a short speech before I put the question that the thanks of the meeting be given to him.

**28th.** W.W. Rain. Blo came in. Went to Oxford, & had a pleasant day at the Parkers where William, Joseph & Harry dined.

**29th.** W.W. rain. Spent the day with Harry & dined with him & Wm. at the Rectors settled that he have 259£ a year from 1st Oct. I paying for furniture & he for all

**30th.** W.W. rain. returned to [-] with Wm. & Barnwell.

**31st.** Sold 580 Bales of wool & had enquiries for Bark & nitrate. Cold wind from the West.

**1st Nov,** SW & hard rain. Sold 509 Bags more of wool & rro tons of Nitrate wch. put us in good spirits.

**2nd.** W S.W. rain. Sold today 65 of yellow Bark at 1/11 & sold about 60 at 1/ 10.

**3rd.** W.SW dry & rather cold. Sold 500 tons more of nitrate.

**4th.** W NW fine day. went to Paddington & made up my mind that the culvert which has given way will not be repaired for a month - not particularly satisfied with the progress made.

**5th.** Saw Charles who is better, an abscess having discharged in his ear. W. NW fine.

**6th.** W. NW. very cold. Whetherall, Short, David, Villanid ?, Squire & Edwards dined with us.

**9th.** Left London for Seend, where I staid will the 14th when I came with Caroline & Charles to Belmont.

**15, 16, 17.** W. N. a bright day, but I had a headache & was not able to see Robert Bright who called or to dine in the parlour where there was a party. I occupied myself bringing up the B.S. accts.

This week William has sold 24 shares at 11p

65 tons N. Wood at 13

100 S of Bark at

200 tons Nitrate at 14/9

& we begin to feel much more at ease. Sam having lent us 3000£ & the Scotch people having secured Bills to the amt. of 3800. The Alice Jane & Hudson from Lima have 3000£ in our hands.

**18th.** N. wind - hard white frost - very cold & dreary. Wrote to Harry.

**26th.** The weather has been generally open since the 18th with a good deal of wind & rain, and at present it is raining very hard with the wind about S.E. William has sold the wood

100 Bark at 1/11

56 Bark at 1/-

38 Bales via wool at about 4/6

30 tons lead at 17.15

296 P wools at 6/8 & other things.

These sales, & ass. acct. received from Valpo. by the Alice Brooks that the John will bring remittances to the manufact. ?

10000£ will remain with us have relieved us from all further anxiety, & we hope soon to be able to pay back the 15000£ to the Bankers, & to repay G.S. & Ba. a part of what we owe them. We hope so to arrange our business in future that under all circumstances we may be free from anxiety.

Dined last week at the Seymores & Vaughans.

**27th, Wind west with occasional rain, called at Ham Green & on Mrs. R. Bright.**

**Nov. 28,** Fine day - Wind N.W. Bright came to Belmont to talk with me about Debentures etc. Heard from Saunders, I see very little chance of the railway being open till the 1st of Feb.

**29th.** Dull day. Wind S.W. fresh. Continued my labors, on the private Ledger, my own Books & Bedford Square accts. in all which I have made great progress, & I hope to have them all up before I leave this on the 12th of next month

**30th Nov.** W. W.

**1st Dec.** W. Mr. Vaughan & his son & daughter dined here. Had a letter from Casson saying that the railway wd, not open till May in his opinion.

**2nd.** W. Wrote to Saunders & Casson about the Railway & told the latter that I cd. not doubt that the Railway wd. open by the 1st Feby - or at latest the 15th. Wind changing - weather beautiful, with a white fog in the valley all the morning.

**3rd.** W. coming to the East, damp foggy weather.

**4th Dec.** Signed two transfer sent to me by George, as Trustee under his Marriage Settlement.

**5th.** N.E. Cold fog, bad headache. John arrived - letter from Davy announcing his determination to send us every dollar he can scrape together & mentioning his engagement for us with Sewell & Patrickson & Hubert & Co

**6th.** Went with George & Harry to see the avon bridge & first tunnel & then walked on with Bright to Twerton & came back in his open carriage - found a good deal of progress made particularly in tunnel No. 1 - which is of the full size through, but a great deal of work remains to be done in all the other tunnels & the bridge over the Avon is very backward. Upon the whole I made up my mind that the line between Bath & Bristol cd. not be opened till this time twelve month. We visited the new found Roman Villa near Bath which appears to be a very extensive work - Met Mr. & Mrs. Willis there & I spoke to the foreman about the propriety of affording the navigators as they approach Bath some opportunities of religious instruction.

**7th Dec.** Brought the private ledger up to the day.

W.N.E. cold - Mrs. Branscombe arrived - Caroline low & uncomfortable about the poor Baby wch. continues in the same, distressing, without any chance of improvement.

**8th.** N.E. wind. Sleet and rain ending in a heavy fall of snow.

**9th.** do. but snow going off, Aunt Bell heard from Mrs. Richards that she meant to give Wm. Hy: now what she had left him in her will - Wrote to Harry.

**10th.** N.E. snow gone -

**11th.** S.W.

**12th.** Left Belmont with Caroline for Seend on our way to town having sent the children off the same morning in the Carriage with Nurse, Mary Anne & Thos. Wind N.W. & cold. Arrived at

Send in time for dinner & set off on the **13th** by the Emerald for London wch. we did not reach till ½ past ten at night.

**14th & 15th**, Wind S.W. Went to the Compting House & increased a cold I had brought with me by a walk to Paddington, in consequence of which I was laid up with an effusion on my chest, headache etc. till the **21st** - when I again went to the Compting House. I employed myself in the meantime in completely bringing up my Books, & all private accts, which are now in a very comfortable satisfactory state.

In the meantime the arrival of the Jane from Lima with a good deal of money has put us out of the reach of danger, & the letters which she has brought showing that they thoroughly understand our position on the other side & will never bring us again under such heavy inconsiderate engagements has been a great comfort to - William left town with Casson for Bristol - Georgy came home.

**December 1837 23rd.** S.W. - very mild -

Harry arrived very weak and looking ill - He had taken too much exercise at Oxford which brought on Cough & fever & his Uncle kept him two or three days at Clifton.

**24th.** Harry was more feverish today & I put him under Mr. Fernandez's care - called on Mrs. Noyes's & saw Mrs. Sarah - last week a board was held of the G.W. Directors where it was resolved to raise the interest on debentures to 5 per cent & to make another call. From what I have seen & heard I am afraid now that our railway will not open till April.

S.W. very calm.

**25th.** Xmas day. S.W. very mild. I was much struck today with the change which has taken place in the poor baby. He is grown very thin, his eyes are sunk in his head, his countenance is most distressed, & his cry is piteous. His end must be near, & I trust it will please God to take him to his rest before many days are over. Harry got up but he looked so ill that I sent him to bed again. His pulse still continues about 90, & his mouth dry. Mr. Fernandez bled him.

The children enjoyed their Xmas dinner with us very much, but we were not in spirits to enter into their happiness.

**26th,** Wind S.E. rather colder.

Mary much less feverish today.

**27th.** S.E.

Harry continues to mend.

**28th,** S.W. very mild,

Harry still doing well. The poor Baby has not got worse as we expected it wd., but it continues to suffer.

The Ths. Worthington in from Lima with letters to the 27 Sept. Trade very dull. At the Railway

Comtee today it was stated that in 3 weeks from this time we should have an opportunity of trying the engines on 5 finished miles.

**29th.** S. to S.E. beautifully fine & mild.

**30th.** S. & very fine.

**31st.** S.E. Went to Paddington & was much dissatisfied with the little progress wch. appeared to be making there.

**1st January. 1838.** Important despatches & very large remittances today fm. Valpo, per Courier - A letter received today at the railway office from the Liverpool Shareholders stating that we had lost their confidence & that the only way for the concern to go on at all satisfactory wd. be to introduce 3 Liverpool Gent. to our Direction. A greater instance of Conceit & vanity I never saw. Wind West - mild - Shares 13.

**2nd.** W. mild. William returned this evening -

**3rd.** W. mild. Harry quite recovered & went out. Dr. Jones called - Agreed with Sims, Mills, & Saunders what sort of letter sd. be written to the Liverpool proprietors.

**4th.** W.

at Brights request I proposed to our w. Directors that we should each take 10 shares in the Bristol & Exeter: which was agreed to.

**5th.** W. A dense cold disagreeable fog.

The poor Baby has been very sick today & refuses its food. It is greatly to be wished that it wd. please God to take it to its rest.

**6th.** E. damp fog.

Engaged the greatest part of the day in considering at the Railway office Bright's proposed amendment on our letter to the Liverpool proprietors - Saunders expressed himself to me much dissatisfied with the progress of the rails & hoped that the Directors would be more on the line. He thought Brunel's calculations as to time very deficient & said he had spoken very seriously to him on the subject.

**7th.** E- & cold.

**8th.** N.E. very cold.

A long discussion at the railway office today respecting the answer proposed by the Bristol Comtee. to be given to the Liverpool proprietors -Sent down our first letter altered & a new one founded on their views for their consideration. Antony & Georgy went to the Corries.

**9th,** N.E. very cold indeed, with Snow.

Went with Casson & Harry along the line to West Drayton - Ealing station in a very unfinished state. The Hanwell embankment not completed on either side, & none of the line ballasted, nor

any piles driven, but I did not see anything to induce me to think that everything might not be completed before the end of Mch. At West Drayton we were much pleased to find that the two (engines) were about to be tried & after walking with Brunel as far as the Chequers Bridge, admiring the rails exceedingly & disapproving of Reynold's experiment, we returned to the engine house, & after some delay in getting up the steam, they sallied forth, but the curve in the turn-out proving too sharp for them they got off the rail two or three times, & it was an hour before they cd. be got on the main line. When there, however, they performed beautifully & we had a very interesting drive.

**10th.** N.E. very cold with hard snow.

**11th.** N.E. Very cold with -

The Royal Exchange burnt down last night. The Bristol Comtee. returned our letter with a few alterations & we sent it off to Liverpool. Long consultation about Manager.

Delgado, Casson & Whetherall dined here.

**12th,** N.E. very cold. George arrived from Heyford. Thermom. 15

Further consultations about Manager.

Shares 13. Cabones took leave. Mr. Powell offer'd me a situation for G.C. in the London of 90£ a year which we thought it best to refuse.

**13th.** N.E. very cold but beautiful day.

Went with the Directors to W. Drayton to try the engines again & one of the first class carriages. Found Bright and Mr. Tripp there. The trial was very satisfactory but the springs of the carriage appeared to be too rigid.

**14th.** N.E. very cold.

Sunday - not well enough to go to Church. Caroline had a bad cold too, & Harry was feverish & unwell. Charles & Johnny had bad coughs - Mr. Barnwell called. Wm. was very poorly.

**15th.** N.E. Therm: early in the morning at 9.

William much better, & Caroline & Harry & the children also better.

Shares at 14½ today.

**16th.** Caroline very much better, but Harry tho' better in the morning, was heavy hot & feverish at night.

Shares rose to 18½ today - Wind N.E. but not quite so cold. My head & cold still bad.

**17th.** N.E. Cold & snow still on the ground.

A motion brought forward today at the London by Caley to lend 50,000£ to the G.W.R. which was lost by one. I had to make a long statement to the court on the subject. Shares 15½. Antony went to school.

**18th.** N.E. with a good deal of wind & very cold - A letter received from Liverpool stating that they still persevered in their views & wd. send a deputation to London to discuss the question.

Mr. Sims, Russell & myself appointed to meet them. Brunel instructed to arrange with (name blank in diary) for the Bridges over the Thames & to make the necessary enquiries for a further supply of timber. Saunders was instructed to write to Harford and Scott about iron. The old Harrow road was shut up today,

**20th.** N.E. & increasingly cold but fine.

Called at the Charles House, & went over it with Mr. Saunders. Saw Antony who I found had been placed in the 4th form. Wrote to Robert & Sam about the Liverpool question, & to Mr, Mallet & Douglas for their proxies. Saw Mr. McCalmont who said he quite disapproved of the Liverpool proceedings.

**21st.** Called on Mrs. Noyeses after Church, & then went to Paddington.  
W. SE & beginning to break.

**22nd.** S.W. a decided thaw.

Heard from Robert rather recommending concession & saying that he wd. be in town to attend the conference. Finance Commtee, at the Railway office, & a long Marine Committee at the London. Harry's worse & I determined not to send him to Oxford till Monday next 28th.

**23rd.** SE. Frost in the morning, but a thaw afterward.

Had a long conference today with Mr. Alston from Liverpool & Mr. Heyworth when the subject of admitting Liverpool Directors was discussed in a friendly way & we parted good friends. They had nothing to urge but the number of their shares & the extent of their experience against wch, we brought all the evils of non-residence and sectional representation. Our impressions on their leaving us was that they would not press the measure. Shares firm at 16.

**24th.** A high & bitterly cold easterly wind. I did not feel well enough to go to West Drayton as I had engaged to do with Mr. Sims, Saunders & Casson to meet the Liverpool Gentn.

**25th.** E. still very cold, Breakfasted in bed, & went afterwards to the Railway weekly meeting, where various interesting matters were discussed & Brunel stated that he had not yet. conquered the peculiar falting which we had noticed in the carriages. Agreed on our answer to the Liverpool people.

**26. 27. 28th.** E. but getting less cold.

I staid at home these 3 days to nurse myself & took Calomile tea. The poor baby was weaned on the 27th, the consequence of Ellard having been taken ill. Sims called on me to say what had been done about Iron & timber.

**29th.** S.W. & a delightful thaw.

Staid at home again fm, the Compting as my cough was still troublesome. Barnwell drank tea with us.

**30th.** E. thaw continues.

Harry left us for Oxford, with a fresh cold I fear & not looking well. Mr. Tite called to say that he

was ready to resign if I wished it to make room for Casson. I told him that my observations in the Committee were levelled more at others than at him, & that I really did not know what to say. Casson was certainly in every respect a most desirable person to have amongst us, but I did not like to lose his (Mr. Tite's) services - it was settled that we sd. both consider the matter between this & Thursday.

Mrs. Harris was buried today & poor Mrs. Draper died this morning.

Charles C. met with an accident yesterday at his new house wch. will probably confine him for some time to his house.

**31st.** N.E. Still thawing.

My cough was bad in the night in consequence of which I put on a Blister. Wrote to Dr. Jones & Harry. Sims called - Ellin & Globe arrived today with news fm. Lima to the 30 Sept. & long interesting letters - Put on a blister.

### **February 1838**

**1st.** E. a raw unpleasant day with slight frost.

I was much pleased to hear from S. Bright that many of the Liverpool proprietors had determined not to interfere with our direction in consequence of wch. the attempt wd. be given up by all - it appears that Bright & Barber had contributed much to bring about this object & that extracts from my letters had been used for the same purpose. Sims called. Contracts for two bridges over the Thames taken for 45,000£.

**2nd.** E. very fine, but cold tho! not severe.

Wrote to Mr. Tite accepting his offer to resign - wrote long letters to Sam & Robert. Shares 17.

**3rd.** Wind E. & very fine, but Cold.

Casson called & reported that the work was going on very actively at Paddington.

**4th.** E. still fine & cold.

Mr. Tite called & said he did not mean to shrink from his offer tho' his friends thought he had done wrong, but he wd, wait till he cd. consult Mr. Mills.

**5th.** E. Fine & Cold.

Still confined to the house having caught a fresh cold. Sims called & told me that Brunel was in great spirits having ascertained the cause of the blows on the rails on the carriages passing over them. I received a pleasant letter from Barber yesterday giving me an acct. of the course he & Sam B. were taking to defeat the Liverpool schemes.

**6th.** E. & S.E. fine & cold.

Went to the City.

Shares 18.

**7th.** S.W. & a decided thaw.  
Confined to the house by a sick headache.

**8th.** S.W. & quite mild.  
A long sitting at the Railway Committee. Another meeting has been held at Liverpool, but many of the influential men having come over to our views the meeting was thinly attended & I do not believe they will continue their opposition tho' they resolved to canvass for proxies & to bring forward 3 Lancashire Directors.

**9th.** S.W. with rain. N.W. in the evening.

**10th.** N.E. again & cold.  
Sims went on the line with Mr. Babbage, Mr. Lewis from the post office etc. etc.etc. I was not well enough to go. Received letters from Sam & Barber & wrote to them which I have done almost every day & I begin to feel rather tired of the correspondence as new crochets on the part of the Liverpool people are daily reported to me & I doubt therefore whether we shall be able to satisfy even the most moderate. My present impression is that Mr. Crossthwaite & the moderate party will bring forward three London men, & that they will be joined by Heyworth & his party who will see the impossibility of bringing in Liverpool men. Three of our best men will stand against them & we shall be prepared to give to our proprietors at the meeting every information which they can fairly ask for.

**11th,** N.E. cold but beautiful weather.  
My cough was very troublesome last night, & I shall not venture out today. I wrote to S, Bright yesterday about a situation in a Bank which had offer'd for George Crawley.

**12th.** Cold, & frosty with fog. Wind very variable.  
Went to the Railway office but not to the Compting house. Caroline went to Highgate & found Charles better - but still in bed. Brought up the Lima private Ledger

**13th.** N.E. hard frost.  
Letters fm. Valpo. to 2nd Nov. announcing the arrival & landing of the Chile expedition & their entry into Arequipa the 12th Oct. Spent some time at the Railway office making a list of fit men for Directors, & considering how we sd. treat the Liverpool question at the meeting. Gower said he had been canvassed for Sharp. I was against producing the obnoxious Liverpool letter unless absolutely necessary. Mills wished to bring it out at all events. Wrote to Mr. Tite to tell him that Mills was returned.

**14th.** N.E. hard frost - & fine weather.  
After taking grey powder three nights following & a dose of phisic this morning, I feel better today than I have done for some time past.

**15th.** E. high wind & cold.  
Mr. Tite sent in his resignation, wch, was accepted, & Casson was proposed. Gower, Fenwick and Grenfell were balloted out, & declared their intention of standing again. Called upon Brunel

to bring forward by next Wednesday a comparative statement of the total cost of our line - advertised for contracts to construct 9 miles more as far as Didcot. Went in the evening with Brunel to see Davys Electro-Magnetic Telegraph.  
Shares 20.

**February 16th** Strong easterly wind & bitterly cold.  
Engaged all day in writing for proxies.

**17th**, Wind varying from E, round to w. cold with snow, thaw, rain & then frost, a very unpleasant & wintry day.  
Louisa & Sir T. Crawley & Albinia dined with us.  
Busy preparing quarterly statement at the compting house, with Sims & Saunders about estimates at the Railroad office.

**18th, Sunday**. N.E. snow on the ground, & frost. A decided thaw soon after which continued throughout the day with the wind at N.E.  
Called on Mrs. Noyes's - Mrs. A.N. appeared very weak, & looked ill.

**19th**, N.E, slight frost in the night but a continued thaw today.  
Closed with Rothschild for the purchase of 2000 Bottles of Quicksilver at 3/1.

**20th**. E. & S.E. continues to thaw & is much milder.  
Casson elected today a director of the G.W.R. Received notice today from the Liverpool Committee that they would not oppose us as a body, though individuals wd. take their own course - dined with Nobody.

**21st**. E. & very raw & disagreeable, but thawing.  
Went to Paddington & felt convinced that six weeks or two months of fine (weather) will enable them to do everything that is necessary there for the opening.

**22nd**. E. & still very raw, disagreeable weather.  
Attended our weekly railroad meeting with Casson. Box tunnel taken by a respectable contractor.

**23rd**. E. with rain; wretched weather but no frost.  
Saunders & Brunel were up all last night going over the estimates & the result led Saunders to counsel us strongly not to go into the subject till after the meetings but to draw up such a paragraph for our report as, without in the least deceiving the public, wd not give them at once the real state of the case. From his manner & expressions I fear that we shall require at least 666,666£ more making in all 4 million to complete our line. I wish this may be enough.

**24th**. S.E. & rain ending in s.w. with much warmer weather.  
After a long conversation today we determined not to go into the estimates, but to state generally that in the present state of our works it is not possible to give so correct a view of the probably expenditure as to render it expedient to enter on the subject. It was proposed however

that soon after the meeting we should do so for our own satisfaction. Saunders then read the report as far as he had written it. We then discussed the propriety of touching or not on our report on our late discussion with the Liverpool people & agreed on the mode of treating it.

The Birmingham report shows that in spite of the strong & positive declaration in their last rep at as to their opening to Stony Stratford on the 1st Jany & not wanting any more money, they cannot now say when they will open, & that they will want a great deal of money to enable them to finish their line.

G.W. 19 to 20 Premium.

**25th Sunday.** Strong gale from the S.W.

Staid at home all day being very uncomfortable.

**26th.** E. rain, but no frost.

A very busy day at the railway office preparing for the public meeting tomorrow.

**27th.** E. rain without frost.

At our public meeting today our report gave great satisfaction & nothing unpleasant occurred on the part of the Liverpool people. The Heyworth party who wished to bring in Lancashire men were deserted by their party in Liverpool, & the moderate party, headed by Crossthwaite after having attempted in vain last night to bring us to a pledge or promise that we wd, bring in John Roskell of London on the first vacancy, sent us word just before the meeting that they should not offer us any opposition. The meeting appeared to be satisfied with Brunel's reasons for not being able to state more precisely the cost of the rails, & I hope they understood from what he said that tho! they wd. not cost more than 500£ a mile more than when laid on the old mode, they wd. nevertheless be very expensive.

Shares 34.

**28th.** W. & fine till the evening when it rained.

**March 1st.** S & fine. do.

Appointed a sub-committee of inquiry into the estimates. Directed Brunel to prepare a statement of the expence & advantage of the deviation at Lord Barrington's, & to make arrangements for letting the line from Reading to Purley - Offered assistance to R for another month - Wrote a long letter to George.

**2nd,** E. no frost but a cold uncomfortable & very wet day.

Letters from Lima to 28th October.

**3rd.** S. & then back to E - wet & chilly.

Lord Teignmouth returned for Marylebone by a majority of 406.

Charles, Tom, Antony & Marshall dined with us.

**4th. Sunday.** E. hard rain, & cold.

**5th.** E. & in the evening w. with rain.

Georgina arrived.

At the railway on the subject of the Electro Magnetic Telegraph.

Dined with Corrie.

**6th** S.W. fine - first spring day - but in the evening it got colder, & the streets which had been very wet dried up fast.

Electro Magnetic again,

Despatched the John with 2273 bottles of Quicksilver, & bought 200 more.

Was shocked to hear that poor Martin had destroyed himself.

**7th.** W. & W by N. - fine & dry but rather cold.

Went to Paddington & was much pleased with the progress in laying the longitudinal timbers, but I heard of a new carriage shed being necessary, of too much expence being incurred in the carriage department - & of Hammond having talked very doubtfully of our opening in May which I did not like. The Ranelagh Bridge will probably be finished in a fortnight - Saunders proposed that his wife should call upon Caroline, & we talked about Antony, Anderson, etc.

**8th,** N.W. fine dry weather - rather cold.

A division took place last night on the Canada question, & the following division shows the present state of parties -

Conservatives	present	280
	paired off	11
	absent from illness	14
		<hr/>
		314
Whig radicals	present	318
	paired off	11
	ill	11
Actual division		<hr/>
		340
	316 Whigs	26
	<u>287</u> Conservatives	
	29	
	2 doubtful	
	1 vacancy	
	1 Speaker	

Shares 28

**March 1838 9th.** White frost, a lovely bright day.

Went with Casson & Sims to see the line. Walked from Slough to Maidenhead & from Slough to

West Drayton, in all ten miles, & were well satisfied upon the whole with the progress made. I was much struck with the North Star Engine, & with the noble character of the Maidenhead bridge. We saw no reason to doubt our being able to open the line in May & even Hammond agreed that we cd. open it comfortably in June.

**10th,** S.E. fine March weather - rather cold, & very dry.  
Finance committee at Railway Office. Caroline went to Hampstead.

**11th Sunday.** S.W. very fine & dry.  
Called on Mrs. Merrivale, Mrs. Barnwell, Mrs. Corrie & Mrs. Wm. Short.

**12th.** N.E. white frost - very fine.  
First meeting of Estimate Committee.  
Books balanced in Lima & Profits carried off - my share £7650.

**13th.** S.W. with light rain.  
Went again on the line with Sims, Casson & Saunders & walked from Hanwell to Paddington. What we saw left us under the impression that it will be impossible to open in May unless the work is expedited by placing immediately a larger force on the line, & we determined to represent this very strongly to Brunel.

**14th.** Saw Brunel today, & spoke to him very seriously on this subject.

**15th.** N.E. fine.  
Letters from Dawson via Jamaica to the 26th Jany. announcing the termination of the war, & from Lima by the Circassian to the 13th Nov. GC & Co. continue making every exertion to supply us with funds.

**16th,** W. fine in the morning - very hard rain afterwards.  
Dined at Saunders's, & met the Dean of Chester & his lady & daughter, Mr. Larpent, etc. etc.

**17th.** N.W. - very fine, but blowing hard & cold.  
Went to Paddington & walked on to Kilburn - trenching for the longitudinal timbers not begun yet within the Depot, but I was satisfied with the general progress - Old Stephenson stated at the Manchester & Leeds meeting that he would be mad to adopt our gauge of rails with the bad curves which he had on that line. Shares 28.

**Sunday 18th,** N.E. fine & dry.  
Went to Highgate to see Charles, & found him still unable to walk without crutches.

**19th.** N.W. cold & gloomy.  
News of the Peace between Chile & Peru confirmed. Attended a Committee on the electro-magnetic telegraph. Received a letter from Bright about debentures wch. I answered.

**20 - 22nd.** S.W. & N.W. very cold with occasional show.

Very busy with railroad, London, Arbitration, Statements of last years accts, writing to S.A. etc. etc.etc. Arica arrived bringing us a good deal of money & produce.

**24th.** W. but cold, & overcast.

William went on board the G. Western & I went to the Depot, where, tho' there is still a great deal to be done I cd. not see anything to retard our opening beyond the 31st May. I dined at Barnwell's & heard some very beautiful music.

The poor dear Baby has been suffering much for some days & has become very thin indeed. It appears. possible that it can exist long in its present state, & we pray earnestly for its release.

**25th March - Sunday.** N.W. very fine but cold & windy - called on Mrs. Noyses.

**26th.** S.E. fine dry weather.

**27th.** N. beautiful weather, & much warmer.

I went on board the G.W. Steamer & was much struck with her appearance in the water, with the beautiful fittings of her cabins, & with the power of her engines. Casson dined with me & we went over the regulations in the evening which Saunders had prepared for the railway

**28th,** N. & most beautiful weather.

This has been an uncomfortable day. In the morning I was assailed on all fronts by the parties for whom I had procured tickets of admission to the G.W. Steamer, in consequence of their having been most unceremoniously sent back without being allowed to see the ship. I wrote a strong letter to Saunders for Mr. Clanton's inspection & expressed how indignant I felt at such gross mismanagement. The next thing that annoyed me was a report from Saunders that the work was stopped on this side of Ealing in consequence of its being discovered that deeper trenches wd be required to carry off the water; that a bridge must be pulled down in consequence of its having been built 18" out of its place, & that a finished & planted slope at the Scoubs had to be cut away to alter the curve. On reaching Bedford Square I found the Baby worse & Charley very unwell. Neither Caroline nor I therefore were very fit for our party which went off however tolerably well & consisted of Plummer & his daughter - Alleyne - Mr. & Mrs. Wetherall - Dissell - Williams, Edwards, & Mr. Short.

For the last 3 days I have been trying the plan of not eating anything between luncheon & dinner, & having conquered the first difficulty, I think it will answer & contribute to my health, besides saving time & preventing my being so uncomfortable as I sometimes am when I am prevented by circumstances from taking my usual luncheon. A trifling excess however at our party today has more than common effect upon me I find & is more carefully than ever to be avoided.

Shares 24½.

**29th.** S.E. a lovely Spring day - Therm, up to 50 - & the Snow drops & Crocuses have burst out into full flower -

I have a bad headache as I feared. Charles is much better but still in bed, Mary is in bed too with a cold & stiff neck - Caroline is also in bed feverish & knocked up with yesterdays exertions - We have therefore been obliged to put off the large party we were expecting today - Poor Dear Baby is much the same, & cannot exist many days I sd. think in its present state. Young Lloyd breakfasted here this morning. Caroline got worse as the day advanced & I sent for Mr. F., who order'd her to take immediately 20 gr. of Ipecacuanha; she continues very unwell, with a good deal of fever & pain in her back & limbs - Charley's pulse too is high with pain in his legs & back. George, Lloyd, Tom & Lewin ? dined here.

**30th.** N.E, very fine & dry -

Caroline's fever still continues, attended with perspirations, & she is taking ammonia off. Her Breath is short, & I do not feel easy about her, or about dear Charley who has had a blister on his stomach.

Mr. F. apprehending that there was something putrid in the character of his fever. He has no appetite whatever, & is low but patient & very good. His pulse is about 100, Caroline's 96. Mary is very flushed & feverish. Poor Baby much the same but very quiet. The other Children quite well.

**31st.** Thank God all cause for alarm appears to be removed, both Mrs. Gibbs & the children are better, William & I went in the afternoon to Acton & walked back along the line. What I saw did not give me much confidence as to our opening in May. We had a very cold, uncomfortable walk with the wind at N.E. & cloudy - R. Bright called in the morning.  
Shares 26.

**1st April, Sunday.** Caroline & the children continue better. The poor Baby's breath since yesterday morning has been short, but he does not seem to be in much pain now. Wind N.E. fine. Therm down to 27. At 2 o'clock a change took place in the state of the Baby - He drew his breath with difficulty, became rapidly weaker, & after a painful struggle he was happily released from his sufferings. Caroline was not well enough to see him.

**2nd.** Wind changeable - cold & dry.

I went to the Compting house having a great deal to do for the D Grant ? , but I saw Perry first & made the necessary arrangements, & I wrote to Harry & Antony - I was shocked to hear today of Mr. Brunel serious accident on board the Gt. Western. On my return home I found that Caroline had been suffering dreadfully from a pain in her head which appeared to proceed from a gathering inside, which had again brought on fever & oppression on the Chest. Mr. F. saw her again tonight & does not believe there is any gathering. He considered it inflammation & attributes to this the pain & profuse secretion.

**3rd.** N.E. fine.

The poor Baby was buried this morning at 10 o'clock in the St. Giles's burial ground near Camden Town & Mrs. White Nurse & Mary attended the funeral. I wrote to H. Mary Elizabeth & Georgey. Caroline has been in a state of pain all day & by her desire she has been left alone almost all the day as she cd. neither bear light nor noise. She took LS, 20 & 40 in the morning &

Bark Dfls since. I staid at home all day. We heard today that the Chilian Govt. had refused to ratify the Treaty of Peace with Peru!

Shares 27½.

**4th. April 1836** S.W. fine & mild.

Caroline is much better but still confined to her bed. I balanced & closed the Private Ledger today to the end of last year. In the evening I spent some hours on the Arbitration case between Barrow & Smith Magniac & Co.

**5th.** S.W. blowing hard - & cloudy

Caroline continued to mend, & the Children are much better. Good acct. of Brunel who had a severe fall on board the Gt. Western Steamer. Went with Casson to Paddington & was well pleased with the progress making - Mr. Gibson called & staid an hour & half.

**6th,** S.W. mild & showery.

**7th.** hard gale fm. S.W. with rain - mild.

I finished today some long & useful statements which I have been drawing up respecting our business here & S.A. I also finished going over the arbitration papers a second time. Caroline much better today.

**8th.** W by N. Colder & blowing hard.

**9th.** N.E. cold & dry & cloudy.

**10th.** S.W. a warm Spring day.

The Almond blossom burst into flower today. I went with Casson & R. Bright to Paddington & the latter was much pleased with what he saw there.

**11th,** S.W. a warm & lovely day -

**12th.** N.W. to N. still very fine, & dry but much colder.

Had an hours conference in the morning with my fellow arbitrators - Attended our Railroad committee, & made some good progress in bringing our Contractors Ranger & Oldham into better order - Rails laid 5 miles - Ordered 4 new Carriages - Heroine & Perseverance in fm. Lima, The Fisco appeal decided in our favor. Bark decree extended to Peru.

William went this evening to Salthill & Eton to stay a few days. Had a pleasant letter today from Harry. Sold Lloyd's 15 shares at 29.

**13th. Good Friday.** N.E. cold dry day.

Went to Paddington after Church with Charley & Willey & was much pleased with the progress making there.

**14th.** S.E. cold & dry.

Engaged all day in preparing for the Jamaica mail - Antony & Georgey came home.

**15th Sunday.** S.W. with drizzly rain, & mild.

Caroline went with me in a Cab to the early Sacrament - N.W.W. in the evening.

**16th,** N.W. very cold with hail & sleet - it blew a hard gale in the night.

Wm. came back from Eton this morning.

From all I can see & hear our prospect of opening in May is better now than it has been, & there is every appearance of our having a very great traffic in June arising from

the season of the year

the Novelty of our railroad

the Coronation

the Montem, &

the races.

The Coach proprietors seem very ready to enter into our views.

**17th.** N.W. cold wintry weather, with violent hail storms, & rain -

An unaccountable flatness seems to hang over every branch of business - No Sales can be affected & a considerable fall in prices is therefore much to be apprehended - Money in the mean time is very abundant.

**18th to 20th.** N.E. cold & wintry, with hard storms of hail & snow.

I have been engaged the three last days in clearing my desks at the compting house, putting away last years letters & documents, & putting every thing in order. ? Renmell dined here on the **19th**, & I walked before dinner with Casson & Mr. Russell to the depot where we found that the wing walls of the Ranelagh Bridge were giving way outwards.

**21st.** S.W. - & cloudy - not warm.

Went to Paddington about 5 o'clock & found the work getting on very fast & an immense number of people employed between the Depot & the Green Lane Bridge. The Wing walls above referred to have closed in consequence of the support now given outside by puddling, which ought to have been done before. I found Brunel in the waiting room, appearing weak but looking better than I expected. From what I have seen today I will venture to hope that by Wednesday the 2nd May every thing may be done in the depot, & fm. thence to the Green Lane bridge necessary for the opening.

Shares 29½ to 30½.

**22nd Sunday.** S.E. very cold, damp & comfortless.

John Yonge of Eton is with us. I called on Mrs. S. Noyes.

**23rd April 1838** W. by N. with some hard showers of rain - rather cold.

I heard from George asking whether G.C. wd. be fit to go on a mission to Canada. Went with Mr. Williams to the depot where they are going on exceedingly well. John, James & George Yonge

dined here & went in the evening to the Play with William & Georgey. Caroline has a bad cold again, with a shooting pain in the side of her head.

**24th.** E. raw & uncomfortable weather.

Engaged 7 hours on the Arbitration business. Norris & Tom dined with us. William took James & George Yonge & our Georgey to Astley's.

**25th.** E. cold raw weather.

My dear Caroline's birthday. She is better but very hoarse & we have both bad colds - went in the evening to the Savings bank to attend a Committee.

**26th,** E. blowing hard & cold.

Head & cold both bad in the morning, & I got worse by the work at the railway office where I was in the chair - Saunders brought forward his report on the establishment necessary to carry on the traffic between London & Maidenhead.

I dined in the City & at 5 Mr. B. Innes & Mr. Ede came to me to go with the arbitration, & we continued at it till 9 o'clock when I went home with a very bad headache.

**27th.** E. blowing hard & cold

My head was so bad in the night that I was obliged to take 20 drops of laudannum. Caroline's cough was very bad too & we did not sleep a wink all night - today my head has been better but I have been very sick & giddy much of the day. Norris & Ellen dined with us.

**28th.** Still E - & unpleasant weather.

Three hours more at the arbitration. Sam Bright came to town with his wife a few days since. Antony came home bringing a new blue Book from the Charter House with the result of the examinations in which he cuts but a very poor figure. I shall be much disappointed if his name does not stand forward next year in a much more creditable & respectable position.

**29th. Sunday.** E. with occasional snow.

Walked today after Church to Paddington with Tom & William.

**30th,** W. with rain - engaged the greatest part of the morning on the arbitration.

**1st May 1838** Soft W. wind with rain.

Went today to Maidenhead with Sam & Casson & found the two engines out for the first time with steam up. Brunel & his wife & Saunders were there & the trial went off exceedingly well. I rode on the North Star but found it very trying as I was not well, but the motion was very agreeable - I was more pleased than ever with the Maidenhead bridge of which the centres were now struck, that is standing free & I liked all the arrangements for the depot but I felt some doubts both here & at Hanwell as to opening in May.

The fields were beginning to look beautifully green & the trees were bursting rapidly into leaf. On my return to Bedford I heard to my great grief that poor Walter Crawley was dead & that Frank was expected to follow him immediately to the grave - it will be a dreadful bereavement to their poor parents but I know as one more disposed than they are to submit piously to the will of God

- We have heard also today of the death of our late Servant Maryanne who sunk under a rapid decline soon after her return to her parents near Belmont. She was a very good girl.

**2nd.** S.W. a beautiful warm spring day.

I walked to Paddington & was much pleased with the evident approach towards a finish in many of the works going on there - Still however they are not ready for opening as I hoped they might be as far as the Depot was concerned - we must give them a week or ten days more.

Business continues very flat in consequence of the state of Bankruptcy in which they appear to be in America on wch. country we depend but too much for our Commercial prosperity.

As Marco's balance is now very much reduced & our finances generally are in a much better state we have determined to take in hand without further delay the outstanding orders.

**3rd.** S.E. warm pleasant weather.

J. Lewin, & Mr. West dined here - & I went in the evening with William to Miss Hall's where we met Sir S. Glynn, Mrs. Short etc.

**4th.** E. a warm bright day.

Engaged at the Railway office in fixing salaries, making appointments, etc. Heard in the evening that poor Frank Crawley had died the evening before.

**5th.** N.E. very fine.

My cough wch has not been well for some time was so troublesome in the night that I had almost determined to put on a blister this morning. It appears to be better however today & I shall content myself with staying quietly at home. Spent the greatest part of the day in making up the Bedford Square accts.

**6th Sunday** - N.E. fine but rather cold.

Went to the early sacrament with Caroline. Took a walk in the evening to the depot.

**7th-8th-9th-** Bright days with a strong easterly wind -

much engaged every day at the Railway office with numerous preparations for our opening - Engaged also in making up the railway statement for GC & Co which I finished, & in examining the Cash acct. in Bedford Square.

Bark has been sold at Bordeaux at 3/s & we have bought 70 S - here at 2/2.

**10th.** Arbitration, Railway, & Marco's order occupied me all the day - returned home with a headache.

**11th.** E

In the Chair at the Railway office for two or three hours examining candidates for situations in the Railway. Left them at 2 & set off with William, Antony & Whetherall for Maidenhead in Wms carriage. Walked about the works for two hours at Maidenhead & returned to sleep at Salthill.

**12th.** N.E. - very fine -

Hammond came for me to Salthill with Harrison's engine & I went backward & forward in it twice

with Whetherall & ? In some places we had the knocks which we had observed before at Drayton, but this we were told occurred only where the screws were not completely screwed down. Along the greatest part however of the 4 miles the engine ran beautifully smooth & for some way we cleared sixty miles an hour. The Emerald took me up at 1 past 10 & I arrived at Belmont about 11 at night.

**Sunday 13th.** N.E.

**14th.** Bright came to Belmont, & we had a pleasant day talking over railway matters etc.

**15th 16th** do. N.E.

The trees at Belmont were by no means as forward as they generally are at this time of the year. The ashes looking quite wintry, & the Turkey oaks, & planes having their buds but just open.

**17th.** N.E.

Robert & Tom came to Belmont & the latter staid to dinner. George settled the terms of his new partnership with them. Letters have been received from Lima to the 13th Jany with the accts. of the house to the 31st Oct, 1837, showing £35,000 Profit in Lima for the ½ year & considerable reduction of the debts - they announce too that they have resolved to abolish the system of giving 30 days grace after the expiration of debts & not to sell to any one who has an overdue pagare outstanding.

**18th.** S.E. - left Belmont & came to Salthill where I met Caroline with Antony & Charley -

**19th.** S.E. & cloudy -

Went to the Railroad after breakfast, & Croline rode on the engine with me to Maidenhead & back. I went afterwards as far as Bulls Bridge & back to Salthill - Called at Eton on our way to Englefield.

**Sunday 20th.** S. Soft weather with rain.

**21st.** Came home, & had a long sitting with my fellow arbitrators. Went afterwards to Paddington.

**22nd.** A beautiful day.

Went with the other Directors to Hanwell & Bulls bridge in carriages, & from thence 11 miles to our Maidenhead station on the Railway - appointed some Porters etc. and fixed the day for the opening - viz. the 31st inst. for the Directors to run along the whole line, & dine together at Salthill - the 4th of June for Passengers only - the 11th for carriages, coaches etc.

**23rd.** W. to N.W. & cool.

The Gt. Western returned yesterday fm. New York in less than 14 days with 68 cabin Passengers & every prospect of continued success.

**24th,** N.E, a long sitting in Princes St.

The following friends dined with us. Mrs. Snaith - Mrs. Sykes, two Mr. Sykes, Mr. & Mrs. Corry - Mr. M. Corry & Miss Corry - Miss Hall, Miss Holdsworth, Casson -

**25th.** N.E, - long sitting at Prince's St.

**26th.** Princes St. again - N.E. fine but cold - Henry Crawley - Tom - Antony - Norris & Ellen, & Lewin dined here.

**27th Sunday.** S.E.

Went to Highgate to see Charles & Eliza who returned on Friday from Hastings. I found them in a very tranquil & even cheerful frame of mind.

**28th.** S, E, ending in S.W. with rain & warmer weather -

The ? arrived with letters of 9th Feby from Valpo. Tickets were issued today to about 200 people for the opening of the railway.

**29th,** S.W. - warm -

At the Railway office making sundry preparations for the opening. Went afterwards to Paddington & could hardly believe from what I saw that we can be ready by tomorrow night. Dined at Nobodys & met a large party of 34. I sat between Mr. Dalton & Mr. Bowdler.

**30th.** S.W. - After the court & life Committee at the London went to the Railway office & was engaged there till ½ past 6 -

**31st.** S.W. & a fine day till the evening when it rained hard -

This being the day appointed for opening our railway the Directors & the Company invited met at the Depot before 11 - Caroline & Antony went with us to see us start & a very pretty sight it was - At ½ past 11 we entered the carriages of the first train, & proceeding at a moderate pace we reached the Maidenhead Station in 49 minutes, or at about 28 miles an hour - After visiting the works we returned to Salt Hill where a cold luncheon was prepared under a tent for about 300. After the usual complement of toasts we returned to the line & reached Paddington from thence (19 miles) in 34 min. or 33 miles ½ per hour, Bright & Casson drank tea with me & in the evening we went to see the mails start fm the Birmingham Station at Euston Grove with which I was much pleased.

**June 1st. 1838** S.W. & continued rain.

Board met & having got through the business of the day rather a long discussion took place as to the salaries to be given to Saunders & Osler which were fixed at last at 1200 a year for the former & 800 for the latter, Saunders, who has hitherto had only 700 - to receive arrears at the rate of £1000 a year since the passing of the Act, & Osler who has hitherto had 600£ a year to receive arrears as to his Salary had been 750 since his appointment.

Mr. & Miss Tomlinson - Miss Hall & Miss Holdsworth, T. Lewin & Colonel Fraser dined with us today.

**2nd.** S.W. hard rain all day -

Left the Compting house early & called on the Ludlows, & on the two Mrs. Noyes with Caroline. Mrs. A. Noyes was very kind & affectionate in her manner. She was lying on the sofa in the drawing room & looked very ill. From thence we drove on to the Depot where they reported that all was ready for Monday morning - Eton College applied yesterday to the Court of Chancery for an injunction to prevent our stopping at Slough. The application was dismissed with costs - Dined at Mr. Justice Coleridge with Caroline & William & met the William Yonges there.

**Sunday 3rd.** S.W. fine but showery.

Wm. went this morning to Englefield where all the children except Antony are.

**4th.** Our railway open'd to the public this morning & I went to Maidenhead with the first train & came back with the 3rd which started from Maidenhead at past 10. I was disappointed with regard to the speed as we were one hour & 20 minutes going down & one hour & 5 minutes coming up. If from the 65 minutes we deduct

4 lost at Drayton

3 lost at Slough

4 lost between the two places &

11 slackening & getting up the speed there remain 54 minutes for 23 miles or 25½ m.per hr.

We carried altogether today 1479 people & took £226.

**5th.** N.E. very fine.

I went yesterday evening with Caroline to Englefield in a fly, & found W. & Anne & Joseph arrived there. Joseph had gone to Eton with William. The children were all very well & rejoiced to see us, Caroline & I slept at Egham. This morning they went to Eton, & I proceeded in my fly to Slough through Datchet, & having contributed my salt, I joined the 10 o'clock train & returned to Paddington in 45 min. or 29 m.pr.n. Went to the Depot in the evening to see the trains arrive, which they did not do till 9 o'clock - two together.

**6th.** S.W.

**7th.** S.W. - dined with Lewin & met some agreeable men.

**8th,** S.W. Henry Norris & his wife dined here.

**9th.** S.E. - Went after an early dinner with Harriett & Anne & William by the Railroad to meet George. Spent two hours there & got home comfortably for tea.

**10th.** W. to S.E. Sunday.

**11th,** N.E. rain & cold.

**12th.** S.W. Storms & sunshine.

**13th.** S.W. " "

**14th.** S.W. The Derby at Ascot - an interesting day for our railroad & we carried altogether in the course of the day people without accident or disappointment. Mr. Powell, Miss Maria Powell - ? - Dissell, Batemen, Mudge - L. Barnwell, & Ludlow dined here.

Numerous reports have been spread here & in Liverpool in the course of the last week injurious to the railway, & they appear to have originated in the vile manoeuvres of the Stock exchange, & of other parties speculating in shares & partly in the ill will of those who are connected with the railways on the old system - The price has fallen in consequence to 17 & many who have sold have been thus cheated of their money.

**15th.** Whetherall, w. Barrow - Lloyd vanheuchelom, Chi. Latham, Casson & Squire dined here

**16th.** W. & cloudy.

I went today to Maidenhead to try the rails from the great improvement in the motion of the 6 wheel carriage with the new springs. I am convinced that the want of smoothness is to be attributed in a great measure to the faulty springs of the other carriages. As to speed I see clearly that when our trains run through without stopping we shall do the 23 miles easily in 35 to 40 mins - In going down the Aeolus took us in 57 min, stopping twice, & in coming back the Bacchus brought us in 60 min, stopping 3 times. We carried in the first 7 days, that is up to the Sunday evening the 10th inst. 10,360 Persons for £1,552, being about 3/- ea.

Douglas & Pemberton dined here today -

Shares have risen to 25.

**17th Sunday.** S.W. cloudy & very warm,

**18th,** S.W. Chs. came to the Compting house.

**19th.** S.W. Heard from Bright pressing us to make arrangements for Brunel's going to Bristol. At 4 o'clock I went to Paddington, & again after dinner & had a great deal of conversation till 10 at night with Brunel, Simons & Saunders about Carriage Springs, Brunel's visit to Bristol etc. etc.

**20th.** S.W. & rain.

Went in the morning on a truck to Slough & returned & then went into Committee till 4. Our position at present is this - at our opening there has been some little disappointment as to our speed & the smoothness of our line & there is some difficulty in ascertaining how much of this defect is to be traced to the line & how much to the carriages. In the meantime shares have fallen to 16 & reports of all kinds have been set on foot by the advocates of the old system, & by many interested parties to depreciate the whole concern. Brunel's character & reputation therefore as well as our own peace and comfort demand our best attention at this moment to the repacking of the line, the changes which have been suggested in the springs etc.etc, and, much as Brunel is wanted at Bristol, it seems impossible to part with him at present. It has been settled however that he is to go there for a few days. The state of the Maidenhead bridge was brought before us today & it was settled that after the tipping over the bridge is finished wch will take 2 months, the contractor sh be required to make good that part of the arch wch, has been deformed by his negligence in taking away the centres too soon - The deviation question at Lord

Barrington's was also settled by a decision that we sh keep to our old line on the score of the expense which would be incurred.

**21st.** S.W. with rain.

The most ridiculous reports were in circulation today about the bridge, & we were so pestered with enquiries that it became necessary to prepare some sort of report to tranquilise the minds of our shareholders, & I went with Casson & Sims to Paddington for that purpose & stayed there till 10 at night. Our difficulty was increased by the facts that the road is evidently deteriorating under the pressure of the trains, that the engines are getting out of order from too much use, & that our carriages are far from easy. Brunel acknowledged that the road was decidedly in a very bad state arising as he believed from two causes 1st from his having ballasted with fine gravel instead of coarse & from his not having laid the ballasting deep enough. It was agreed that two experiments sd. be tried, of half a mile each, one of relaying the ballasting with coarse gravel 18 inches deep well rammed, the other of releasing the timbers from the piles & relaying as above. Alterations were made in the trains to give rest to the engines & to allow of the above experiments being made. Alterations were also ordered in the carriages.

**22nd,** S.W. with rain.

Met again today to consider the report wch, was approved, & I hope that when it appears tomorrow it will have the effect of restoring confidence. There has already been some reaction in the shares which are now at 21.

**23rd.** S.W. & fine.

Brunel went to Bristol last night. Caroline & I went to the Opera,

**24th Sunday.** S.W. very fine warm summer weather.

Very tired with last nights dissipation,

Walked in the evening with Charles, Willy & Johnny to the station.

**25th.** N.E. & fine weather.

The Town is excessively full & great preparations are making in every direction for the gaieties of this coronation week.

**26th.** N.E. a gloomy day.

Joseph arrived from Clifton, & Arthur Yonge from Tiverton.

**27th.** W.

**28th.** N.W. rain early & fine afterwards.

Went to Maidenhead after the Coronation. I was very much pleased with the procession & with the noble spectacle which Trafalgar Square presented when full of people.

**29th.** W. & fine.

**30th,** S.W.

We have been very busy indeed on the railway this week, & I hope the carriages are improving

with use & the road by the expense bestowed upon it in repacking with coarse gravel.

	<u>Persons</u>	
The 1st week we carried	10,360	for £1552
2nd " " "	10,940	1719
3rd " " "	8,2371	1295
4th " "		

**30th,** It appears likely that Eton will allow us to have a station at Slough & strange to say a train was provided on Thursday at the request of the Masters to bring the Eton boys up to town. We feel more than ever the necessity of pressing for more efficient assistance for Brunel as a great deal of our work is getting far behind hand.

**1 July Sunday.** Wind W. & cold.

**2nd.** S.E. to S.W. with heavy rain in the Evening.  
Shares have fallen today to 12 to 14.

**3rd.** W. with rain.  
Shares at 8, then rallied to 12.

**4th.** W. do. do.  
Mr. A. Saunders, Mr. Russell, Mr. R. King, L. Barnwell & his wife. Miss Cummins, Mrs & Miss Norris & Henry & Ellen Norris dined here. We had rather a heavy day.

**5th.** E. fine summer day.  
We had a painful discussion today at the Railway office - Having received an intimation from some of the Liverpool proprietors of their intention to call a special meeting the Chairman proposed instead that our August meeting should be adjourned a fortnight to allow time for the consideration of our report. I was unprepared for such a serious measure & I much fear that it will open the door to many unpleasant propositions from our northern proprietors who are bent on crushing Brunel & are availing themselves of the fall in shares brought on by the Stock jobbers, to accomplish their object. I verily believe that we shd. have done exceedingly well if they had let us alone - the line is improving daily. Waring, the Quaker jobber, has failed - & shares have advanced to 14. We were quite prepared & determined to insist on Brunel's securing more efficient assistance & throwing off the details upon others, & we had announced our intention of weighing very seriously all the merits & demerits of our present system before we carried it further.

**6th.** S.W. fine.  
Went at 4 o'clock to Paddington & soon after news was brought us that the Vulcan was off the line & had sunk up to the axle. This led to an accumulation of trains & people & in the attempt to correct the evil another engine got off the line, & sank in the same way. The consequence of which was that many hundreds of people were disappointed, & the 4 o'clock train did not reach Maidenhead till past 10. I was so sick of the scene that I made off, finding that I could not be of

any use. Harriett was very ill today wch. added to my uncomfortableness, & I felt very indisposed to go to Highgate but having promised to do so I set off with Caroline about 8 o'clock.

**8th Sunday.** Spent a quiet day at Highgate, & Harry came up between Churches with a better acct. of Ht.

**9th.** S.W. a lovely summer day.

Ht. better, the affair of Saturday does not appear to have made much impression, wch. was a great relief to me, as I was afraid that it wd have had a very bad effect. I believe however that such events have been very common on all railways.

I had a long talk today with Mills about the faults of Brunel etc. etc. Called on Mr. Banfill who I was glad to see & he appeared to me to have still 10 good years in him.

I then went on to Paddington & was better pleased. It was a bright day & the trains going smoothly in & out full of people, & with coaches & gentleman's carriages offered a pleasant contrast to the scene of Saturday. I like the alteration which is being made in the springs of Carriage -No. 5. Shares have fallen again to 12, & from all I hear there are many jobbers who have still an interest in keeping them down. The G.W. Steamer arrived in 12½ days with 92 Passengers. She got out in 14½.

**10th.** S.W. warm & fine

Attended the estimate committee some time & made a little progress - dined at Barnwells having left Highgate today.

**11th.** S.W. fine & warm.

Haras & Le Bris arrived today.

Wm., Ht, George & Anne & Joseph et al off today for Germany. Ht, being better.

Attended a Complaint Committee & being in the Chair I had to reprimand 3 men & a superintendent. Dined by myself.

**12th.** Fine warm day - S.W.

A long sitting at the Railway meeting when Brunel exonerated himself completely from the charge of not answering Mather Dixon's letter, & explained to our entire satisfaction the grounds on wch, he had originally recommended Harrison's engine. Melling's 4 wheel carriages were ordered off the line, etc, etc.

W. Patteson & his daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Hughes - J. Bateman - H. Lewin - John & Alexr. Merivale - Lloyd - Charles & Crawley dined here & we had a pleasant day.

**13th.** S.W. & most oppressively hot & close.

Had a long talk with Haras & Le Bris. Went after dinner to the Depot & saw.. Casson & Saunders there, the latter said he had not dined or breakfasted at home once since our opening. He showed me a letter he had just recd. from Brunel expressed in a cool & very proper way, but showing great feeling with reference to the loss of Confidence which he believes he has seen on the part of the Directors & even of Saunders. Poor fellow, I pity him exceedingly, & I know not how he will get through the storm which awaits him. With all his talent he has shown

himself deficient I confess in general arrangement - I mean in so arranging his work in his own mind as to enable him to proceed with it rapidly, economically & surely. There have been too many mistakes, too much of doing & undoing. The drainage I fear is imperfect, & the carriages made under his direction have not worked well - but I cannot help asking myself whether it is fair to decide on a work of this kind within a few weeks of its opening, & is not the present outcry created in a great measure by Brunel's enemies? I hear that at the meeting Brunel's dismissal is to be moved - now the strong bias of my mind is that our only chance of comfort & safety is that our line shd. be carried through by Brunel with efficient assistance, & on a more stringent system of control. Unless Stephenson will join him on the principle of abandoning his granite blocks & following out Brunel's wide gauge, it can only be done by Brunel himself, & even if Stephenson wd. join him I doubt much whether they wd. work well together.

**14th.** S.W. very hard rain in the afternoon.

Intending to go to Englefield, & wishing to try one of the altered carriages with Mills, Casson, Saunders & Brunel, I took Caroline with Harry & Antony by the railway, & Edward met us with the carriage at Slough. Liked the alteration in the carriage exceedingly. All the dear children were well & much delighted to see us.

**15th. Sunday.** S.W. very hard showers through the day.

Stayed at Englefield till early on the 16th,

When we returned to Town & had a very pleasant drive. Wind S.W. very fine.

Had a long discussion at the railway office on the propriety of adopting a suggestion of Brunel that we should call in 2 or 3 other engineers to survey our line & report on the permanent rails, when it was determined that he should lay his letter before Stephenson & ask his advice. Our present position & the course to be pursued was much discussed, & I expressed very strongly my opinion that whatever faults Brunel may have committed it wd. still be for our purpose in every point of view to trust to him for working out our line. It was not my wish to lose sight of those faults but on the contrary to correct with a firm hand every thing that may be wrong, & to pursue such a system with regard to the future as on close examination may be found the best. Casson thought our only chance was to associate Stephenson with him on a system of mutual concessions. On this being mentioned to Brunel afterwards he said that he felt obliged to Mr. Casson for telling him his opinion frankly but that as far as feeling and reputation went he shd say that it wd. be far better for him to resign than to adopt the course suggested, but that if other Directors adopted Mr. Casson's view he shd. be glad to have time to consider what course he ought to pursue. Mills, Fenwick, Russell & Sims thought with me on the subject & Mills said a good deal to show the origin of the present outcry in which I very much agree with him. It has much less to do with the deficiencies of our rails than with the machinations of the party which has so long been trying to crush Brunel & get a share in the management of the line.

**17th.** S.W. fine summer weather.

Went last night to Denbigh Hall by the Birmingham railway with Casson & Saunders in a 1st Class Carriage to see & try the line, & having slept at Stony Stratford we returned this morning in an open Carriage, We were two hours going, stopping twice, being at the rate of 23½ miles per hour, & 2½ hours returning being at the rate of 18 miles per hour. The Carriages & engines

are much lighter than ours. The Engines made much less noise, & the general noise is less but the wheels on the rails made more noise. The bumps or jolts at the points are very frequent indeed, & are in some places very uncomfortable, & the joints show plainly the effect of the heavy blows they receive. The serpentine or lateral motion of which we have none on our railway is very striking, but on the other hand they have no pitching or see saw motion whatever, produced with us by the yielding of the timber between the piles. The road is under repair in many places, 441 people being now employed on it, & they have still an immense expense to incur in replacing the temporary transverse wooden sleepers on the embankment by stone blocks.

Heras, Le Bris, Casson, Squire, Schecapar ? Lloyd & Henry Crawley, & Vidarte dined here.

**18th.** N.W. fine weather.

I am in better spirits today about railway matters. Shares have risen a little & are now at 12 premium. We are about to advertise that we are ready to take carriages on the line. The Eton people have asked for a conference. The total cost of the line to Maidenhead including the depot, & rails, will not exceed one million,

**19th.** N.W. still fine.

George C. came from Liverpool today. I understand that the Ulster Railway Directors have determined to adopt a gauge of 6ft 2 in & Roberts of the firm of Sharp Roberts & Co. said that night that as far as engines were concerned they could not be properly made with a less gauge than 5 ft. 2 in. to 5 ft 6 in. Chadwick allowed today in a letter to Brunel that he was responsible for the deficiency in the eastern arch of the Maidenhead Bridge.

**20th.** N.W. fine.

Lloyd, Henry, George, & Anthony Crawley & Ellen dined here with Mr. Lewin. Had a meeting at the Railway office to consider the propriety of calling on Stephenson, & Walker to report on our line which we determined to do, & I took this opportunity of calling the attention of the Committee & of Brunel to the importance of no work or building being undertaken in future until a plan, elevation, & full estimate has been laid before the Directors for their sanction. Brunel engaged to attend to this.

**21st.** N.W.

Engaged all the morning with Heras & Le Bris about Goods, & went by the 6 o'clock train to Slough in 41 mins. Went on in a Fly & found it very cold,

**22nd.** N.E. cold & comfortless.

Went to the Chapel in the Park.

**23rd.** N.W. still cold & uncomfortable

Returned from Slough in 39 mins. Heard from Baras that he had begun selling our Bark at 47. Engaged with Heras & Le Bris about Goods.

**24th.** N.W. & rather warmer.

Caroline has been at Slough since Saturday. Still engaged with Heras & Le Bris. Wrote to Mr.

Crane about George. Lloyd dined with me & went afterwards to the Opera. I went to Paddington.

**25th.** S.W. & very cold.

Had a conference with Mr. Crane about George. Went in the evening to Englefield via Slough. The Lion did not appear equal to the work & was 57 mins. on the road.

**26th,** N.W. & very chilly.

Letters from Valpo. to the 18 Apr. with many complaints from Lerica ? about the non-execution of his order for Quicksilver & from Marco about the sale of his tin. A long sitting at the Railway office, & I was deputed to represent to the solicitors the absolute necessity of our work being done quicker.

**27th.** N.W.

Determined with Heras and Le Bris that as the Bark is now almost all in our hands we may venture to offer 3,50 to B for 200 ? which he has received with orders to sell them at the price of the day.

Went to Paddington where I saw Roskill & another Proprietor who called to ask whether it was true that the Directors & the Secretary were splitting their shares. I told them that nothing of the sort had been done or contemplated, but that we had heard that the Liverpool people intended to do so, & if they did we should most assuredly be compelled in our own defence to do the same. they asked whether we intended to call in another engineer which I answered by saying that we were not by any means wedded to our present system - that we had plenty of time to consider what plan it will be most prudent to pursue on the remainder of the line - that all our thoughts were devoted to this subject, & that if the advice of another engineer should be considered desirable such advice wd be taken. They appeared upon the whole satisfied & said they had heard that we had thrown away 300,000€ on the rails, & they told Casson afterwards that they understood the line to Maidenhead wd cost 50,000£ a mile. Went to Hanwell on a false report that the embankment was sinking in an alarming way - returned & learnt that poor Hopkins in consequence of a fall from his horse was at deaths door.

**28th.** N.W.

Went to Englefield by Slough where Caroline & the Children met me.

**29th,** N.W. Sunday. Very hard showers.

**30th.** N.W. still chilly with showers.

Went to Paddington at 2 past 4 to hear sundry cases of complaint.

**31st.** W.N.W. warmer.

R. Bright arrived & joined in our discussion at the Railway office on establishing direct trains - & on the mode of proceeding with regard to consulting other engineers. Determined not to have direct trains yet as our line is not in a state yet to show the speed - & it was resolved to press Nicholas Wood to come up & to apply at once to Stephenson & Walker. It is hoped that Stephenson will not report, & that Walker will give a neutral opinion, & that Wood will be

favourable to our views.

It was settled that Brunel sd report to us before seeing the report of the other engineers, Barber writes to Casson & to me strongly pressing us to secure Crossthwaite as an ally to which I have no objection, believing him to be an honourable straightforward man.

**1st Aug.** S.W. warmer with hard showers.

Went to Maidenhead with Bright at 12 & returned at 5. Charles & Eliza & Llewlin dined with us.

**2nd Aug.** S.W. Hard rain.

Railway meeting. Bright attended. Public-house let for £160 a year, Premium £4000. A good deal of disagreeable conversation about the Horse Boxes & luggage vans, the faults of which were certainly not Brunel's.

**3rd.** S.W. Fine.

Committee on estimates made some progress. Resolved to move the Maidenhead depot a mile nearer the town when we open to a greater distance,

**5th Sunday.** S.W. blowing hard with rain in the morning.

Went to Paddington Church in the afternoon.

**6th.** S.W. still blowing hard with occasional showers.

**7th.** W. to N.W. occasional showers. Corn is rising in consequence of the weather.

The Liverpool people have sent in their proxies today which appear to be very numerous, & unless Crosthwaite stands by us I am afraid we shall be defeated. We have been unfortunate too in not having been able to obtain a report either from Wood or Walker. We must give every information however to the meeting & state the course wch we intend to pursue, & if they overrule us we must retire.

I confess however that I sd. be sorry to be disconnected with the G, Western till it is finished, tho! I sd. still less like to be controlled U dictated to by those Liverpool people.

**8th.** N.W. dry, & pleasant weather.

In better spirits about railway matters. Efforts have been made to collect proxies with some success. The injunction for which Ranger has applied to the Court of Chancery has been dismissed with costs. A Jury case has terminated favourably for us at Reading, & we have made considerable progress with the estimates.

Shares 12½ premium.

**9th.** N.W.

**10th.** Letters from Lima today to the middle of May via Jamaica. Held a railway Board today to fix on the course to be adopted in our report on the evening meeting & had a long anxious, but useful discussion. I was much pleased with the clear manner in which Brunel explained his views. Our report will show the result.

**11th.** Went to Englefield in the evening by the Railway.

**12th.** Not well enough to go to Church,

**13th.** Returned to Town by the railroad. Unwell all day but better towards the evening. Went by the Railroad to Maidenhead walked on the white embankment & after tea proceeded by the Mail to Bristol.

**14th,** Engaged all day in considering report etc. at the office. Noyes met me in the street & said that if we wd. make a trifling concession we shd have no trouble at the meeting. The concessions he proposed were that we shd admit into the Direction some Gentlemen connected with Liverpool & that some other engineer sd be associated with Brunel He did not wish he said that the present vacancy shd be filled up by a Liverpool man, or that the person selected shd reside out of London, but that the Liverpool shareholders shd have a person on the Direction from whom they cd be informed at all times of the exact state of the concern. Went to Belmont with Mills, Sims, Grenfell, Fenwick & Mr. Russell & got there in time for an 8 o'clock dinner.

**15th.** Got into Bristol by 9 & was engaged at the office & in the meeting till j past 7. Did not sit down to dinner at Brights till . past 9 very much exhausted. For what passed at the meeting see the published accts.

**16th.** After breakfast Mills etc. left me. then called on Mr. Seymore. Saw Nicholls, Taylor etc. & after luncheon spent the rest of the day with Aunt Bell. Slept at Bath & went on to Town next day the **17th.** calling at the Box tunnel on our way.

**18th.** Went to Highgate & spent the **19th** there.

**20th,** Had a meeting at Paddington today & dismissed the inspector of police & a clerk.

**21st.** S.W. blowing hard.

Emma from Lima, & Frances Barclay from Valpo. with pleasant accts.

Uncle Crawley & Susan arrived at Highgate by the railway.

**22nd.** S.W. Hard gale.

Dined with George & met my Uncle & Susan.

**23rd.** S.W. moderate -

At the railway meeting today we pressed Hammond very much about the Sonning Cutting, & are to meet again about it on Tuesday.

L Heyworth came in & questioned Sims & me. He was reasonable in his views & I told him that I believed he might now confidently rely on the correctness of our estimates as they were founded on work actually done. Before he left us he threw out that he sd like to join our Direction if we changed our views about Lancashire Directors. Shares as low as 9 Premium.

**24th.** N.W.

Went early to Paddington to meet a deputation of the Paddington vestry, & got through some other matters. I am 53 today.

**25th**

**26th.**

**27th.** Went today with Uncle Crawley & Susan, Charles & Eliza Crawley - Antony, Charles & George. Mr. Hawkins, r. Short, & C. Barnwell to Maidenhead by the Railway. Went on the water & dined at the Orckney Arms.

**28th.** Shares have fallen to 4 & railway shares are generally depressed. The Directors of G.W.R. are doing every thing in their power to push forward the works, & at the same time to economise in every possible way. Today we agreed to put on two new trains, & arrangements were made for sub-letting Sonning Cutting at once, so as to ensure its being finished in 7 months. Many other matters were considered & done, & I do hope that before the adjourned meeting we shall show that great progress has been made in many ways. Notwithstanding all this my letters from Sam show that the feelings of the Liverpool people are of the most disagreeable & annoying character, & I think him very unreasonable on the subject. We must continue to do our duty & hope that before the meeting we may raise the shares to a considerable premium & add to our number of votes. If I can get 100 shares at 4 per cent I shall certainly buy them.

Uncle Crawley & Susan came to us for a day & Mr. Grow dined here. It has been very hot indeed today & yesterday.

**29th.** N. cold but fine.

Uncle Crawley & Susan returned home.

**30th,** N.W. cool but fine.

At our railway meeting today we agreed to call in Hawkshaw, let a portion of the Sonning Cutting & agreed to take the Haigh engines on certain conditions. Shares have advanced to 7. Determined to substitute a bridge for a tunnel at Sonning Cutting. Sold 10 Birmingham Shares for Casson at 78.

**31st.** N.W. & very beautiful weather.

Harry's birthday.

Shares 9.

**1st Sept.** N.W. a lovely day.

I feel at present more disgusted & mortified than I can express about the conduct of the Liverpool people with reference to the railway & I do not know what course to pursue.

It seems that they are dissatisfied or pretend to be so with Brunel's report but the object of all this agitation is evidently to force themselves into the Direction. We are told that if we admit Roskell, Crosthwaite will promise not to ask for more, but I feel quite certain that he wd. not

have the power to prevent others from doing so & that we shall have a constant struggle. Even if Roskell sd. be the only one admitted I cannot but fear that our hands wd. be completely tied. He wd. report everything that passed to his constituents in Liverpool, & we sd. have a nest of hornets constantly round our ears. My own decided feeling is that we ought firmly to resist everything of this kind, & that if we do not do so I had rather retire at once fm. the Direction, but on the other hand I do not like to abandon Brunel & Saunders, & I feel that perhaps I owe it to those who have taken shares at my recommendation not to desert my post - but it worries & annoys me sadly & I have learnt when too late what an ungrateful service any public service is - We are in the power of a set of fellows who hold a large number of shares, & who have no other merit to recommend them.

**2nd. Sunday.** N.W. beautiful weather.

I was very uncomfortable all this morning, but I am better this evening.

**3rd.** N.W. lovely weather.

I received a letter from Casson today in which by desire of Crosthwaite he asks me whether we would agree to the appointment of a consulting engineer, & receive two or three of the Proprietors to confer on the points at issue. I tell him in a long letter which I have written to him that I see no objection to either. If at the conference they propose that Roskell shall not be admitted till Feby next, & that he or he & Corry shall be the only Liverpool men to be admitted it may be better perhaps to assent to this. It is very objectionable, & I had rather resign altogether than allow it, but I feel that it wd. hardly be just on my part to Saunders & Brunel & to those who have taken shares because I am in the Direction if I were to abandon them, & I believe that Rosdell wd be in some respects very unexceptionable, & Corry in all. Robert and some of the Directors seem disposed to take this course & there will be this advantage in it I hope that it will relieve my mind from worry & anxiety, & raise the price of Shares. If any decided disconfidence is shown or if any attempt to turn out Brunel we must all go out together.

**4th,** I showed my letter today to Mills & Sims & they flew out a good deal against Brunel with a view I believe of bringing me round to their opinion as to Roskell. I was rather disgusted & said that if they felt as strongly on the subject as they said they were very blameable in not having sooner applied a remedy. It was agreed that my letter sd be sent in the hope of getting the deputation to come up & then to make some offer that might be admissible, & it was settled that without loss of time we should meet to agree to some very stringent engineering regulations. I returned home, very tired indeed, & out of sorts,

**5th.** V. Hard rain.

A very busy day indeed preparing despatches for S.A. & I was very much exhausted. Caroline went to Highgate to dinner with Lloyd.

**6th.** W. still rainy weather.

A letter from Casson answering my letter & showing that the Liverpool people are now shifting their ground as they are not content to have Roskell in, but call for the admission of Heyworth also a non-resident. I wrote again urging a conference but I made up my mind to retire if

Heyworth's admission is pressed - it appears to me that Sims has no firmness & that Mills looks only to the acct. - This & the fear of future broils & trouble incline me to think that I shall be much better out of a concern which takes up so much of my time.

Mrs. Yonge & Charlotte came to us with her younger Brothers, & Mr. Sage dined with us.

**7th.** S.W. a tolerably fine day, with showers.

Another letter from Casson saying that Mr. Crossthwaite wd. be here on Monday & that what they aim at is to have 2 of their friends in now & 2 more by & by, so that, as might be expected, they are daily advancing their pretensions - It is quite clear that our only course is to be firm, & if beaten to withdraw & leave the proprietors to manage the matter themselves.

Shares 14 premium.

**8th,** S.W. a cold day.

Another letter from Casson - saying that Mr. J. Heyworth was so bent on joining? the Direction that he had determined to reside in London. This puts an end to the question, as after what has been said we cannot help receiving him. I lament it but it cannot be helped, & partly expecting as I do any disagreeable consequences by & by I shall do well, I think, to take the first opportunity of withdrawing from the concern. I went to Maidenhead this evening & was much satisfied with the bridge.

**9th. Sunday.** A cold day. N.E.

**10th.** Went to Paddington. Saunders very poorly - talked very seriously to Brunel, & it was settled that on his return on Wednesday we sd go into the questions of the short trains - the assistants necessary - the Bridge etc.etc.

N.E. a fine cold day.

Mrs. Yonge & Charlotte returned to Eton & took Charlotte with her. I mean little Mary.

**11th,** N.W. fine -

**12th.** N.W. fine.

Met Mr. Crossthwaite at Paddington & I have recorded what passed in a letter to R. Bright - my impression is that our concession will lead to Peace, but I abhor their selfish, illiberal & ungentlemanlike minds which lead them to measure every thing that is done by the rule of pocket. Unless the thing sd take such a turn as to change the character of our Proprietary, I shall certainly leave the concern.

**13th.** S.W. fine.

Very pleasing accts from Chile to the 16th June - A long railway sitting.

**14th.** S.W. fine -

Went to Paddington this evening at 5 & staid there till near 10, settling with Braby & Maude about the alterations to be made in the carriages, & ordering Horse boxes. We fixed the plans also for the short trains.

**15th.** N.E. fine day.

Went to Englefield by the Railway with Caroline, Antony & Frances & found the road much improved. Mr. Mr. Crosthwaite at the station. He is against Sunday travelling but sees the necessity of the trains running a part of the day.

The duty on foreign corn has fallen this week to 1/- for the first time since the Law proposed by Robinson, now Lord Rippon, was passed in 1816, & large quantities are puring in.

Shares 13 to 14.

**Sunday 16th.** A most lovely day.

Spent it at Englefield. Walked in the morning to the Chapel in the forest, & in the evening to Thorpe where we called on the Adams's. In the evening, for the first time in my life, I saw the Aurora Borealis playing in the North.

**17th.** N.E. fine but not so bright as yesterday.

Came up this morning from Slough & went in the evening to Paddington, when we talked a great deal about Brunel & I expressed strongly my opinion that if he were spoken to plainly but firmly he wd. heartily cooperate with us in reducing expences & putting everything on the best footing, but that with this view it was necessary to cheer him. He is at present almost broken hearted & in this state of mind he cannot exert himself, but if we treat him judiciously he will do what is right & it will be our own faults & think if we do not make him an invaluable Servant in future.

Hopel ? arrived today from Costa Rica.

**18th,** N.E. fine.

Went early to Paddington to meet the Vestry, & returned there again at 4 calling at Bramah's on my way. Walked along the line & met Casson - Dankarts, Chs. Barnwell & Stirpel dined with me. This is the 3rd Wednesday that the railway has prevented me from attending the court at the London.

**19th** N.E. drizly rain.

Went early to Paddington to meet Brunel to whom Saunders had previously written a very pleasing letter. We spoke to him very plainly indeed & he expressed himself anxious to cooperate with us heartily in carrying out our views which we then discussed with him.

**20th.** N.E. - fine.

I went down to Englefield last night & returned this morning with Caroline & Antony by the 2nd train having missed the 1st by two mins. Wood, assisted by Dr. Lardner are carrying on their experiments this week on the line - Hawkshaw... is also engaged in the same way. This was our weekly Board day, & we had a long sitting after we had been engaged as a Sub-Com in considering the changes & regulations to be adopted in the engineering department to secure economy & efficient management.

**21st,** W. heavy autumn fog in the morning but a lovely day after -

Limited the expense from Monday next by a positive order to Hammond to 6 men provide for the

21 miles finished with 10 additional men at Hanwell.  
Shares rose today to 17 to 18.

**22nd.** W. fog & cold in the morning but a lovely day after.  
Went to Englefield in the Carriage at 3 past 4.  
The Birmingham open'd all the way on Monday last the 17th.

**23rd Sunday** - a rainy day. S.W.  
Confined to the house at Englefield with a very bad cold.

**24th.** Very hard rain all day. S.W.  
Returned to Town in the carriage & got better towards the evening. Caroline has a bad cold also  
- C. Crawley arrived from Heyford soon after dinner, having left it at 3 by the Birmingham  
railway.  
The Cleopatra arrived today fm. Valpo. with letters to the 1st July & bringing us £280,000.

**25th.** N.E.  
Casson received a letter from Crosthwaite which makes us fear that they are not proceeding  
openly & fairly with us, & Casson wrote him a very proper answer.

**26th.** N.E.  
The Eight o'clock train ran into the experimental train this morning & very much injured three of  
the carriages.

**27th.** N.E.  
Casson received an answer today fm. Crosthwaite which we did not think very satisfactory. He  
refers every thing to Bristol, & to the report of the engineers whereas we had been led to believe  
that the object of his coming to Town was to effect a compromise & prevent discussion at the  
meeting - but this appears now to be forgotten & he talks of the probably necessity of a further  
adjournment, & of calling in another engineer. We must not permit this but must insist on an end  
being put to these proceedings on the 10th. We have met the objectors most liberally, agreeing  
to admit three or four London men of their choice, & appointing Hawkshaw as a second  
engineer the moment he was mentioned to us - They must now take the business into their own  
hands, or pass a resolution of decided confidence in the present Direction. Dr. Lardner  
addressed a very improper letter today to the Board respecting the accident yesterday.

**28th.** S.E. a rainy day.  
Casson, Brunel & Saunders set off this evening for the North to see the Bolton & Birmingham  
line. Chs Daubeny came to us.

**29th.** SW. a close disagreeable wet day.  
George Crawley left us for Heyford & Liverpool, & Georgey left Mr. Trimmers today. I called on  
Jones yesterday about a new Compting house & saw one in Moorgate Street. We received this  
week a noble order & remittance from Negrete of Guadalarara.

**30th**, West, Sunday.

**1st October.** N.E.

**2nd.** N.E. fine day -warm.

Letter from Arequipa to the 24th May, with an acct. of all the of Bark coming to our consignment. Saunders returned today from the North with Brunel who visited the Bolton, & the Dublin & Kingstown Lines. At Liverpool Saunders saw all the party with Casson & found them disposed to abide a great deal by the Decision of Wood & Hawkshaw, whatever that may be. They changed their tone a good deal when they found Casson determined to stand by the Directors.

**3rd,** N.E, a beautiful day.

**4th.** N.E, still very fine.

I received a letter today from Casson & another from Sam strongly urging the Propriety of our not acceding to the proposal for another adjournment, & we unanimously agreed therefore not to consent to anything of the kind. Charles & Eliza came to spend a few days with us.

**5th.** N.E. fine.

Frank & C. Daubeny & Charles & Henry Barrow all dined here - Sam arrived in the evening in 11 hours from Liverpool - Stiepel left us for Hamburg.

**6th,** N.E. fine.

George Crawley returned from Wroughton & went with Sam & me to Maidenhead. Sam was much pleased with the Railway. We received today Hawkshaw's report a very ill-natured production from beginning to end, the greater part of which might have been written without coming near the line. It places us in an awkward dilemma - Joseph arrived today from the Continent.

**7th.** Sam left us this evening. N.E. fine.

**8th.** N.E. - fine.

Got through my work at the compting house today as quickly as possible & joined the Directors at Paddington in time to set off for Bristol by the 12 o'clock train - Found our carriage, No. 9, very uneasy. Took a hasty dinner at the Orkney Arms, & proceeded to Ruscomb where we found the work going on with considerable activity. At Sonning two of the contractors were doing well, but the workmen had struck at the western end, & we had to threaten Knowles that we should instantly take the contract from him unless things were placed immediately on a more satisfactory footing. Drank tea at Reading, & Brunel came in afterwards, & we had a good deal of conversation with him about our disagreeable position. Proceeded on in the mail at 12 o'clock.

**9th.** N.E. fine.

On our arrival at Bristol we proceeded to the Gloster Hotel, Hotwells, dressed, breakfasted , & then repaired to Bristol, where we discussed the subject of our position very fully & determined

to allow the Gentlemen from Liverpool to see the two reports from Wood & Hawkshaw, that of the former being merely a statement of the course he is pursuing to enable him to arrive at a conclusion at some distant period, & that of the latter being a condemnation of all our proceedings, & a recommendation to us to take up our line & to adopt the old guage of 4ft. 8½in. At 4 the Liverpool Gentlemen joined us by appointment, & affected to consider Mr. Wood's as a despicable, useless, document, & Mr. Hawkshaw's so invaluable & conclusive that those amongst them, who before favoured the wide guage, were now convinced that we ought to alter it at once - We argued the matter with them at great length, & separated without apparently accomplishing any good. The London Directors dined with me at Belmont at a late hour -

**10th,** E. a foggy dull morning which ended in a fine day -

We determined this morning that our proper course wd be to withhold the documents from the public meeting as they could not be accompanied by the results of Wood's experiments - at 10 the Liverpool deputation joined us again & we had a very close & useful discussion with them for two hours & a half, but, tho' they appeared more satisfied with our reasonings they retired declaring it to be their intention to try their strength with us on the question of our Augt, report, which they thought ought to be further adjourned.

At one we went into the public meeting & we had some reason to be satisfied with the course wch the discussion too. The Liverpool men were a good deal staggered by our refusal to produce the reports, & brought forward their points very feebly - Brunel defended himself from their charges with coolness & with great effect. Dr. Carpenter, & Babbage spoke exceedingly well in our favor; other Gentlemen stood forward in the same cause, & the Liverpudlians felt themselves ultimately obliged to withdraw their amendment on the original motion "that the report be confirmed & adopted" which was carried unanimously with great applause. On thanks to the Directors being afterwards carried Bright closed the proceedings of the day with one of his brilliant flourishes which gave some offence; the meeting separated in very good humour - Some of the Directors & Saunders returned with me to Belmont to dinner & we spent a very pleasant evening. On our way out I called on Aunt Bell, & found her quite well. Margaret & Susanna Hendy were with her -

**11th.** N.W. cold but a fine Oct. day.

Left Belmont at past 9 in a carriage with Fenwick & Russell, & arrived at the Sun Inn, Maidenhead, at 3 past 9 at night.

**12th.** N.W. cold, but bright.

Slept last night at Maidenhead & came up this morning by the 8 o'clock train - found that shares had fallen to 10 on the first news of the meeting & had risen again to 12½.

Sold 77 Sers ? Bark today at 3/8.

**13th.** N.W. a very fine day but bitterly cold.

Since our return from Bristol the following good points have arisen.

The Maidenhead bridge of which the centers were eased on the 8th has not moved the fraction of an inch.

Knowles has been dismissed & the western end of Sonning cutting is in full work again.  
The points at issue about Grenfell's land at Maidenhead and Storer's at Purley have been disposed of & we have possession of the land -

Our position with regard to the permanent way is this: We have proposed to call a special meeting for the 20 Dec. to consider the reports of Wood, Hawkshaw. & Brunel. I can hardly doubt that our decision will then be to persevere with the 7 foot gauge. We must not determine on this, right or wrong, but we must strengthen our hand in every possible way that we may be enabled to carry it if we should decide that it is right -

**14th. Sunday.** S.W. rain & wind -  
Antony & George spent the day with us -

**15th.** S.W. mild with showers & high wind -  
very busy writing to Villamil, Marco, Negrete etc. and in the evening at Paddington.

**16th.** W. mild with showers & wind.  
Busy with Negrete's order.  
Shares 13.

**17th,** W. Fine & mild.

**18th.** W. a very fine pleasant day till 2 when it set in to rain.  
I was very busy today writing to Valpo - reading letters frm. Lima to the 12 July, writing to William, Bright, Sam, Casson, Mr. Fort etc. etc. and 4 hours in the Chair at the Railway office - Brunel said that in 6 weeks or two months we sd, have out 3 or 4 contracts more - that by that time the earth work wd. be finished to Twyford & the arrangements finished for the short trains - He added that in a fortnight the repacking wd, be finished at Paddington -

**19th.** West mild - showers

**20th.** West very mild - showers  
A report reached us this evening that a revolution had broken out in all the northern provinces of Peru. We dined with George at Highgate in his new house.

**21st.** West, very mild & damp.

**22nd.** West, very mild do.  
I received a very satisfactory letter to day from Mr. Fort with his Proxy.  
In the evening I attended with Mr. Mills at Paddington & we got through a good deal of work.  
Heard from Latham today that he had sold 100 Sers of Bark at 5s ?

**23rd.** Still West & very mild.

**24th.** A Beautiful mild day - West.  
Caroline took the Children to Highgate. I was much engaged at the London & on the Proxy lists

at the Railway office. There was a letter from Wood, written in a tone from which we augured favourably -

**25th.** The same weather.

**26th.** Rather colder.

Actively & successfully employed in getting proxies -

**27th.** West - fine in the morning, & then rain with high wind -

Heard from George from Dover where he had just arrived with William, Harriett & Ann -

A very distressing accident occurred yesterday on the Railway by wch. a pupil of Dr. Lardner's was killed on the spot; The trains perform their trips now with the greatest regularity, & the line is in beautiful order - The night coaches will begin to use the line on the 1st Nov. & the short trains will run very soon after. Everything in short is in the best possible order, & yet we are harrassed & annoyed by the interference & eternal agitation of the Liverpool people. They are splitting their shares & I have no doubt will make strenuous effort to alter our Guage & to turn Brunel out at the meeting of the 20 Dec. We are exerting ourselves in good earnest - I yesterday bought 50 shares from Brunel at 13 - to enable him to pay up the calls on those which he still holds.

**28th.** West rount to East - with hard wind ending at night in a most violent gale.

The travellers arrived quite well from France -

**29th.** Met L. Heyworth today by appointment. After many enquiries he came at last to the point that the only remedy for our case was the admitting Liverpool men into the direction. He talked of ferreting information out of us tho' we tried to be as obliging and communicative as possible, & became so insolent that we were obliged to give him a complete set down & he went off with his tail between his legs. We met the Windsor Gentlemen afterwards about a line from there to Slough & had a pleasant conference with them -

**30th October.** A fine bright day.

George went to Maidenhead & was much pleased with all he saw. We had a good deal of conversation in the evening about getting up a strenuous support to the Directors in Bristol.

**31st.** East with hard rain all day.

**1st. November 1838** East wind with rain & bad weather.

Dined at Barnes's - The Chilian arrived.

**2 Nov.** West with rain - another disagreeable day -

Heard that the Liverpool Steamer after being out 10 days on her way to New York had put into Cork for want of fuel & with a damaged cargo - Had a disagreeable discussion today at the railway office with Mr. Phipps of Liverpool - I was not much pleased either with the views of Sims & Mills as to the admission of Crosthwaite, if he would join us. The former cd not see the objection to his being with us to assist in settling the question of the guage - I thought it madness to admit any of these men amongst us till the questions of Brunel & the Guage are

definitely settled - as to the Guage itself, I am ready to consider expense & advantages of altering it & to strike the balance, but I will not lose sight of the danger of the experiment nor of the advantages which we proposed to ourselves in adopting the wide guage wch, others seem disposed to do.

George & Caroline & Mary Powell & C Daubeny & A. Crawley dined here.

**3rd.** W. cold & rainy.

At Paddington 5 hours. Settled about repairing posting carriages, & altering others - made arrangements about horse-boxes, & about covering in a larger space for Carriages. Fined an Engineman & Fireman - Gave orders about Harrow Road, & public house - Considered Hardwick's plan for our land round Lord Hill's. Bunel brought pleasant accts, of the meeting at Cheltenham & showed us a very handsome letter from Lord Orkney.

Mr. Short, Mr. Lewin, Charles & Eliza, & C. Daubeny joined our dinner party.

**Sunday the 4th.** - much rain in night - a pleasant day between the showers.

**5th.** Wet - a dirty miserable day.

Disagreeable letters from Hartley of Halifax & from Sam. A very pleasant letter fm. the Cassons of N. Wales & 3 proxies fm. Wigan - two hours at Paddington. The night coaches started tonight by the railway for the first time. Henry Crawley came to us today.

**6th.** West & a wet day but not cold.

Busy writing to Negrete, & dined afterwards late at the Wyndham with George, William, Mr. Short, Lewin & George Crawley.

**7, 8 & 9th.** West & wet, warm foggy days.

Dined on the 7th at the Wyndham with George, William, George Crawley, Lewin & Mr. Short - Very busy writing to Villamil, Marco & Negrete, & daily getting on with proxies - H. Lewin dined with us on the 9th.

**10th.** W Went with George & Harriett to Clifton & took Cady & Mary with us who are to go on to Belmont with their Aunt. We went by Reading & saw a good deal of the line.

**11th.** East - very cold & foggy.

Harry who was at Clifton on our arrival there last night returned again today & spent the day with us.

**12th.** E. a bright cold frosty day -

Joseph & Emily, & Harriett & the children walked with me to the Golden Balls, & Joseph went on to Dorchester where J. got into the Alert at 11 & reached London by the Railway at

**13th.** - E cold & clear.

Caroline & Anne took their luncheon at the Compting House & went with us afterwards on board the Royal Saxon - The Lewins dined with us.

**14th.** East - cold & foggy.

**15th.** East - a thaw, with foggy damp weather -

A long sitting in Princes Street - Getting on well with proxies but not as fast as I could wish with the line. 6 of the Crawleys dined with us. I had a badish headache -

**16th.** N.E. but open weather -

We dined today at 3 o'clock, & all George's brothers dined here again to see him off. Poor fellow he was low as was naturally to be expected but he leaves the country I think with very favourable prospects - He has numerous & excellent letters & the command of a little capital of more than £2000 - & the agricultural pursuits to wch, he proposes to donate his attention do not call for any great energy or ability. My only fear is that for want of confidence in himself he may not adopt the most judicious course of proceeding with regard to his future plans, but I hope I may be mistaken in this respect - He left us for Gravesend at 4 o'clock in Wm's carriage with Wm., Lloyd, Henry & Charles, Tom & Antony having gone down by Steamer, & was much affected at parting with us - I heartily wish him well poor fellow for he has been so many years with me that I almost look upon him like a son of my own & I am sure he has a great affection for me & all mine -

**17th.** George left Gravesend today at ½ past two - little wind - He was in good spirits I was glad to hear & had enjoyed the previous evening very much with William & his brothers. John Yonge called having just arrived from Heidelberg.

Shares continue at about 13 - We have been successful in getting in proxies, but our opponents are splitting their votes wch, calls for increased exertion on our part.

**18th.** N.E. with rain. Sunday.

**19th.** Same wind & weather.

At our meeting this evening at Paddington various cases of delays & accidents were brought before us & we considered well how to avoid them in future - Brunel told me that in 5 or 6 weeks the contract between Bath & Box would be out.

**20th.** N.E. with rain.

William went off to Liverpool by the mail train this evening to negotiate for a vessel to take out our Mexican cargo. Mary Powell came to us to spend a few days, & Townsend came in the evening to tea - No acct. of George having passed the Downs.

**21st.** S.E. a muggy day.

**22nd.** E. a wet day.

Our railway Board began today for the first time at 12 instead of 1 for the purpose of commencing first with the accounts & we got through a great deal of business.

**23rd.** E. drizzly rain & disagreeable day.

Wm. arrived in the morning from Liverpool - at 2 I went to Paddington & found them actively at

work at the new line for the short trains, the merchandise line, & the repacking - About the 8th or 10th of Decr. these things will be quite finished, & I trust we shall then see the yard at last in a tidy state.

**24th. Sunday.** E. very cold.

**25th.** Same weather.  
Dined at Mr. Powell's at Clapton.

**26th.** Still very cold with E. wind.  
Had a headache all day.

**27th.** S. frost broken up - rain & very hard wind.  
Charlotte came here on her way to Brighton. John Yonge & Chs. Daubeny dined here. I have been very busy stirring up everybody to get our proxies & have made considerable progress, but Saunders told me today that Sims was quite uncomfortable about our position, angry with Wood, angry with him & me for the hostile attitude wch. he said we had taken, & yet unable to point out any other course wch. we cd. properly pursue - The fact is our opponents without any provocation on our part determined to split their votes, & have done nothing but abuse Brunel, & all our proceedings. What other course cd we porribly puruse than that of strengthening ourselves by every means in our power - Saunders attributed his present feeling to bad temper, I believe there is a great deal of bad judgment with it - Roskell called & bothered us for an hour - He declared that he had not told any one that he was splitting because the Directors were doing so -

**28th.** The wind increased last night to a tempest with deep thunder & lightening - It has continued to blow hard today from the S.W.  
I was in the chair today for 5 hours in Princes St. The Windsor people attended - I laid before the board s statement of the proxy question & was glad to be able to show that our strength had greatly increased, tho' great exertion wd still be necessary to make us safe -  
Charlotte left us this morning - Ehs. Daubeny - John Yonge, & Anthony Crawley dined here.

**30th.** S.W. dry. - & more moderate.  
At the railway office all day registering proxies - examining the transfers, & taking measures to increase our strength.

**1st Dec.** S.W. with rain, mild.  
Finance committee. Whilst at the office Hawes called to offer his services & those of other friends at the meeting & to organise a plan of operation. This was a great relief to me, & had this good effect too that it fixed & embarked in our cause the chairman who had made me very uneasy by the symptoms of wavering and indecision wch, I had seen in his mind.

**3 Dec. Sunday.** S.W. - violent storms of rain, & much wind - very wet.

Call on Mrs. Noyes & Mrs. A. Noyes - the former told me she was born in 1763, the latter cd. not see me -

**4th.** Brunel came to us today & we had a great deal of talk with him as to the preparation necessary for the meeting, viz., an answer to Hawkshaw, a dissection of the total cost of the line & a report on the state of the works.

**8th,** I have been exceedingly engaged all this week in canvassing for proxies, registering them etc. etc. & I hope we shall beat our opponents hollow tho' their splitting transfers are coming in fast.

**9th, Sunday,** a very chilly day.

**10th.** S.W. mild -

G. Sharp had the folly to consult me today about splitting his shares - I expressed my surprise at his doing so as he must be well aware of my opinions on the subject, & as he had hitherto pursued his own course with regard to the railway I begged he would continue to do so - I took occasion to speak of my annoyance at seeing his Brother James's name ranged against me on this occasion. He took the whole blame upon himself upon which I told him that it was a very indelicate proceeding on his part considering the relation in which his Brother stood towards me & that on his acct. I thought his name ought to be withdrawn but I told Granville Sharp afterwards that he had better transfer the shares to his Brother George that the votes might not be lost to their party - this he declined & they were put into some neutral name.

**11th. Decr.** S.W. mild weather.

Went to the railway office early to meet Brunel & hear his answer to Hawkshaw's report. Hawkes came there & we had a great deal of discussion as to the best mode of meeting the difficulty in which we were placed by the inexcusable delay of Wood in producing his report. It was settled that we sd. persevere in holding our meeting on the 20th.

Mr. Justice Park died this week after a very short illness, & Nobody Club were put off in consequence.

**12th** Seft weather. S.W.

I was a good deal troubled today by the great difficulty in wch. we are placed by the decidedly unfavourable tendency of Wood's report - Our own conviction, & Brunel's opinion, & the weakness of Hawkshaw's reasoning, all lead us to persevere in the wide guage, when Wood's report comes in, founded on hasty & imperfect experiments, not absolutely opposing our guage but tending to show that we sd, be better without it -

The following friends dined here Miss Boodle, Mr. & Mrs. Nat Powell, Mrs. & tyo Batemans, Mr. & Mrs. Barnwell, Mr. & Mrs. Dendy, young Corrie - others came in the evening & we had a pleasant party.

**13th.** The same weather.

Brunel read a continuation of his report today, & I was very much pleased with it - Roskell called

with a strong letter fm. Crosthwaite urging an adjournment to wch. we at once acceded considering it the very best thing for our own purposes. Wrote to George, Robert & Sam on the subject. On the whole I felt relieved today & more satisfied with the course things are taking - Shares are at about 11. Our success with regard to Proxies very great. Dined today at Mr. Justice Patterson's.

**14th.** N.W. but still mild & open.

Today an attempt was made fm. within to bring the Committee to the conviction that it was necessary to associate another engineer with Brunel - It came on in this way - On the 12th the unfavourable report of Wood placed us in a very awkward condition, & at that moment Dr, Squire's suggestion was received that we should call in Lock. I felt that under those circumstances, if the leading principles of the railway could be previously settled it might be shown to be necessary & not unpracticable, for the sake of peace, to adopt some such plan as that suggested, Saunders was evidently very strongly of the same opinion. Today we learnt that Sims & Mills had last night been talking the matter over & that the former had gone to Brunel to say that he felt that some change of this kind wd. be necessary, & we were told that Brunel himself & Hawes were very much of the same opinion, Saunders Casson, Russell & myself argued the question after the Board broke up, Saunders supporting the proposition, Casson doing so in much stronger language - Russell resisting it in a very sensible way & I siding in the main with him, because our position had again altered by the receipt of another letter from Dr. Clarke. We then repaired to Brunel's & found Hawes there. The former in a very modest way said that the evidence wch. was accumulating against him appeared to be too great to be resisted without injury to the Company & therefore he was prepared to give way. He had no vanity of any kind. If it was necessary to yield he had no objection to its being said that he had failed & had been defeated, for he felt confident in the correctness of his views & was sure that he should have opportunities of proving it. He spoke of the leading principles for in other matters no doubt there had been errors & imperfections on our line as well as on others, but if it was proposed to connect another engineer with him he cd not see how such a scheme cd possibly work, for which he gave his reasons, nor cd he understand the meaning of a consulting engineer. He gave us clearly to understand that he cd not & i wd not submit to either of these alternatives, but that he wd resign his situation as engineer whenever we pleased.

With respect to Wood's report he is perfectly convinced that a great fallacy pervades his report wch. may be shown & proved by experiment & he proposed to devote all his mind to energies to show this in the next 3 weeks. It was settled that we sd not take any step till we had seen Wood's whole report which, from a letter of Clarke's, will assume towards the end a much more favourable tone -

Tom - Anthony - Henry & Ellen Norris & Charles Daubeny dined with us.

**15th.** N.E. but still very mild -

William sent off today in capital order & in very capital style all the instructions & letters necessary for the expedition of the Venus.

**16th Sunday** - N.E. - a cold raw day but no frost -  
I was very uncomfortable.

**17th.** S.E.

I went to Paddington in the evening & after the business was over the Chairman & Saunders talked to me about the proposal of Dr. Squire that we should admit Locke as co-engineer with Brunel. They advocated this measure & I resisted it -

**18th,** N.E. cold & raw but not a very hard frost.

Met in Princes Street at 12 - Rickets, Fripp & Brunel joined us & we had a long talk till near 5. Brunel laid before us his remarks on Wood's report & gave us great reason to hope that by Saturday next he should be able to prove that our engines can perform nearly double of what Wood supposes, & that he is quite mistaken in attaching so much importance to atmospheric resistance - After this we discussed Dr. Squire's proposal. Fripp, Russell & myself stoutly resisted the scheme & I exerted myself to show its danger & the injustice we should be doing Brunel & the hopelessness of our attaining Peace by that means. It was at last settled that we should propose to appoint an engineer to whom to refer any experiments, or new plans Brunel may suggest, & that if they would give up the idea of Liverpool Directors we would appoint in February. 2 out of 6 London men to be named by them.

**19th.** S.E. Cold -

Our proposals went off to Liverpool in a very good letter of Saunders to Dr. Squire, & I wrote to Sam on the same subject,

**20th.** S.W. but hard frost in the morning.

Met pro forma at the City of London tavern & adjourned to the 9th.

**21st.** S.E. round to E.

Received a letter today from Robert by which I found that the Bristol Committee was not satisfied with our decision on Dr. Squire's letter & that a board is called in consequence for next week. I went to Paddington this afternoon, Brunel was there & reported that he had got 40 miles out of the North Star with 40 tons.

**22nd.** West - hard rain & a thick nasty day.

The Ide arrived with important letters from Valpo. to the 8 Sept. & with upwards of 230000£ to our consignment & an order for 20000£ of Quicksilver. They had received large orders in Valpo. from Mexico.

**23rd Sunday** - S.E.

The Venus sailed at ½ past 12 from Liverpool for Valpo. & San Blas. I had a comfortable conversation this evening with Harry & was much pleased with him.

**24th.** S.E.

Brunel is continuing his experiments & finds that by making the blast pipe of the engine of a larger size that is in better proportion to the evaporating power, he can draw much greater loads

at high speed - viz. 40 to 50 tons 40 miles an hour.

William went off by the Mail to Belmont. Played at Blindsman's buff with the children & Harry went to the Play.

**25th. Xmas Day** - S.E, & fine weather.

**26th,** S.W. with a very hard white frost, with a rapid thaw before the end of the day - Wood declines coming up, & recommends a further course of inquiry which must be firmly resisted - Our engines are in very bad order, & Gooch seems to be very unfit for the superintendence of that of that department.

**27th.** N.W. hard white frost in the morning.

Attended a Board at the Railway office at 12 & having first heard & much approved the first part of Brunel's answer to Wood we discussed the painful subject of our present position, & I was very sorry to find that most of the Bristol Gentlemen were in favor of concession. They not only proposed to admit Roskell at once but wd gladly have pledged themselves to admit non-resident Directors here & in Liverpool - Bright judiciously suggested that these were points wch. wd be better considered after the results of the meeting had shown us now we really stood, & I urged at some length all the reasons wch weighted with me against any concession - Upon the whole I was much disgusted with the view of the subject taken by our Bristol colleagues - Casson & Bright dined with me.

**28th.** N.W. frost in the morning.

Again the greatest part of the day in Princes Street - The total unfitness of Gooch for his situation; the almost impossibility of our getting our land purchased before our powers cease in Augt. The fall of a Bridge during the night at Ruscombe & many other unpleasant things pending annoyed & worried me today very much, & I longed to have done with the whole concern. Shares 10 to 11.

**29th.** S.W. with rain,

I went today to Maidenhead in an experimental train to test Brunel's statements as to the improvement effected in the N. Star. We carried 43 tons of carriages & load, at an average speed of 38 miles, consuming only 0.951bs. of coke per ton of met weight per mile.

Harry went to Loughton. Antony who had had a bad cough lately & had been looking very ill was better.

**30th. Sunday.** S.W. with drizzly rain & a good deal of Wind.

Called on Mrs. A. Noyes who was cheerful but looked very ill.

**31st.** S.W. mild.

The Agnes from Lima with letters to 21 Sept. The reports of the engineers were issued today & shares rose to 14½.

**1839**

**Jan. 1st.** - S.W. mild open weather.

**2nd.** S.W. Ditto -

Went early to Paddington where we had a very useful talk with Gooch. We went afterwards to Ealing to try a carriage & on my return to the City I saw Colmann ? & gave him a very large order for Quicksilver - William came home this evening.

**3rd.** S.W. very mild.

On my return home I found that Harry was ill, with a good deal of fever, a cough & an oppression on his Breath. Caroline too was beginning to feel that her confinement was near at hand. Mr. Fernandez & Nurse Blake had been sent for.

**4th,** S.W. rather a colder air.

Caroline held up during the night, & Mr. Fernandez who slept here was not called; she continued pretty well till near 1 p.m. & at 3 she gave birth to a little Boy which looks very healthy & well. - & Caroline got through her labor better than usual. Harry was better today but still far from well - his pulse being full & his breath short.

**5th,** S.W. still mild.

Came home rather early with a headache. Harry better but still in bed with a hard cough - Caroline & the Baby going on exceedingly well - The wet nurse came today.

**6th. Sunday.** W. very hard frost last night & cold today. About 1 it began to thaw with snow, hail & rain, a most uncomfortable day -

The Baby continues to go on exceedingly well.

**7th.** S.W. W. It blew almost a hurricane all last night, & has continued to blow hard today - quite mild -

I was uneasy in the night & all today about Harry who coughed a great deal, but he is better this morning & I hope he will have a good night - Caroline took R<sup>16</sup> & S<sup>32</sup> last night & has been very comfortable today. The Baby is a little more fractious, but it appears to be doing well - We met our Bristol Directors today in Board, & talked a great deal.

**8th.** W - hard frost - a fine day.

From 10 to 1 at Brunels concerning our plan of operations with his friends - from 1 to 5 in Board considering the report - Bright dined with me. Caroline going on pretty well but very hoarse. The baby fractious - Harry better but he is coughing now more than I like.

**9th.** S.W. -

This was the day appointed for our special adjourned meeting & we employed the time between 10 & 12 in giving a last finish to our report - At 12 we repaired to the London Tavern confident in the arrangements we had made for support, & in the strength of the proxies we had secured In a very few minutes we found that the whole room was with us - Our report, & the admirable speech of Mr. Gurney, & the wretched display made by our opponents combined to secure a complete triumph - A show of hands being decidedly in our favor a poll was demanded &

continued briskly till 6 o'clock, when the meeting adjourned. Robert & S Bright dined with (me) & we spent the evening in talking over our expected Victory -

**10th,** S.W. quite mild -

The ballot recommenced at 10, & closed at 1 with a majority in our favor as

225 Proprietors with	5831	Shares	Votes	2485	
135	"	2650 split Shares	"	2650	
<hr/>					
358	"	8481	"	6145	Liverpool
760	"	12579 Shares	"	7790	London
<hr/>					
402	"	4098	"	1645	majority
<hr/>					

Being thus completely beaten, our opponents in conversation with different members of our board declared that our dissensions wd now cease - that being beaten they had nothing to do now but to cooperate with us heartily for the common good etc. etc. - I hope these sentiments will be acted upon with honesty, but it is evident that they are a mere rope of sand, & that they have amongst them some very ill conditioned fellows. No reliance is therefore to be placed on their promises or assertions. We must avail ourselves however of the truce to push on the works with energy, economy and despatch -

Shares at the conclusion of the meeting rose to 15.

On our return to Princes St. we discussed various topics of great interest - viz. the permanent way, the engines required, & the subject of admitting non-resident Directors - Fripp and Tothill advocated this course & I resisted it with success - We then considered who wd be the best men to take in London & agreed to try the following viz. Mr. Hodgson, McCalmont, E. Corrie and Cotesworth.

**11th,** S.W. wet & mild -

Brunel assured me today that he had made such arrangements with Lean, Hennes & others as wd ensure all the Property plans in the Bristol division being ready & completed in 3 weeks from next Monday - that is on the 4th Feby, & all ours by the 11th Feby.

In a conversation with Mills & Sims it was agreed that McCalmont must be invited into the Direction & I assented to this chiefly on the ground that it appeared to be the opinion of the others that if we took this step now we put the introduction of Roskill at any future time out of the question. McCalmont has claims which R. has not & he is much more of a Gentleman - Mills spoke positively against the admission of R., & even Sims gave him up - This I consider a great triumph as I consider R. a coarse, illiterate, disagreeable fellow to say nothing of his being a regular O'Connellite Catholic.

Harry is almost well & we had a pleasant tete à tete this evening - I cannot doubt that he will do well & endear himself to us more & more.

Caroline is very comfortable today, & the Baby is certainly thriving nicely - As George says we are surrounded at present with blessings & comforts - God grant that we may be as grateful for them as we ought to be & that we may never forget how precarious all earthly blessings are.

**12th.** S.W. mild

Casson made an effort today to get us to take in Roskell having been talking yesterday with Parsons & Crosthwaite on the subject - I felt much annoyed as I had been before quite convinced that no concessions wd be expected frm. us and it was least of all desirable to admit a man who had so completely disqualified himself as Roskell had done, besides wch. the defeat wcb his party. had sustained renders it very unlikely that they sd attempt to force any Director upon us whom we do not like - Their threats frighten Casson - However, after much talking, he said that he shd. yield to the Majority -  
Baby still continues to thrive.

**13th. Sunday.** S.W. High wind but mild.

Antony & George went to Highgate last night - all well today & Baby looking very comfortable in the evening.

**14th.** Still mild weather with W. wind.

Caroline very comfortable, & Baby particularly well in every respect.

**15th.** Wind inclining to the N. & rather colder.

After spending an hour in the city I came home to look over the prints & arrange them with Harry - Eliza came in & I took the opportunity of speaking to her confidentially about Charles. She was much obliged to me & spoke very sensibly on the subject. In the evening I went with William & the Boys to the play & was very much knocked up.

**16th.** N.W. colder - Snow on the ground in the morning -

Antony & George returned to school.

**17th.** N.W. Hard frost -

Harry was at the Merivales last (night) & is gone to the play tonight with William

**18th.** N.W. very hard frost & beautiful weather -

Harry left us this evening for Oxford. His visit to us has been a very agreeable one & his conduct is everything that I can wish. The Baby was a fortnight old this afternoon, & it appeared to be in every respect as well as possible, but for the last few hours it has been fractious & uneasy, but I hope it may be better tomorrow.

**19th,** West, blowing strong & a decided thaw.

The Baby is better & appears to be thriving again nicely.

**20th.** W. it froze in the night, & there is a coldness in the air today but it does not freeze.

Called on Mrs. Noyes.

**21st.** S.W. mild - hard rain.

Southampton & Mary Worrall arrd. from Lima - C. Crawley came up frm. [-] & dined here.

**22nd.** N.W. colder but no frost.

The Margaret is in fm. Lima. The numerous arrivals lately have given us a great deal to do, in addition to wch. the railway calls for a great deal of my time at this moment, & I am anxious to bring up any private accts. so that I am a good deal oppressed. Charles is in such a low & depressed state that he does not afford us any assistance & I cannot but fear that his present want of energy will grow upon him -

Caroline & the Baby continue delightfully well - the latter is I think more happy & comfortable than I remember any of our children to have been at his age. He was 18 days old this afternoon.

**23rd.** N.W. & rather cold -

I received a letter last night fm. Charles expressing in strong terms the feeling of depression under which he was labouring - I answered it urging him in kind terms to exertion, & showing him that the business cannot be otherwise than distasteful to him in the manner he is now conducting his department, Went to Corrie's in the evening to a party, & I offered him a seat at our Board which he declined with thanks as he cd not withdraw any part of his time fm, his business. Mr. Hodson of the house of Finlay Hodson & Co. has declined before on the same ground.

**24th.** N. rather cold -

I had a bad headache today, & I cd. not dine at the table tho' we had a party consisting of Henry O'Neale - Mr. Cock of Frankford, Stuple, Square, Wetherall, & Vanhukelman.

**25th.** N. rather cold -

Better today staid at home. Busy at the accts. till 12 - when I went to the Railway office, & found that the Ld. Chan. had dismissed the application of the Eton people with costs. Finished the proxy list & then called on Barrow to offer him a seat in the Direction which he said he wd. consider. Mr. J. Ewart declined as he sd not be often enough in London to do us justice - I received this evening a very satisfactory letter from Charles.

**26th,** N.E. cold winter weather with hard frost & occasional snow -

**27th.** Sunday. N.E. Same weather without snow.

**28th.** N.E. Ditto.

**29th.** N.E. & hard frost in the morning. S.W. & hard rain afterwards.

Sent off a long letter today to Charles. Heard fm. Harry - Very busy indeed at the Compting House with T. Ainger (?) - Acct. Sabes of the late large remittances - Writing to S.A. etc, etc.

**30th.** N.W. very hard frost indeed, with snow & this evening a violent gale.

Had a conference with Mr. Hyatt about the Southampton - George C. called today in Bedford Square & spoke of some shocking circumstance having occurred in wch, some friend of his was

implicated - William & I dined together & afterwards talked over many interesting matters pending - viz. about Charles - Robertson Stiepel - A clerk offered me Bayonne - Gray - Antony etc.

The Baby & Caroline still Thank God quite well -

**31st,** N.E. had winter weather with snow

Received a letter fm. Charles, king & very well expressed, but deceiving himself & evading the point completely.

**1st Feby. 1839** N.E. same weather.

Very busy at the Compting house with outward correspondence. Our minds are much engaged at this moment with two things - the settling Squire in Costa Rica with Stiepel - & the decision wch. Charles may come to respecting our offer of 10,000£ to enable him to retire fm, Business. I do not believe he wd ever submit to the fag of a ? [-] ? in a way to be entirely satisfactory to us, & I do not think that his powers, & knowledge & quickness of parts ? are equal if he were left much alone, to the many questions & points wch daily arise in a large business. I shall be sorry to lose him; I am afraid he will feel the loss of the employment, but I believe it wd be on the whole the wisest course that he sd leave for he expresses a decided distaste for it, & calls for encouragement which we cd not give him unless he took up the thing in a way in wch I do not think he ever can take it up.

**2nd.** N.W. a thaw but not decided.

Barrow called & wd have (declined the) Directorship but I begged him to reconsider the matter, & he is to give his answer on Saturday. Eliza came to us on Friday night & stays till tomorrow. Her conversation with Caroline, & me seems to have been a relief to her & she evidently leans to the wish that c. should leave business.

**3rd Sunday.** N.W. to s.W. decided thaw.

Casson & Wm. Wick dined with us

The Baby was looking uncommonly well - quite fat & plump.

**5th, 6th** S.E. & Mild.

I went yesterday morning early to Reading with some of the Directors & after going as far as Cholsey Field I returned this evening to tea. There appears to be a great deal to do still at Sonning, but there is good reason to hope that we shall open to Twyford by the first week in June, & that our line will be open as far as Didcot by the end of the year - The station at Reading promises to be a very nice one & I have no doubt that the traffic from that point will be very great. On my return home I found a very pleasing letter fm. Charles announcing his determination to accept our offer & to retire fm. business. This I am convinced is his wisest course & it forms an important era in our business as many interesting arrangements must arise out of this change, the result of wch. I trust will be to set Wm. & me more at liberty - Squire too has determined to adopt our suggestion of joining Mr. Steipel in Costa Rica.

**7th,** S.W. & mild. The Winter is wearing away fast & I trust that we shall escape any very inclement weather -

Sage, Cripps, & Bailey came to Princes St. today as a deputation fm. the Cheltenham & G.W. Railway to represent their wants & difficulties, & after a long discussion a course was suggested wch. may lead to their relief. Dined today at Brunel's & met Mr. & Mrs. Hawes, Mr. & Mrs. J. Osborne, Mr. Babbage, Mr. Warburton, Sir Augustus Calcott, Westmacott, Sims, Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Stephenson, & Miss Horsley.

**8th.** S.W. mild -

I saw Barrow today who declined joining our Direction, because his interest was too small & he did not like to stand in the way of those who had a greater interest - He had evidently been put up to this by Crosthwaite. McCalmont told Mills to make what use of him he pleased, by appointing him now, or at the last hour, or leaving him out, & he added that he sd prefer the latter. Upon this we at once determined to offer the vacancy to Mr. Hollond who had expressed a wish to join us & I sincerely hope he may. Having offered a seat in the Direction to 5 gentlemen connected with the North - Mr. Hodgson, Mr. E. Corrie - Mr Ewart, Mr. Barrow, & Mr. McCalmont, we have shown every disposition to meet the wishes of our northern proprietors & therefore stand in a very favourable position.

**9th,** S.W.

We elected Mr. Hollond today to fill the Vacancy in our Direction.

**10th.** W. by N. a beautiful Spring day.

**11th.** S.W.

Attended a board today to consider our report for tomorrow & did not get home till - Charles & Eliza came here for a few days & R, Bright came up to dinner.

**12th.** S.W. warm.

At our meeting today our northern Proprietors assumed a new tone; they treated us with respect, & showed a disposition to cooperate with us heartily & cheerfully. This was very gratifying particularly to me, as it showed that by firmness we had secured their respect, kept them out of the Direction, retained our engineer & preserved our guage. After the meeting we made an effort to dispose of forfeited Cheltenham shares amongst the Proprietors.

**13th.** S.W. Ash Wednesday.

Charles & Eliza left us this morning to return on Friday.

I came home very sick & could not return to the Compting house till the

**15th.** S.W.

Heard today of the death of Lyle Gibbs at Genoa after being reconciled to Wm. Henry. He leaves £1000 to each of his nieces, & the rest of his property to Charles.

**16th.** N.W. very fine weather, but cold,

Important letters from Tepic with further large remittances from Barron Forbes & Co - I have employed every leisure moment for the last few days in working at the Books & private ledgers.

**17th. Sunday.** S.W. with hard frost.

**18th.** N.W. ground covered with snow this morning, which soon thawed, but the day was very cold & raw.

Went in the evening to Paddington.

**19th.** N.E, blowing hard but no frost.

Very busy with the S.A. private ledger which I finished today. Friend took charge of Squire's department today.

**21st.** N.E.

Engaged writing a private letter to Lime. At the Railway meeting we made some progress with the Cheltenham list - Dined afterwards at the Nobody when Mr. Justice Patterson was called to the chair & we had a very pleasant day. 37 present.

**22nd.** S.W.

Charles & Eliza slept here last night.

I was the whole day on the Jury at the Queen's Bench.

**23rd,** S.W.

The whole day again on the Jury.

**24th. Sunday.** N.W.

I observed today the first symptom of the approaching Spring in the bursting & green appearance of the lilac buds.

**25th.** N.W. with severe hail storms & sunshine -

Went to Paddington to fix on the plan for laying out Westbourne Green.

Uncle Crawley & Susan arrived to dinner.

**26th.** N.W. hard frost.

**27th.** N.W.

**28th,** S.W.

A long sitting today in Princes St. & some interesting points were discussed, Brunel stated that the temporary depot at Twyford wd. cost, including the siding, 800£, & the permanent depot 300, including the carriage from Maidenhead. He declared that by next Tuesday all the property plans wd be ready & delivered.

**1 March 1839.** S.W.

I have been very busy today & all this week writing private letters to the house & to our partners in S.A. We heard today that Lloyd was going to be married to Miss Mayer.

**2nd.** S.W. open weather.

**3rd. Sunday.** N.E. very seasonable dry weather -

Called on Mrs. Noyeses. I have felt very weak & uncomfortable today, & so I have been for some days, past with a pain in my back & down my thighs.

**4th.** N.E, fine seasonable weather.

Busy on the private ledger. Barnwell, Robertson, King, Seppell, Alleyne, Daubeny, H. Leman dined here. The Pattersons, Corries, Susan & Blanche Grundy ?, the Turners, Merivales etc. came in the evening.

**5th.** N.E. very cold, but seasonable weather.

Guerra arrived.

At the meeting today I proposed that we sd. make another revision of our estimates before the month is over; it was settled that this sd be done. As soon as I have got my work up I propose to devote the remainder of this month very much to Railway matters.

Mr. & Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Sykes, Mary Powell & George dined here. I thought that Mrs. Norris looked very ill, but she was in good spirits.

**6th.** N.E. colder still with fine snow & very inclement winter.

Caroline was feverish in the night & continues so today.

**7th.** N.W. very cold with snow.

5 hours sitting in Princes St.

**8th.** N.W. very cold with snow.

Villannil arrived.

Busy writing to           Buhlemann  
                                  George Crawley  
                                  Gray etc. etc.

In a few days more I hope I shall brought up all my work.

Wm. Crawley breakfasted here.

**9th.** N.E. cold dry wintry weather. Wm. Yonge dined with us.

**10th Sunday.** N.E. Foggy, cold & hard weather.

Caroline has had a good deal of fever & pain in her back lately -

**11th.** N.E. cold dry weather.

Dined at Highgate with George, & met a very large party of Powells, Watsons, Norris's, etc. met to celebrate the Christening of his little girl Fanny -

Caroline stayed at home with my Uncle.

**12th.** S.E. not quite so cold.

My Uncle & Susan left us today. He was better than he has been, but I am afraid his shortness of breath indicates a breaking up of the system. He has borne it with great patients, & his

manner since he has been here has been very pleasing & satisfactory.  
Guerra - Mora - Squire - Steipel - Short - O'Neale & Robertson dined with us -

**13th.** S.E. - a thaw.

J. Merivale, Villamil, Maitland, C. Barnwell, & C. Daubeny dined here.

**14th.** S.E. quite warm - hard rain in the night.

Agreed to adopt Brunel's first plan for a station at Reading. Miss H. Daubeny staying with us.

**15th,** S.E. very wet & dirty.

The Profit & Loss acct. was closed today leaving me for my share of last year's profits £

Miss Daubeny left us -

**16th,** W. to N.W. -

Today I arranged the work at the Compting house & nearly brought up everything I had to do.

**17th. Sunday.** N.E. - very cold again

**18th,** N.E. very cold & wintry.

Alice Brooks, & Hippomanis from Valpo.

Went to Paddington in the evening. One of the girders of Hanwell Bridge gave way today, & the report of the drainage at Ealing & Acton was not satisfactory - Railways throughout the country appear to be greatly depressed, & in many cases without reason I believe.

Great Western	10 premium
Cheltenham	20 discount
Hull & Selby	20 discount

**19th,** S.W.

Not well today & very busy - I neither attended the court at the London, nor the dinner. Dobree gave notice of a motion for an increase of our salaries.

**20th.** S.W.

George, Harriett & Anne arrived with Cady & Mary. Caroline caught a very bad cold at Highgate on Monday & has been in bed ever since with a great deal of fever - Mr. F. has given her Antimony 5 gr & Calomel with saline draughts.

**21st.** S.W.

George, Ht. & Anne dined at Highgate -

Our Bill for increasing our Capital passed today through the Committee. The Birmingham on the contrary having given offence to many people in the North, Carriers, Coach Props. etc.etc. is violently opposed & has been adjourned today for 3 weeks.

I have had a dead rheumatic feel in my right leg & thigh which rather alarms me & I shall take Calomel tonight. I have been offered this house today for £2000 - 35 years lease, & I have offered for it £1750.

**22nd.** S.W.

Our money Bill passed through Committee today whilst the Birmingham is exposed to a protracted opposition fm. Carriers, Coach Props. & other parties whom they have offended by their mismanagement - Mr. Methuan dined with us.

**23rd.** S.W. & fine Spring weather.

I took Caromel last night & am not very fit for a party today.

The Baby was christened at 3 o'clock by Uncle Crawley & looked uncommonly well. We were nearly 40 in Church. Our table was full at dinner, & the children enjoyed themselves very much in the evening, but poor Uncle Crawley got oppressed before it was time to go, & I was very glad to get him into the carriage & see him off. Caroline staid in her room all day.

Gt. Western shares have fallen to 7 per cent.

**24th. Sunday** - a fine warm Spring day.

**25th.** N.E.

Closed the private Ledger A.G. & S.

**26th.** S.W.

Many important points were settled today - viz.

2 contracts for 7 miles to Uffington.

A large contract for Coal.

Sundry contracts for engines.

Sold Public house

Read Brunel's report on Carriages.

**27th.** S.W. with rain -

All shares excessively depressed Gt. Western - 5 per cent premium.

**28th.** S.W. to N.W. with very hard rain.

Rolt who before had asked 80 & 82 for Wood asked today 90. I wrote to Robert begging him to send up the accts - to the end of March as soon as possible.

Shares down to 4½.

**29th.** N.E. Good Friday -

**30th.** N.E.

I went today with George to Bulls Bridge, Drayton & Maiden head & had a cold miserable expedition which gave me a headache.

**31st. March Sunday.** N.E. very cold bitter wintery day.

Harry is paying too much attention to his Cousin Blanche which I must check, as he is too young & too poor to marry & I have not the means to enable him to do so - He spoke to me the other day of his wish to come into business, & I shall tell him that he must first take a creditable

degree, & then I will let him do as he pleases.  
The Baby was vaccinated on Friday.

**April 1839 1st.** N. very cold,  
I staid at home today not being very well & went in the evening to Paddington where we agreed to accept tenders for about 30 engines. We had a pleasant dance in Bedford Square afterwards & kept it up till past 1 a.m.

**2nd April.** N.E. blowing hard & very cold & comfortless.

**3rd.** N.E. -  
very disagreeable weather. Discussion at the London about salary -  
March, Robertson, Machin, the two Lewins & Hy. Barnwell dined here.

**4th.** N.E. still the same raw cold weather.

**5th.** N.E. with a heavy fall of snow, & every appearance of hard winter weather.

**6th.** N.E. the snow disappeared.  
Harriet & William with the Crawleys went to the Opera. George staid at home in his room, & I was busy about the house accts.

**7th.** N.E, with a hard dry iron frost

**8th,** N.E. with snow storms & very cold.  
I closed Caroline's accts. for last year.

**9th,** N.E. bright sun & rather warmer.  
I wrote to Bright today pressing upon him the importance of not making the proposed carriage experiments at the Bristol end.

**10th.** N.E. cold wind & hot sun. Our Salary at the London raised today to 250€ a year.

**11th,** N.E. Same weather.  
Harwick laid before us today his estimates for the Reading Station wch. proved to be so far beyond anything we had imagined that we determined before proceeding further to call in the Bristol Committee, chiefly with the view of checking their expenditure in stations, by showing them that we were determined not to undertake even a necessary expence, when unexpectedly heavy, without very serious consideration, Barnwell, Vaughan, George Crawley & Mr. and Mrs. Parker of Bisten dined here - the evening & weekend some very nice music.

**12th.** N.E. & rather stormy. I closed with Mr. Bowden's Trustees today for the purchase of the remaining lease of this house (35 years) for £1800.  
Shares 5 per cent.

**13th.** N.E. I was much annoyed today by the bad judgment shown by our Chairman Simms with respect to the attempt made in Parliament to effect an ex post facto change in our Act - I have

no confidence at all in his judgment & am afraid that we made a great mistake when we appointed him our chairman. Unfortunately he feels no diffidence on this subject himself - Harriett & Anne & William dined at Highgate.

**14th. Sunday** - Wind changeable

**15th.** S.W. little wind v. cold. Miss Cumming dined here.

16th. S.W. The Board met today at Reading & we had a long discussion on the subject of stations & carriages.

**17. 18. 19.** S.W. )

**20. 21.** N.W. ) This week has been a very trying one.

**22.** S.W. )

William made an offer on Friday morning to Blanche & then became very nervous that he sd. have done wrong in endeavouring to gain the affections of one so much younger than himself. He carried his scruples in this respect too far & made us very uncomfortable for some days, as he placed Blanche in a very trying & uncomfortable position. She returned his affection & assured him that his fears of entailing unhappiness in her were entirely groundless. Her friends too were ready to give their consent, & yet Wm. hesitated - The fit however went off on Saturday, & they have both been very happy ever since.

The Matilda arrived today from Lima. '

**23rd.** S.W. much rain.

Sir Thos. told me today that he sd. give Blanche 7000£ & I saw Dendy afterwards about Settlements. I called on Mrs. Noyes on Sunday.

**24th.** N.E. - a beautiful day but cold.

At 11 o'clock we left town with C. Sir Thos, & Susan by the B. railway for Stowe & arrived at Weedon in 4 hours - The Hedges beginning to look green, & the grass growing, but no trees out - Stowe looked very pretty -

**25th.** E. with a hard frost.

Walked to Heyford with C. & we were both very tired - I foolishly took a lemon ? & some elder wine on our way up & it gave me a headache which made me unwell all the time I was out. We assembled a large family party at dinner to celebrate the birthday of my Uncle, Mrs. Yonge & C, & it was a comfort to see how well they all were including my Uncle & Mary.

**26th.** S.E. hot sun & cold wind.

Walked to the station with C. & got there too late - returned to Stowe & went down again at ¼ after 3 - reached B. S1 at ½ past 7 - much pleased with the travelling, the civility, & the appearance of everything on the line - found Wm. & Blanche very happy.

**27th.** S.E. to N.E. hot & cold - fine.

Saw Dendy again about Settlements & agreed with him that 1400£ sd, be settled namely

7000 her money  
4000 a Bond of ass.  
3000 cash or an Ins. from do.

**28th.** E. a warm day - Sunday.

I did not go to Church today having taken phisic. Yesterday I had a pain & uneasiness in the chest all day, & I am not well today - I must keep a closer watch on my diet & avoid pastry & puddings & everything of that kind.

**29th.** E. fine weather.

I staid at home & was very uncomfortable all day.

**30th,** S.W. very warm & fine.

I saw Dendy yesterday & settled with him finally, & today I called & gave instructions to George Crawley. I have been busy on my private Books yesterday & today & have not yet balanced them. I was very weak & uncomfortable with a bad cold.

**1st May.** N.E.

Went early to the Compting house & got back in time to set off with Caroline & 4 of the children - Charley, Willey, Francis and Baby by the 12 o'clock train. On our arrival at Maidenhead C. went to the Orkney Arms, & I took a walk across the bridge with Casson, but I was so weak & I found it so excessively hot that I was exceedingly knocked up - I found little or nothing done at the Twyford station, & there were few men at work at the Sonning Cutting, on acct, of the holyday, but (Brunel?) assured me that all was going on well there, & he saw no reason to doubt that we sd. open to Twyford by the 15th July.

After visiting two or three other points of the line we reached Wallingford where we found very comfortable quarters at the Bear, but I was kept awake all night by my cough.

**2nd.** N.E.

Got to Oxford by ½ past 12 & found Joseph & Emily there. Wm. with Blanche & Susan came at 3 by the Coach, & we all dined with Harry & had a merry party tho' I was low & uncomfortable with my cold, & Wm. had completely lost his voice - Blanche & Susan went on immediately after dinner to Gloucester, & we went to Clifton fr, whence Wm. walked back to Oxford to get onto the Gloucester mail for London -

**3rd.** Fine summer weather -

I had a much better night & am more comfortable today - Went with Joseph to Steventon & Didcot & walked on the line with him & Mr. Harrison.

**4th.** No wind -

left Clifton at 8, & arrived at Ashton at 6 in the evening, passing through

Wantage	14
Swindon	18
Chippenham	19
Bath	13

Bristol & Ashton      15  


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79

**5th.** S.W. - a fine day - Sunday.

We heard yesterday of Georgey having the Scarlatina at the Charter house - Today Anne, Martin, & his wife & some of our children came out to tea fm. Belmont. Dear little Johnny arm was worse & I cannot help feeling uneasy about him. My cough troubled me last night, & I continued to feel weak today -

**6th.** N.E. blowing very hard.

The Belmont party dined here.

**7th.** N.E. still blowing hard

George & Martin called to take me with them to see the Cotton manufactory, & I was very much pleased, but the high east wind on our way there, & the very hot rooms there increased my cough & made my breath short.

Spent the day at Belmont. Had a good acct. fm. the Charterhouse.

**8th.** N.E.

Put on a blister all night & I feel the better for it today. Balanced my books to the 31st dec. last.

The important news was received today of the resignation of Ministers in consequence of their having only obtained a majority of 5 on the question of putting an end to the representative system in Jamaica. The numbers were:

for the Bill	294
against it	289
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	5

Great Western shares are again improving - they are now at 10 premium.

**9th.** N.E. with occasional rain - a very cold & disagreeable day.

**10th.** The same disagreeable dreary weather continues, with a high wind.

We heard today with great regret that poor Antony & Georgey will have to spend two weeks Quarantine by themselves in Bedford Squ. I spent the morning at Belmont.

**11th.** N.E. Very fine, but the wind decidedly cold & comfortless -

I went to Belmont today to meet Bright & we had a long talk about the Railway.

**12th, Sunday.** N.E. Gloomy & still cold, unseasonable weather.

Went to Church twice with Aunt Bell -

**13th.** The wind has at last changed to the W. or N.W. but the day was often gloomy & not by any means warm.

I went with George, Bright & Sam along the line as far as Saltford & I was on the whole much disappointed. A great deal is done, but an immense deal of heavy work remains to be done, &

the retaining walls, slips, & other expensive extra works will form serious items in the cost of the line. It is impossible to say when the whole will be finished but I think the chances are that no part of it will be quite ready till the 1st March & that the whole will not be open till the 1st May - I talked to Bright about the importance of keeping down the cost of the Bristol depot, particularly of all ornamental work. We also talked about carriages, cost of Fripps pamphlets & about the course to pursue with disabled men.

In the evening we left Ashton & took up our quarters at Belmont.

**14th.** N. to N.W. very cold with storms of Rain & Snow.

**15th.** N. with hard frost in the morning then a heavy fall of snow, followed by hail, sleet, Winter in short in all its forms.

Sir Thos. Crawley & Mrs. C. came over fm. Flaxley.

Sir Robert Peel announced to the House his failure in forming a Govt. in consequence of the Queen having refused to allow of the removal of the Ladies of the Bed Chamber. The Whigs determined in consequence to resume their places on the plea of supporting the Queen. A Conservative Ministry has been formed in Paris, & a serious riot has taken place there.

**16th.** N. very cold comfortless weather.

Harriett & most of the others went on board the Great Western today. I went into Bristol & walked through the Temple meads, & St. Phillips, to the feeder Bridge. Fripp appointed managing Director to the Bristol & Exeter with a Salary of 500£ a year.

**17th.** S.E. Still cold.

I took a short ride today for the first time & was well pleased with the mare.

George dined at Leigh.

**18th.** Blowing hard, Warmer but still not genial Spring weather.

Sir Thomas & William left us this morning.

**19th.** S.W. the first warm, pleasant day, rain fell in the night.

After Church this morning we received letters from town mentioning that Antony had been taken ill & recommending us to return to London wch. we did immediately leaving Belmont at 5 o'clock in the evening.

**20th.** S. warm seasonable weather.

We slept last night at Newbury, & got to Maidenhead in time for the 10 o'clock train, breakfasting at Reading - Our great anxiety on dear Antony's acct, was relieved immediately on our arrival in Southampton Row on hearing from William that the disorder had taken a favourable (turn) & was considered to be Pleurisy & not Scarlet fever - He had been blistered & bled three times under Dr. Bright & Mr. Fernandez directions, by wch. means the pain in the side & fever had been much subdued, but great care will be necessary to avert a relapse. The lungs have been the seat of the disorder.

12. P.M. Dr. Bright has just been here & dear Antony is now being cupped & is to have a poultice on his back to reduce the pain. They tell me that he is going on favourably, but there is

evidently great cause for anxiety, & I am just going to bed with my mind ill at ease about him - God grant that he may do well.

**21st.** W. to N.W. a fine day.

Antony had a good night last night & the Doctors continue to report favourably of him tho with so serious an evil present as inflammation of the lungs & pleura they cannot pronounce him out of danger.

In the middle of the day he became restless & anxious & Mr. F. gave him 10 drops of Opium which brought on sleep & made him more comfortable, but my mind was not at ease about him all the evening & we felt very sorry at not being able to watch over him & nurse him.

**22nd.** N.W. fine weather - but cold again.

Poor Antony had another Blister on last night, but he had a quieter night, & his pulse & side are better today.

**23rd.** N.W. rather milder.

Engaged at the Railway office - A very good report of Antony, & he now labors chiefly under great depression, & weakness fm, the loss of blood, blisters etc.

**24th,** N.W. still cold -

Antony is getting on well & has taken some nourishment.

I had a conversation today with Hammonds clerk, Driver, & learnt fm. him that it wd. be at least a fortnight before the accts, wd, be ready. Brunel I see stated at the Cheltenham meeting that even the Box Tunnel wd. not cost anything like £300,000 wch. it was reported the Sapperton Tunnel wd. cost -  
Shares are at 71.

**25th.** N. raw unseasonable weather.

Heras took leave of us today intending to return to France tomorrow.

I attended a meeting today at Mr. Tyler's for the purpose of forming a district society in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, but particly amongst our Colonies, & the business was carried through quickly & well. Mr. Bellasis taking the lead.

**26th.** N.E. to S.W, in the evening - A very fine day, but not warm.

Antony going on exceedingly well. Walked in the evening to Paddington.

**27th,** S.E. a beautiful day with a spice of cold.

Went at 4 to Paddington where I witnessed a very busy scene & found that we had had famous trains all the day going in & out in perfect order.

**28th.** N.E. still cold.

Osborne called this morning & did not know me, nor did I him at first, so much had 28 years

since time altered us both.

William left us this evening by the mail for Flaxley - I was very heavy & uncomfortable.

**29th,** N.E. Fine but still cool.

Antony came down stairs much better & in good spirits but looking ill, & thin -

The house divided yesterday on the choice of a Speaker & the result was as follows:

for Mr. Lefevre	present	317
	tellers	2
	pairs	8
		<hr/>
		327
for Mr. Goulbourn	present	299
	tellers	2
	pairs	8
		<hr/>
		309
	Radical majority	18
	Absent liberals	12
		<hr/>
		30
	Absent conservatv	8
		<hr/>
		22
		<hr/>

Carlow & Ludlow vacant.

At the Railroad Committee promises were held out for today that we sd. open to Twyford on the 1st June.

**30th.** N.E. very hot during the day & cold in the evening.

I went to Paddington at 4 & staid there 2 hours; much pleased with what was going on & with the acct. I heard of the immense trains we had been carrying all day.

**31st.** N.E. but warm

**1st June 1839** N.E, blowing fresh,

The Common Council yesterday rejected a whig-radical address to the Queen by a majority of 46. Lord Melbourne made a strange conservative speech yesterday, & Lord Brougham uttered a very clever but violent invective against the Whigs for their conduct in the matter of the Queen.

**2nd. Sunday.** N.E. blowing hard & cold - with a tendency to rain towards the evening.

**3rd.** S.W. with hard rain - At last the weather has changed & we have rain which is so much wanted & warm weather.

R. Bright called today - I attended a finance Comtee but cd. not attend much to it as I was

engaged with Bright & at the London - In the evening I went to Paddington where we had some troublesome complaints to investigate. F. Hood was dismissed & Elland, amongst others, reprimanded - On my return home I found that Anne & Lloyd had arrived. Antony was confirmed today.

**4th.** E.

Went this evening with Saunders & Brunel to Reading.

**5th.** N.E.

Went on to Didcot where we met the Clergy, farmers, road Commissioners, & lawyers of the neighbouring country & had a long talk with them about roads, drainage, bridges etc. Got home to dinner at past 7 - I was satisfied with the state of the works & have no doubt that we shall open to Twyford on the 1st of July, & to Steventon very probably on the 1st Feby or March 1840.

**6th.** S.W.

**7th.** S.W. fine breeze.

The Ministry appears to be in a very state & having thrown off the radicals to get the support of the Conservatives, they are now at the mercy of either party.

**8th.** S.W. fine soft wind. Lloyd returned to Heyford today.

**9th. Sunday.** S.W. beautiful weather.

**10th, 11th** S.W. lovely summer weather.

**12th.** S.W. fine weather & very hot.

Received a very large mass of correspondence today fm. S.A. by the Hudson, Dyson & Black Prince - Caroline, Anne & Antony set off this evening for Belmont & I went to the station with them -

**13th.** S.W.

Exceedingly engaged all day writing to Marco, & preparing to go to Bristol by the last train with Brunel - On arriving at Paddington & I found that Brunel & S. Clarke had met with an accident in trying the spring of one of the posting carriages, wch. tho' happily not a serious character made it necessary for the former to return home. I came down therefore in the night Regulator (mail coach) & arrived here on the

**14th.** at 10 a.m. N.E.

Wm. Blanche & the rest went to Nightingale valley. Mr. Vaughan & his son & Mr. Browne dined here.

**15th.** N.E, with a good deal of rain.

**16th.** Sunday. N.E. but very hot.

**17th.** E. a dark blightey appearance but hot.

Dear Willey has been ill with a good deal of fever for some days & Mr. Davis is attending him. He is better this morning & appears to have been relieved by Down's powders wch. he took last night. William left us this evening for London.

**18th.** N.E.

**19th.** N.E.

Sir Thomas Crawley & his daughters left Belmont. Frere dined here.

**20th.** S.W. with showers, ending in a violent storm of wind & rain, with the most vivid lightening I ever saw - for more than an hour the succession of flashes was so rapid as to appear like a general conflagration.

Georgey left us this morning.

**21st.** S.W. with much wind, & hard rain.

**22nd.** S.E, blowing hard, with much rain.

Willey was very much better today.

**23rd. Sunday.** S.W. hard showers all day.

**24th.** S.W. warm with heavy showers. 25th, S.W. a fine & pleasant day.

Rode with Anne to Cadbury Camp. Harry arrived from Morton.

**26th.** N.E. with thick rain.

A division took place in the House of Commons last week on the Education plan of Ministers - present 559 -

division -	for Ministers	282
	against	277
		<hr/>
	majority	5
		<hr/>

& again: 552 present,

	for	275
	against	273
		<hr/>
	Majority	2!!
		<hr/>

**27th.** N.E. with heavy rain.

C. Vaughan, Mr. Caley, & Anstice dined here,

Mr. Bright was taken very ill yesterday & had a paralytic attack.

Shares are again at 5.

**28th,** N.W. heavy clouds & hard showers.  
Some of George's hay is much injured.

**29th June to 4 July.** N.E. to N.W. very beautiful weather.

I have not been at all well being troubled with headache, & pain in the loins & back of the neck. I am better today.

Heard from the Cucoo today the 4th July.

**5th.** N.W. beautiful weather.

**6th.** S.W. do.

Great Western sailed.

**7th.** S.W. & S. cloudy & threatening rain.

George was busy hay making all last week & tolerably successful but there are still many acres on the ground.

The railway general meeting was held on the 26th & went off very well. News has been received of a revolution in Bolivia against [ - ], & this with the result of the battle of must be fatal to his power.

I was busy all day yesterday writing to Heros etc. etc. & considering our position with regard to Bark.

An address to the Queen against the national education scheme has been carried in the House of Lords by a majority of 111.

Shares 6½

½ Shares 3½

**8th.** S.E. blowing fresh with hard rain.

Went into Bristol with George & Anne & found the Committee considering the question of a loan to the Bristol & Exeter. The pressure on the money market still continues, & the holders of Cotton & Shares find it very difficult to keep their ground.

**9th,** S, with very heavy rain.

**18th.** S.E. violent gale of wind with hard rain.

Henry & Martin Crawley came to Belmont today.

**19th.** A continuance of the gale with disagreeable Nov. weather.

There have been Serious Riots at Birmingham.

**20th.** N.W. much less wind but a dull day & occasional heavy showers.

Johnney has had breakings out about him for some time past which become large wounds & do not heal. they are I fear of a scrophulous character. His health & spirits are good, & he is a dear interesting little fellow.

**21st. Sunday.** S. with showers.

**22nd.** S.W. with rain  
Called on Mr. Bright.

**23rd.** S.W. do.

The markets continue much in the same state & confidence is far fm. being restored. Political disturbances are assuming a more serious aspect.  
Railway shares are exceedingly depressed,

**24th.** S.W. with showers.  
Harry arrived from Seend.

**25th.** S.W. with rain.  
Left Belmont for Westbury at 2 & arrived there at 8.

**26th.** S.W. continued rain.

**27th.** S.W. do.  
Harry arrived at Flaxley fm. Belmont

**28th. Sunday.** Heavy showers & thunder.  
Went to Church at Westbury in the morning, & at Flaxley in the afternoon.

**29th,** S.W. with showers.  
Much hay spoiling. Left Westbury for Flaxley.

**30. & 31st.** Violent rain wch. caused all the Brooks & rivers to overflow & did much mischief -  
The kitchen here was full of water. George, Ht., Anne & Charley arrived here fm. Belmont & William, Joseph & Emily fm. Clifton.

### **1st. August 1839**

We all assembled today at 9 o'clock in the little church to witness the marriage of my dear Brother William with Blanche Crawley. It was a lovely day, & every thing combined to make it a happy one. The Bride & Bridegroom left us about 12 for Malvern, & we went most of us to take a drive & to call on Miss Blinnett. ?

**2nd.** Still lovely weather & we took advantage of it to go to Tintern by the Speech ? house, & St. Briavels wch, we enjoyed exceedingly. I never saw the forest or the Abbey to so much advantage. We did not get home till 12 at night.

**3rd.** Still fine weather.

**4th. Sunday** do. S.W.

**5th.** S.W. & beautiful summer weather.  
Went 21 of us on a Picnic party through Newnham, Blackney, Whitmead & Park End to

Staunton & the Buckstone, a most delightful drive. The views of Newlands, the Winicliff, the Sugar loaf & other Welch mountains, Malvern, & the Wye were very striking indeed.

**6th.** S.W. dry, but not a bright day.  
Went to Arlingham to call on Mrs. Dix.

**7th.** N.W. with partial showers, but for the most part fine.  
The Mirses ? arrived at Westbury with Johney, Francis & Baby. Caroline drove to Harpery ?

**8th.** N.W. & cloudy with a good deal of wind.

**9th.** S.W. fine with showers.  
Mr. and Mrs. Jones dined here.  
I received a parcel from London with Lima letters to the 20 Ap. & Valp. to the 15 May.

**10th.** S.W. a pleasant day.  
George returned in the evening. We took a nice walk to Ennis ? Mills.

**11th. Sunday.** S.W. fine.  
The Daubeney's all came to the cottage last night & Martin's Baby was christened today, Francis Gibbs. We all walked in the evening to Broughtons.

**12th.** N. with fine weather.  
Left Flaxley today with all our children except Harry & Willey, in William's little carriage - 11 in all - and we left with regret all the kind friends with whom we had been living so pleasantly since William's marriage.  
We reached Clifton Hampden at ½ past 6, & found Miss Harrisons there ready to receive us - Emily remained at Flaxley, & Joseph returned there this morning.

**13th.** West fine.  
Left Clifton Hampden at past 8 this morning, took some luncheon at Reading, & arrived by the R Road at 6.  
We saw during both our days journey a great deal of Corn cut & ready to carry.  
From what I saw of the Railway I believe that by the end of Oct, a great deal of the work will be done between Twyford & Didcot.

**14th,** S.W. fine.  
Took my place again at the Compting house, & got through a good deal of work.

**15th** N.E. & cloudy.  
Continued to get up my work & began to feel a little more comfortable after after the heat & worry of a first ? return. At the railway office. Casson spoke to me about retiring on acct. of his health & his great disconfidence in the Bristol Committee - I urged him not to adopt this course just at present.

Heros arrived fm. France our servant Griffith was arrested for debt.  
Antony came to the Compting house for the first time.

**16th.** S.W. with occasional showers.

A most busy day at the Compting hs, meeting with Heros about Bark. Mexicans about expedition - Captain Fraser - Urruela etc.

**17th,** N.E. rain in the night.

Still much engaged discussing the Bark contract, looking into the railway estimates etc.

**18th.** N.E. Sunday - rain in the evening.

**19th,** N.W. hard rain last night.

**20th.** N.W. cold with rain.

**21st.** N.W. cold but dry.

**22nd.** S.W. a fine day.

**23rd.** S.W. a fine warm day.

The Scarcity of Money continues & high rates of interest are paid now that the Usury laws have been done away with - Shares have in consequence fallen considerably, & Great Western are now 1 per cent premium.

**24th,** Fine weather,

Sims & I received the Duke of Wellington at Paddington & showed him the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph & the station. He was accompanied by Lord Bathurst, Lord Fitzroy Somerset & 3 ladies & looked very well.

Went to Highgate.

**25th.** Fine day. Sunday at Highgate.

**26th,** Ditto.

Left London with Francis by the 12 o'clock train for Bristol, in William's carriage & arrived there at ½ past 10.

**27th.** Attended the Bristol & Exeter meeting which was rather a stormy one & in consequence of a very long speech from Mr. Holdsworth, we were detained so late that our own Board meeting was not over in time for me to return to dinner. I dined therefore at the Gloster.

**28th.** Our own meeting took place today & went off very well notwithstanding a further excess in our estimates which we had to declare of £380,000. It appeared to me

that the Liverpool people were afraid in the present state of the share & money market, to say a word or

show any hostility calculated to depreciate their property.

**29th.** The two Mr. Vaughans & Mr. Charles & Mr. & Mrs. Foster Alleyne dined here.

**30th.** Occasional showers. Henry & Mr. Machen arrived here.

**31st,** Hard rain & stormy weather, S.E. Harry is 20 today & I had some serious talks with him about his future prospects. He is much inclined to come to the Compting house after he has taken his degree, but I urged him not to consider this by any means settled in his own mind, but rather to leave the door open to any change of feelings & wishes wch, circumstances may give rise to in the course of the next year.

### **State of the Country**

The scarcity of money continues & the Bank by raising their disct. to 6 per cent is still further increasing it. Produce & goods are consequently falling & shares of all kinds are greatly depressed.

Great Western at 1 per cent discount.

The Bank appear to expect that by creating this demand for money they will draw Bullion to this country fm. all parts, but we are obviously in a most artificial state, & mistakes may involve the most serious consequences. The Bank wish to draw Bullion to this country to make themselves safe but how will they benefit the country by it, if by making money cheap, that might at once be done by reversing their present system. I cannot help fearing that the want of Bullion is a Bugbear wch. creates much more apprehension than it need do.

**1st. September 1839 Sunday.** Violent storms of rain & wind all day - S.W. -

**2nd.** Left Belmont with Willy in the Regulator - S.W. hard rain all day,

**3rd.** S.W. stormy weather with rain.

Gloomy prospect for the harvest. Money extremely scarce.

Shares much depressed. G.W 5 discount.

**4th,** S.W. better weather.

Received a noble order from Barron Forbes & Co. My cold bad - Dined at the Mallets & spent a pleasant day. Willey looked ill.

**5th.** S.W. gloomy.

My cold worse, Willey in bed with fever.

Mandillo, Diez, & De Cannelli dined here.

Engaged today with Briggs about Crabtrees Bills.

**6th,** S.W. without rain -

Duty on Corn fallen to 6/10.

**7th.** S.W. gloomy & blowing hard but no rain.

Willey much better.

I am better too but weak & shakey.

Hard at work today with our Mexican friends & Captain Fraser about the orders & preparing for our Bark congress on Monday.

Money rather less scarce & shares better. G.W. 1½ discount.

The large order from Barron Forbes & Co. induced me to speak to our Bankers who said they sd. be ready to advance loan without security whenever we wanted it from 20,000 to 30,000 - at the rate of int. the Bank might be charging

**8th. Sunday.** S.W. strong wind with a disposition to rain.

**9th.** S.W. & dry.

Most excessively harassed with the excess of work in hand - many hours conference with Heras & Villamil & Roux ? preparatory to our meeting the Frenchmen tomorrow. Heras very selfish & violent.

**10th.** S.W. a little rain,

After a long sitting with Roux, Heras & Villamil & a very fatiguing day, Heras was at last brought to reason & the proportions finally settled.

**11th.** S.W. with a little rain.

The Frenchmen have arrived & I have had another very fatiguing day - Heras violent & unreasonable, De Londres businesslike & straight-forward - Le Vaillant rather shuffling - Roux mediating & very useful.

**12th,** W. by N. with some rain.

Heard today that the Bank decree had been revoked from the 1 of next Dec. - notwithstanding wch. we came at last to an understanding with the Frenchmen & agreed to all the terms.

**13th.** S.W. with hard rain.

A very busy day - All the morning at the Dock examining Marco's & Heras's Barks. George & Tom dined with us.

**14th.** S.W. very violent rain.

Finished with the Frenchmen & we signed the contract.

Went with Caroline, Antony, Willy & Mrs. White to Brighton.

**15th, Sunday.** S.W. - violent storms.

I was very weak & poorly all day.

**16th.** S.W. hard rain still.

Returned to town with Anty. & got to the city at 12. Busy writing about the Bark.

**17th,** S.W. with rain.

Brought matters to a point with Heras & Roux who started for France & I was not at all sorry to

part with.

S. Bright arrived fm, Liverpool.

**18th.** S.W. tolerably fine.

Busy with Rivers & Co, & writing about Bark.

Bright returned to Liverpool.

**19th.** S.W. with rain,

Rivero, Cevallos, Villamil, Robertson, Rivero's cousin, & C. Barnwell dined here.

**20th,** S.W. fine.

**21st.** S.W, raining -

Went to Brighton with Antony.

**22nd. Sunday.** S.W. rain all day.

**23rd.** S.W. one of the few fine days this year -

Went about in a Fly in the morning to see Brighton, & called on Miss Yvat where our dear boys Willy & Johny are to go to School. Set off for town afterwards with Mrs. White, Caroline, & Anty.

**24th.** S.W. raining.

**25th.** S.W. fine with showers.

Brother Charles came to us from Stowe.

**26th.** S.W. a fine day affording still a chance for the harvest.

**27th,** S.E. rain again.

**28th.** S.W. rain in the morning, & then a beautiful evening.

Went to Brighton.

**29th.** S.E. Sunday - a very fine day.

**30th.** S.E. very fine -

returned fm. Brighton.

**1st Oct. 1839** fine.

**2nd** fine, but rain in the evening.

Dined at the London Tavern with the London Directors & was very moderate indeed in my eating & drinking.

**5th.** Hard rain - a miserable day.

**6th.** N.E. - cold but better weather.

Harry & Antony went to Brighton. George & Charley came to me.

I have had feelings this week which have rather alarmed me. I have had a constant uneasiness in my chest with continual accumulation of wind there, & sort of a fluttering which I can hardly describe. The wind has sometimes appeared to fill the cavity of my chest so much as to bring on feelings of suffocation. It may be all from the stomach, but it certainly affects the lungs creating great discomfort & anticipating evil - On Wednesday night I took a blue pill with a dose of R. & S. the next morning.

**7th, Sunday.** N.E. dry & fine.

I am free today from the uneasiness in the region of the lungs & I woke more comfortable, but after church on taking a very small bit of bread & butter & half a glass of wine & water, my old feelings of giddiness & faintness came over me & I could with difficulty walk. A drive in a cab relieved me but I was excessively exhausted with a walk I took afterwards with dear Georgey & Charles - who spent the day with me - It distressed me to think that such a good affected Boys should be subject to the horrid examples of vice & selfishness with which our public schools abound.

**8th.** N.E. cold & fine.

**9th.** N.W. cold & fine.

Antony returned from Brighton.

Interest of money is still 6 per cent for best paper & shares very depressed.

G.W.R, about 4 discount. but the exchanges are improving a little, & bullion is returning to this country - Stocks of produce are far from heavy, & there are no failures.

**10th.** S.W. a beautiful day -

Caroline & Harry returned from Brighton.

**11th.** S.W. fine but hard rain last night.

**12th,** S.W. a beautiful day.

Antony, Harry & I went to Reading to meet William, Blanche & Albinia & came up with them from Twyford. Harry left us this evening for Oxford.

**13th. Sunday.** S.W. Beautiful day.

**14th.** S.E. fine but cold.

**30th Oct.** N.E, which has prevailed with cold weather for the last week.

Shares 4 to 5 discount.

**31st.** Still N.E. & cold.

**1 Nov. 1839** N.E.

**2nd Nov.** S.W. with rain.

We have been exceedingly busy the last 3 days despatching the Swallow & Nurean.

George & Harriett are at Clifton. William returned from the Isle of Wight.

A question is again arising I see about taking in Roskill. The Chairman in favor, Mills against. I am inclined to believe that this is the time to admit him when the tide of public opinion is all in our favor & everything going on well.

**3rd.** N.E, Sunday - warm.

**4th.** S.W.

**5th. & 6th** S.E. to S.S.E, with much rain.

**7th.** N.E. with rain.

State of Public affairs very alarming. In America most of the Banks have suspended cash payments. Here the most alarming riots have taken place at Newport. Money is getting scarcer & scarcer & calls are not attended to. Many of the Railways are in great difficulties, & some must stop their works. Gt. Western are at 7½ per cent Discount!!!

**8th.** S.E.

**16th.** From S.E. to s.w. all this week, with wet weather, but not cold.

We have had some trafical events in it which have made it a very unhappy one. On Monday evening I went to Paddington Sims was in the Chair. His Brother came to see the E.M, Telegraph. We went afterwards to dine at Mills & spent a quiet evening. Sims walked home with me & talked cheerfully all the way.

On Tuesday I attended the usual committee. Sims was in the chair. The Lewins dined with me. Wednesday & Thursday I had a headache. The Children went off for Stowe without us on Thursday. Sims was in Princes St, & at the Bank. The next morning he was found dead in his bed, undressed & with a pistol in his hand with which he had lodged a ball in his head. It was on Mrs. Austin's calling upon him that he was found in this state, & in the evening Mrs. Austin herself destroyed herself by poison!! We were all dreadfully shocked with this most unexpected tragedy, as there was nothing in his manner or conduct or circumstances to create the slightest suspicion of such an event.

### **6th December 183 Stowe**

Caroline came here on the 18th with Antony who staid a week - I came on the 25th - We found my Uncle suffering from oppression of breath has been relieved at the expence of a great deal of expectoration. He is better, but I think there is great reason to doubt whether he will get through the winter.

The weather has been bad - heavy rain for some day, & then severe frost. There have been 5 floods here this year, & a wetter summer & autumn was never known.

The Money Market has continued in the same feverish state. Discount for best Bills 6 to 6½ per cent.

G.W. Shares 12 per cent discount!!!

In the United States the Banks have most of them again suspended cash payments.

**15th.** We returned to town from Stowe on the 9th & nothing very particular has occurred since George & Chs. came home from school on the 11th. Mr. Hillersden died last week after a very short illness - He was a kind hearted, honest man & he had ready mode of expressing himself & his views were of rather a loose order - He was a great favourite however at the London & will long be regretted there.

Business & Shares continue in the same state -

The wind has been a good deal in the S.E. with rain & fog. Today it is Westerly with rain.

**16 )**

**17 )** S.E. Rain

**18 )**

**19 )**

**20 )**

**21** S.W. Rain.

Wm left for Belmont Very hard at work yesterday & today with the arrangements arising out of the new contract with Guerra.

Shares have rather improved.

Great Western 6.

Interest 5½, business much the same.

**22nd)** S.W. hard wind - mild & much rain.

**23rd )**

**24th )**

Shares have improved.

W.W. 4 discount.

The Eton people have at last consented to our having a station at Slough.

**19 January. 1840 Sunday.** S.W. rain rain with high wind. On the 7th a hard frost set in but lasted only a few days.

On the **10th** the penny postage began.

On the **15th** George & Charles went to school.

**16th.** Parliament met & the Queen announced her approaching marriage.

Interest of money has fallen at last, tho' the Bank has not yet lowered the rate.

Cotton has begun to fall in earnest, & there is a general prospect of things being better.

Shares have improved & G.W. are at par.

I have been unwell for some days but am now better.

**20th,** S.W. rain.

I went to the Compting house again & we had in the evening a dinner party.

Wm. Blanche Susan George & Caroline Mr. Dallon Mr. King Mr. Venables F. Daubeny & his

sister Miss Hall  
and in the evening young Hawkins Chs. Daubeny.

**21st.** S.W. Wind & rain  
Caroline & the boys went in the evening to the Merivales.

**22nd.** S.W. hard wind & rain.  
Harry left us for Oxford.

**23rd.** W, still windy & rainy.  
letters from Valpaaiso with excellent accounts of the state of business & an interesting acct.  
from Davy of a new contract which he has made with Sewell & Valder.  
Charles & Eliza came to us yesterday to stay a couple of days.

**24th,** S.W. very hard rain & violent wind.  
I felt very unwell all the day & was prevented from going to Dr. Litton's in the evening.

**25th.** W. more moderate & dry.  
Miss Harrison came to us yesterday.

**26th Sunday.** S.W. violent wind & rain.

**27th,** Left London by the 7 o'clock train & slept at Reading.

**28th.** S.W. hard rain & wind & cold & dreary at the station.  
The weather improved later in the day, & we got on to Wantage where we slept. The waters are  
out in every part of the country.

**29th.** S.W. a sharp frost & fine day -  
got on to Chippenham where we slept & when I got up the next morning I was ill with a bowell  
complaint.

**30th.** E. with heavy fog, & cold.  
After visiting some part of the line as far as Box, the complaint increased upon me & I was  
obliged to push on to Belmont leaving Russell, Barlow, Saunders & Brunel to follow - the three  
former came on to Belmont & slept there but I was too unwell to join the party.

**31st.** E. but not cold.  
Confined to my room & most comfortably nursed by dear Harriett & Anne.

**1st February 1840** E, heavy rain & dreary weather.

**2nd. Sunday** Fine morning after hard rain in the night.  
Mr. Davy checked my complaint with opium 1 gr., Calomel 3, & has since given me Taraxacum,  
to produce action on the liver -  
Our survey of the line leads us to conclude that there will be no difficulty in opening to Reading

in March - to Faringdon in May- & to Swindon in Oct., but the great extent of work yet to be done in Cutting 1 & Cutting 7 make it very doubtful whether we shall open the whole line in July 1841.

**3rd.** S.W. Sunshine ending with rain  
The Brights came to Belmont

**4th.** The mails came on our line. N.W.

**5th.** N.W. wind & heavy clouds but for a wonder no rain.  
Division in the House.

308	for Ministers	)	vote of no confidence
287	against	)	

—  
21 majority, not that the ministers do possess the confidence of the country, but that this resolution do not pass.

**6th.** N.W. & a beautiful Spring day.

**7th.** S.W. hard rain & wind  
left Belmont with Ht. & George for Bath visiting the station & other works by the way.

**8th.** N.W. cold with rain  
Left Bath in the Beaufort & got home less fatigued than I expected.

**9th.** S.W. white frost, & fine open sunshiney day.

**10th.** S.W. with hard rain -  
a general holyday in consequence of the Queen's marriage.

**11 to 14th.** S.W. with occasional rain.

**15th.** S.E. with hard rain.

**16th, Sunday** - S.W. hard rain in the night.

**17th.** W. - Rain -  
I sent for Mr. Bright - I mean Dr. Bright who prescribed for & ordered me to abstain from Wine & tea.

**18th,** E. cold dry weather.

**19th** E. Cold & dry - disposed to snow.  
Cabanes dined here. Lord Barrington consented to join our Direction.

**20th,** E, hard black frost with snow.

**21st.** N.E. very hard frost.

**22nd.** “ “

After taking blue Pill every other day for 6 days, with sedative draughts began today to take tonics - George came from School with a bad sore throat.

**23rd. Sunday** - a beautify day hard frost - N.E.

**24th.** E. hard frost & very fine.

**25th.** Bright dined with me.

**26th.** N.E, still hard frost.

**27th.** do do do.

The half yearly meeting of the Great Western was held today & great anger was shown at our not having appointed a Lancashire man to any of the late vacancies. The Chairman said that the question of admitting Roskell to some future vacancy should be considered.

Much stress was ridiculously laid by Mr. Heyworth on the circumstance of the Directors who have been admitted not being large holders - We were wrong in not being prepared with a statement of the number of shares held by the Directors generally which wd. have shown our great interest in the concern.

**28th.** N.E. dry & fine.

**29th.** N.E. dry & fine.

**1st March 1840 Sunday** - N.E. cold fine day.

Received the Sacrament this morning. Looking forward on this 1st day of Spring. I may say of my health that I am not without hope that when I am enabled in a warmer season to take country exercise I shall rally & regain my strength, tho' at the same time I cannot help suspecting that the frequent sickness, loss of appetite, & want of strength to which I have been subject for the last 6 weeks or two months proceeds from some hidden mischief which it may not be so easy to subdue.

Of our business. I may say that it has never been in so flourishing a condition, & that, large as our profits were last year, there is every prospect that they will be larger this.

Of the G.W. Railway. I entertain as good an opinion as ever tho' the period of receiving dividends is more remote than I expected. It seems to be now decided that till we have cleared off our arrears of interest on debentures & have realised a clear surplus no dividend can be paid.

Whole shares are now at 3 premium.

We shall probably open to

Reading	6th April
to Steventon	4 May
to Faringdon	29 June
between Bristol & Bath	24 Augt.
to Swindon	in Nov.

The whole line in Augt. 1841.

I think our shares will gradually advance & that in May & June they will be at 10 to 15 premium.

In Politics we have not much good in prospect. The Whigs & Radicals stick to office, & no superior, disinterested man of sound opinions has arisen to check the torrent of Democracy.

**2nd.** N.E. cold & dry.

**3rd.** do. do.

**4th.** do. do.

**5th.** do. do.

Caroline has been confined to her room two or three days with a bad cold, & the baby has a bad cough.

**6th.** N.E. cold, bright & dry.

**7th.** do. do. do.

**8th, Sunday.** N.E. another beautiful bright cold day.

Dr. Bright has ordered me to take blue Pill again - The first dose acted pretty sharply as an aperient, & I have more appetite & am better this evening.

**9th.** N.E. the same fine weather.

The first of our new engines arrived today.

Mrs. Blanche & Susan drank tea with us.

I began today the system of dining early.

**10th.** N.W. - N & N.E. After 3 weeks of cloudless weather some appearance of change occurred today.

Dur left us for Hamburg & Valpo.

**11th.** N.E. raw & disposed to rain.

**12th.** N.W. cold & cloudy but no frost.

**13th.** N.E. open, cloudy weather.

Very much oppressed & weak all today & yesterday.

**14th,** N.E. open cloudy weather.

Some of the Directors went with an engine for the first time to Reading.

I went over the Paddington Station in the evening, & think it will be all finished in a fortnight.

**15th. Sunday.** N.W. cold & rain.

I was very much oppressed & uncomfortable all this evening.

**16th,** N.E. fine dry weather.

In the evening at Paddington the fares, trains, & appointments were fixed for Reading.

**17th.** N.E. beautiful weather.

Lord Barrington attended the Board today.

The first of our new engines went out today & worked well.

**18th.** N.E, a black, bleak, cloudy day.

**19th.** do. cold & a brighter day.

**20th.** N.W. dry.

**21st.** N.W. very cold & dry.

Venus sailed.

**22nd. Sunday.** N.W. dry & cold.

I began tea again today for breakfast & I think that upon the whole I am better.

I sold 30 Gt. Western shares yesterday for George G. at 3 premium.

**23rd.** N.E. - cloudy, cold, blowing hard.

**24th. & 25th** N.E. with hard short storms of snow.

I have been stronger, & my appetite has been better so far this week, but I am much oppressed this evening. in consequence of my having increased the Quantity a little at dinner.

**26th, 27th, 28th** N.W. cold - dry - & fine.

**29th, Sunday.** Still very fine, but after a continuance of 40 days the easterly wind is beginning to yield today.

**30th.** S.W. at last but still very fine & bright & rather cold.

Opened today to Reading. Called on Mrs. Saunders

**1st, 2nd, 3rd April 1840** W. & S.W. with occasional showers & rather cold.

**4th.** N.W. do.

**6th.** S.W. to N. do.

**7th.** N.E. cloudy.

By Dr. Bright's orders I am again taking blue pill preparatory to more steel ? It makes me exceedingly uncomfortable.

**8th.** N.E, a wretched cold day but clean.

Attended the meeting at the Mansion House in aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Anne & Lloyd arrived.

Shares advanced to 7½ whole  
2 to 3 half

**9th.** N.E. still very cold.  
Harry had a party of young men.

**10th.** N.E.

**11th.** N. to N.W. & W. but little wind, warm & very fine spring weather.  
Lloyd went back to Heyford. Closed my private ledger.

**12th. Sunday.** S.W. with indications of rain.

**13th,** E. quite not.  
Traffic increasing favourably..

**14th,** Wind very changeable - Sun hot - weather fine.  
Shares continue to rise & the traffic also.  
Whole 10 to 10½  
Half 3¼ to ¾

**15th.** S.W. fine

**16th.** N.E, to S.E. rain for an hour in the morning - fine afternoon.  
Shares up to 13 to 14.

**17th.** N.E. blowing hard & cold - Sun very hot.

**18th.** N.E. still cold & hot.

**19th. Sunday** - N.E. very fine, but cold.  
Attended the early Sacrament.

**20th.** N.W. a beautiful day -  
Drank tea at Hyde Park St.

**21st.** S.W. rather a cloudy day.

**22nd.** N.E. & cloudy.  
Our traffic continues to improve & shares are at 17.

**23rd.** W. & very mild -  
Shares 14 - 15.  
Caroline went to a Musical Party at Hyde Park St.  
Dr. B. changed my medicine giving me Hemlock, Poppy & Ipecac for my cough, to be followed  
by Bark & Mag.

**24th.** W.

Went in the afternoon to Reading to see the works & was a good deal tired -

**25th.** S.E. very warm summer weather.

In the morning I was sick & brought off Bile.

**26th,** N.E. very hot in the day & very cold in the evening.

I am still far from well, tho' I cannot say what is the matter.

**27th.** N.E.

**7th May 1840.** The wind up to yesterday evening has continued to blow fm. the N.E. cold & very uncomfortable with clear weather & a scorching sun. Today it is a lovely day with a s.w. wind.

We came to Brighton on the 1st & I have been taken the Kissinger waters at the Spa beginning with 3 glasses a day & adding a glass every other day till I came to 6 - They are saline, agreeable, & slightly aperient & sparkling, but tho' I am able to get up at 6 to take them & to wait for my breakfast till 9, my dinners are still a great source of irritation, discomfort, & weakness. We are staying this first week at the Bristol Hotel, a nice well appointed quiet house, but the expence of about 49s a day has driven us to a lodging at No.10 Royal Crescent at 3½ guineas a week.

Shares after rising after much excitement to 25 - have fallen again & are now at 19.

## Trees

### General observations.

The Glandiferae, oaks & Ilex, yield Acorns.

The Mast Bearers are the Beech & such as include their fruit in rough husks as the Chesnut etc.

The Naciferae are the Walnut, Hazel etc.

The Coniferae, Resmiferae, Squamiferae are Cedars, firs, Pines etc.

The Pomiferae are apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, apricots, Quinces etc.

The Bacciferae are such as produce Kernals, Cherries etc. as Hollies, Bay, Laurel, Yew, Juniper, Elder, & all the Berry Tribe.

The Genistae in general & such bear seeds in pods are mostly of the tribe Siliquasae.

The Laniginosae are such as produces a Cottony down.

### Hillingfleets calendar of the foliation of Trees.

Honeysuckle	Jany	13	Morush	Apr	11
Gooseberry	Mar	11	Wych Elm		12
Currant	"	"	Quicken Tree		13
Elder	"	"	Hornbeam		13
Birch	Apr	1	Apple tree		14
Weeping Willow	"	"	Abile		16
Raspberry		3	Chesnut		16
Bramble		3	Willow		17
Brier		4	Oak		18
Plum		6	Lime		18
Apricot		6	Maple		18
Peach		6	Walnut		21
Filbert		7	Plane		21
Sallow		7	Black Poplar		21
Alder		7	Beech		21
Sycamore		9	Acacia robinia		21
Elm		10	Ash		22
Quince		10	Poplar carolina		22

### Strength of Timber.

Box, Yew, Plum tree Oak	11
Elm & Ash	8½
Walnut & Thorn	7½
Red Fir, Elder, Plane, Crab, and Apple Tree	7
Beech, Cherry & Hazel	6½
Alder, Aspin, Birch, White fir, Willow	6½

There follow 21 blank pages, some divided in half with the following headings:

Oak Elm Beech Hornbeam Ash Walnut Chesnut Horse Chesnut The White Beam Tree The wild Service The Wild Black Cherry Maple Sycamore White Poplar Lime Quicken The Scotch Fir Silver Fir The Weymouth Pine Spruce Fir Larch Mulberry Cedar Oriental Plane Occidental Plane Cork Tree Arbutus Yew Holly Hawthorn Cornelian Cherry

## 1840 - Journey from London to Carlsbad & Marienbad with Caroline and the children

The Diary ends on the 1st September, at Linz. If any more was written it has been lost.

### June 14th 1840

Left London at ½ past 3 o'clock & slept at the George, Sittingbourne

40 miles

16 do. next morning to Canterbury

16 to Dover

—

72 miles - very hilly indeed.

At Canterbury Caroline & the Children went to see the Cathedral, & at Dover they walked to Shakespere's cliff. The George at Sittingbourn & the Fountains at Canterbury are excellent Inns - The ship at Dover is more noisy & not so clean. Cold gloomy weather.

**26th.** Left Dover this morning at ½ past 6 & fortunately for us it was a bright fine morning. The wind too was fair but it blew fresh & this added to the swell left by the gale of yesterday. (It) produced a great deal of motion which made us all very sick. We got across however in two hours & 20 minutes, & after sleeping an hour at Dessiris we sat down to a very comfortable breakfast which did us all good tho' our stomachs were hardly prepared for it after the occupation of the morning. There is something very pleasing & characteristic in the appearance of Calais arising partly from the costumes of the people & partly from the greater variety in the colors, & the styles of the houses than we see in our country towns - Dessiris is an excellent inn, very clean & very comfortably & neatly furnished - We left it at past 4 for Dunkirk with 4 horses, Barlotti in full Courier costume riding a 5th. The greatest part of the road to Dunkirk through Gravelines is flat low & uninteresting, & the land appears to be very slovenly cultivated, but as we approached Dunkirk the crops became very heavy & fine. The road runs all the way on a good pave under a long straight avenue of witch elms - The people looked happy & comfortable, & the only beggars we saw were fat merry looking children. The whole district is under the back of the sea but we saw no appearance of ague - We arrived at Dunkirk, about 24 miles, a little before 8 & found a good English dinner provided for us which was a great mistake. The Hotel de Flanders is a very tolerable Inn. We had no time to walk to the Pier & Quays wch, are said to be very fine, but we sallied forth after tea to see the Portico of the Church of St. Eloc wch. is of the Corinthian order on a large scale & very handsome. The tower is Gothic! & stands on the other side of the street.

**27th.** We left Dunkirk this morning at 8 & soon after passing the first stage, we entered Belgium & arrived at Courtrai 8½ posts, or about 40 miles, at 3. The day was gloomy, & the road very flat, but we found it, notwithstanding, a very interesting drive, characterised chiefly by the high cultivation of the land on both sides & by the rich appearance of the very abundant crops. I never saw such fields of corn, & the Hops & Flax, wch, appear to form the staple produce of the country, were very luxurious. The Hop grounds are kept exceedingly clean & the poles are much higher than those used in Kent & more slender, so that the whole plant finds a support to

the very top. I was at a loss to conceive where they could get such long straight poles of that small size, but I saw afterwards, in passing through some forest ground, that they let the firs grow very close together - by which means the side branches are worn off & they are drawn up into slender poles - They were making hay in some places & such is their care that every cock was provided with a thatched cover like the top of our Bee hives. There is a good deal of wood to be seen on each side of the road, & a few ornamented Chateaus, which are very rarely to be found I believe in France. The light blue blouse, or Smock frock of the peasants, & of the labourers of every class, is exceedingly prevalent & we were very often saluted as we went along with a smile & respectful Bow - fat happy looking children abounded by the road side, & I saw no indications of squalid poverty, nor a single instance of drunkenness - As we got further into Flanders we saw more of the coarse form, & boorish countenance so well depicted by Teniers - Stockings too were thrown aside by the girls, & the leather shoe discarded for heavy shoes of wood which keep them very dry - It has been often remarked that this country is, in its general appearance, very like England & so it is, but I wish I could see in England a little more of the cheerful independence which I think marked the countenances & appearance of many of the people we met today - Any one who remembers the baneful ? tendency of our old poor law cannot be at a loss to discover one ground at least of the difference between the two peoples, but I must take care not to form opinions on the observations of a single day - The posting is not good - With 4 horses we hardly got on so well as with two in England, tho' the pave is by no means a bad one - It runs through avenues of Witch Elmes & Poplars all the way - One striking characteristic of this road is the frequent recurrence of fortified places which now only serve to remind the traveller (sic) of those interesting pages on History which record the deadly struggles & important events which in by-gone times so often occurred before their walls. The Horned Cattle in this country are pretty & well formed - the sheep have long hanging ears unlike any I have ever seen in England. Great use seems to be made of the Donkey, & we saw many wch. seemed to be proud of the neat dressed country women they were carrying on their backs. Two or three uncommonly pretty groups passed us near Dunkirk, but we were sorry to see that the compact neat cap of the olden time is giving way in many instances to a cap of a different description, still close but not so pretty & in some instances to a flannelly sort of frilled cap like those wch. are worn in England. It takes a long time however to break down old customs, whether bad or good. To this day the rude inconvenient practise of harnessing their horses with ropes instead of leather is still persevered in, tho' the compact & obvious improvement of our system is in operation within so short a distance of them, & in the many thousand windmills which cover this country there is not one in wch. the improvements, so long in use with us, have been adopted. On the other hand we seem to be almost as backward in adopting anything good which is held out to us by their example, Why should not the foreigner who arrives at Dover be greeted with a cheerful pleasant looking Inn like that of Dessin at Calais. There it is, a few miles off, with its clean airy court, its cheerful garden, & pleasant looking rooms, & yet in Dover no arrangement of the kind is attempted. The Ship Inn, with its bad cookery & dirty rooms, offers the best accommodation which is to be found in that place. Attachment to old paths & ancient customs is no doubt implanted in our breasts for every wise & useful purposes & we may readily forgive uneducated people who cling to them after the advantage & propriety of change has become quite obvious to others, but it is very painful & disheartening I think to see good &

learned men so much under the influence of prejudice as to induce them to reject obvious improvements, as many are disposed to do, merely because they involve a departure fm. old customs, or because they come recommended to us by our neighbours on the continent. The German system of education is violently opposed I believe on little better ground than this, tho' there can hardly be a doubt that in some respects it is very superior to ours - I have seen some striking instances of it with regard to Mercantile attainments, & I am assured that the same observation applies to the higher & more important branches of education - of course religion must, & ought to be made the basis & first object of all education, whatever may be the practise in this respect in the German universities; but why should we not strenuously adhere to every thing that is good in our own system & ? super add to it every improvement in detail, let it come fm. where it will - The world cannot stand still - If it does not go forward towards perfection it will go backward & the only safe & sure mode of paralising the efforts of our revolutionists is for the sound & respectable portion of the community to show themselves zealous advocates for real improvement on Xtian principles, in all the institutions of the country - I have been delighted to see by an article in the Quarterly just published, which I have read since I left England, that some eminent men, even in Oxford, are taking up the question of German education in a proper spirit & that they, as well as the editor, are endeavouring to show that our Tutorial system might be greatly improved by engrafting on it a more perfect professorial system like that which prevails on the Continent, & that we ought not to be scared by the phantom of a German University. It is quite cheering to see these sentiments proceeding from Oxford through the quarterly - This subject does not seem to have much to do with my journal but I have been interested in it by the conversation I had with Charles the day before I left town & by the appearance of the article I have referred to above, & during my tour I shall endeavour to collect some information on the subject. I can hardly believe that Dr. Pusey is right when he says that with some very slight exceptions there is an entire absence of control over boys as soon as they move fm. school to the Universities, because the fruit of such a system could hardly be anything but idleness & ignorance which, certainly, are not the prevalent evils in Germany.

Courtray & Ypres are very clean towns with wide streets & sore handsome churches - At the former place we unexpectedly found a railroad to Ghent of wch. we availed ourselves after rather a hasty dinner. The Omnibus which took us to the station was very neat, & we found the railroad carriages airy & comfortable. They are light & in this form.

The Engines were made by Cockerell & did their work well & they got up their speed quickly after the numerous stoppages at the different villages which we passed. It will be remembered however that the road was quite level & that the carriages they had to draw were all of a light description - The road appeared to be firm, but either the carriages or the rails were very much out of guage & the constant blows against the flanges were very violent & disagreeable - We arrived at Ghent at 6 & took up our abode in the Hotel de la Poste which is a very good one, though not as clean as it might be, in the grande Place d'Armes.

**28th Sunday.** We went to Mass at the Church of St. Nicholas, attended our own service afterwards in a church set apart for the purpose where the duty is well performed by Mr. Hazelwood, & then went to a house in one of the streets for the purpose of seeing a grand religious procession. I was much struck with the beauty & simplicity of our own "reasonable"

service - when thus brought in immediate contrast with many of the mummeries which are practised in the Roman Catholic churches, & it appeared to me that the latter religion, whilst it retains all the superstition which I had formerly witnessed in Spain & Portugal, is divested here of a great deal of the imposing splendour, & beautiful effect by which the errors & absurdities of their faith & practise are glossed over in those countries. The priests are low ordinary looking men with no grace in their genuflexions & pantomime - No dim religious light pervades the churches, no solemn deep toned voices were heard, & tho' the architecture is fine, its effect is much infused by whitewash - The kissing of relics, or of things touched by relics, the springling of holy water & all the apparatus of little bells, incense, & dresses seem to be the here.

The procession was very pretty & imposing, but we did not see a single Gentleman or Lady in the church or in the crowd. They were gone to the races & throughout the day we saw nothing to distinguish this from any other day. The shops were all open & everything was going on as usual. Caroline & Miss Graham went with the children to a very large nunnery of Sisters of Charity & were much interested in what they saw - It appears to be a very useful institution,

**29th.** Remained at Ghent & acquired a pretty good general knowledge of the place. Many of the pictures in the Cathedral are extremely fine & valuable as works of art, & one, a descent from the Cross by Van Hondhurst (G. Honthorst?) was of first rate excellence in some respects, but they were none of them of a kind to please me as pictures. With some of the monuments we were highly delighted. The figure of truth supporting the pulpit is exquisite & a child at the foot of one of the Bishop's monuments? surpasses anything I ever saw, We went to the great Canal, & to the University, & saw some fine old Spanish buildings in the old part of the town. There is evidently a great deal of wealth here & a large turbulent manufacturing population but without a great air of cleanliness & comfort. I was introduced to a club consisting of 900 members. The Town abounds in collections of paintings of the old masters & other works of art. Of these the principal is that of the late Mons. M. Schamp d'Averschoot where we spent some hours & I determined to stay here another day that I might go over it again. The works of Rubens & v. Dyke were the leading objects of interest in the collection tho' there are many others, particularly a Coreggio of extraordinary merit. I think I hardly ever saw so many specimens of first rate talent brought together in one room & the treat was great in proportion.

The whole of this beautiful collection which has been in the Schamp family more than a century, is to be sold on the 14th of Sept. & I earnestly hope that a large portion of it may fall to the share of England tho' I am afraid this is not likely to be the case as the eyes of all Europe are upon it.

**30th.** I had another opportunity today of examining Mr. Schamps pictures which I did in the most comfortable way having the whole collection to myself for two hours. Caroline, having been much wie fatigued by attending upon me in the night, fell fast asleep, in a little cabinet with Ruben's noble Parroquet just over her head & surrounded by genus of art of various kinds. Having been to the Bankers in the morning & found no admittance because all the Clerks were gone to the races! I returned there & took up 500 fl. to supply our wants - I was greatly fatigued & exhausted.

**1st July.** We got up today at 6 - breakfasted at 7, & started for Liege in the Railway at 8, & at first we seemed to be going on exceedingly well - The motion was very pleasant, the speed

good, the Company agreeable & the day most heavenly - Fine clouds tempered the heat & improved the landscape, & the rich clear blue between them gave indications of our approach to more southern latitudes, but our protracted journey on the Railway soon became very fatiguing to me. At Malines we had to wait an hour for some train coming from another quarter to which we were to be transferred - at two other places we had to get out of our carriages to join other cross country trains, & for a considerable distance we went for some reason or other at a very slow pace - On arriving at the last station about two miles from Liege, we found three enormous Omnibuses waiting for us, & we who had merely our baskets & books to bring in our hands, (the luggage being under the care of Barzotti with the Carriage), got places at once, but others were not so fortunate - At last, after a great deal of good humour shown on all sides I must say, & much that was very amusing, we got fairly under weigh, 18 inside & an immense load of men & baggage, very grotesquely arranged above, & after some time we reached our destination, but our progress up & down the Hills was very slow (for here the country begins to assume a hilly & picturesque appearance) & in the town which is very extensive we lost a good deal of time in putting down passengers at the different Inns, so that by the time we got to our quarters in the Hotel d'Ingleterre 9 hours after leaving Liege. I was excessively exhausted & overcome with the heat & fatigue. The appearance however of our rooms acted almost like a charm on us - they were lofty, clean, cool & furnished in a very cheerful agreeable style, & whilst we were making the necessary ablutions the "chef" was engaged below in our service preparing a very excellent French dinner which on these occasions, it must be allowed, is not without its charms - Many were the nice dishes however which, my good wife, acting the part of Dr. Firteafuera in Don Quixote only allowed me to look at, or at most to smell, but all the care which was dictated by kindness or suggested by experience was not sufficient to save me from the torpor & irritation of Indigestion from which I have suffered so much of late - as a proof of the change in Climate which we have experienced I may mention that I fell fast asleep in the Varanda & felt the air quite balmy & pleasant when I woke. In speaking of the Railroad, I have added that including all stoppages we barely cleared 8 miles an hour & that they charged so much for the carriage that we saved nothing on the score of expence, but Caroline thinks that the fatigue of 9 hours posting would have been greater - indeed we could not have posted it in less than 12 or 13 hours. In the evening we hired an open carriage & took a drive in the environs, & about the town for a couple of hours. Liege is surrounded by Hills covered with wood & abounding in Coal, & the Meuse which winds through the Valley & under the walls of the town is a prominent feature in the landscape. They are building a very handsome bridge over it for the railway & at this spot I was very much reminded of the Guadalquivir near Seville with the woods of St. Juan de Alfarache overhanging it.

**2nd.** A fine warm day with a pleasant breeze. Therm: 70 in the shade. The language of this country is the Walloon a name which is familiar to me from the circumstances of a body of Walloon Guards having always formed a part of the household troops of Spain. I detected too a little mixture of Spanish in the language, for on asking some question, the answer given was Si Monsieur, & on my asking the man what he meant by 'Si' he apologised & said that Si was Walloon & that it meant Oui - We dined & left Liege at ½ past 2, & after changing once at a small place, we reached Aix La Chapelle at ½ past 8; that is to say we travelled 26½ miles in 6

hours with 4 horses, but the pave was very bad, & the hills long & steep - About a league before we arrived at Aix we entered the Prussian dominions & I was amused at the meanness & absurdity as it appeared to me of their extracting from us a duty of 3 fl. on some tea & 3 bottles of wine we had brought for our use & on some Gingerbread we had bought for the Children. they contented themselves however with only opening one bag, taking our word for the rest, & as they acted of course under orders of their Supior. we had no right to be angry with them - Indeed nothing can be more absurd than to spoil ones pleasure on these occasions by getting out of temper with every little enaction or inconvenience wch. we may have to endure fm. customs or regulations wch, differ fm. those of our own country, & wch, appear to us to be bad - By far the wisest & most comfortable plan is to bear these things, as well as the delays of the road, & the inconveniences of the Inns, & every other annoyance which belongs to travelling, with equanimity & to turn them into sources of amusement. Those who cannot do this had better stay at home, & I wd. recommend the same course to those who have the unhappy propensity of picking holes & discovering defects in every thing they see, instead of fixing on the pleasing parts of the picture & enjoying it.

We have now taken leave of the Braves Belges who have been too short a time an independent nation to acquire any nationality, & to whom history has accorded the name of Braves in consequence of the dexterity which they displayed on various occasions during the late war in running away fm. the Dutch. They are picturesque however in their manners & dresses & industrious in their habits, & their country abounds in objects of interest.

I may mention here that the Poste is exactly 4,824 miles English, & as it consists of 2 leagues - a league is equal to 2,412.

Aix La Chapelle is a large place but we saw very little of it. The Hotel du Grand Monarque is a very good one, & the waiters speak English.

**3rd.** Cologne. We left Aix this morning at 9 - dined at ½ past 1 at Bergheim 6¼ miles, a small dull military post, but the Landlord was a very civil fellow & gave us an excellent dinner, with a good bottle of sound Walportsheimer. We reached Cologne at 5. We have seen nothing either in the country or the people to call for much remark since we entered the Prussian dominions. The inspiring crack of the Flemish & French whip has given way to the more military sound of the Bugle which the Prussian Postilion carries slung under his left shoulder, & the horses seem to acknowledge that they are under superior authority here for the travelling is at least one third quicker - In the appearance of the women & children there is a great falling off - Caps are seldom seen - Some tie a Handkerchief over their heads, but not neatly. For the most part they appear in the streets with their dirty hair uncovered & the air of the people both here & at Aix is anything but picturesque - As for the men of all classes they appear to me to live only to smoke, & it is quite impossible I think that they can do as much work as other people, for besides the stupifying effect of so much smoking, one hand is employed from morning to night in filling, lighting & holding up their odd looking pipes - The Inns, the streets, the very country smells of tobacco, & if ever these people go to Heaven, wch. I take for granted they are quite sure to do, as, besides the bones of 11000 virgins which lie in the Church of St. Ursula, & the bone of one of St. Matthew's legs, they have here in the Cathedral:

The skulls of the Magi who attended the Infant Saviour with gifts.

The head of Charlemagne  
A locket of the Virgin's hair  
A piece of the true Cross  
The leather girdle of Christ  
The cord wch. bound the rod wch, smo te him  
The sponge & one of the nails

I say if under the sanction of these passports these people find their way to Heaven I have no manner of doubt that their Souls will ascend there on a cloud of Tobacco smoke for they are the only clouds manufactured in these parts.

We had hard rain today & the thermometer fell to 65.

The mode of marking the distance is very perfect in this country. Miles which are equal to 4,600 English are marked in Columns,  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles, on Sugar Loaf-shaped stones, & hundredths of a mile on low square stones - so that at any moment on putting your head out of the window you know exactly how far you have to go.

**4th.** This was our first day on the Rhine & I must confess that we have been so far disappointed. The day, however, was a very bad one, cold, wet & windy & I have no doubt that under more favourable circumstances the scene wd have assumed a very different aspect, but still I suspect that the Banks of the Rhine fm. Cologne to Coblenz can never be particularly interesting. Every one knows that the Vine, as it is cultivated in these parts, adds nothing to the beauty of the landscape, & I may say the same of the woods, which are of a low brushwood character giving a uniformity & roundness to all the Hills - In the Villages & towns on the banks of the river there is a great sameness & the Castles fall short of my expectation, but the materials no doubt exist of many beautiful views, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Drachenfels, & when the dull monotony of such a day as this is replaced in better weather by the bright effects of light & shade the change must be very great - I was not much charmed with steam boat travelling as you are exposed in bad weather either to catch cold as I did by remaining on deck, or to be oppressed by excessive heat & closeness if you go below. The Passengers too are generally so numerous that the scramble at meals is far from agreeable. Having descended to endeavour to secure a table for breakfast, I was surprised & much pleased to find amongst the crowd below our Brother Charles with his friend Mr. Dines, & after a pleasant greeting we had a great deal of talk with him about friends at home & the different places we had seen since we left old England. We arrived at Coblenz at 5 having been 10 hours on the river, tho' the distance is only 54 miles English - Coblenz appears to be an interesting place & the fine expanse of water here, with the long bridge of boats & surrounding scenery is very striking - We are at a capital Inn, the Cheval Blanc on the right bank, under the fort of Ehrenbreitstein one of the strongest in Europe.

**5th.** Frankfort. We remained yesterday, Sunday, at Mayence but having caught a cold I was not able to go with Caroline to the English Church - On her return with Charles, Mr. Dyne & his Uncle & the children we joined the company at the table d'hote - the style of the thing did not at all take my fancy - The intervals between the dishes were very long & tedious - the dishes themselves were far fm. supr. & the arrangement of them did not suit our habits. A long time

was trifled away on French beans stewed with oil - Peas done very indifferently with sugar - a small plate of Boulli & two or three plates containing one herring each. Then came pudding & Cherry sauce & then roast fowls cut up, roast veal etc. but there was neither abundance nor elegance, & we missed the comfortable French dinner we had had in our own rooms at Liege & other places. In the evening we walked to the Castle where we were much delighted with the fortifications & with the view - Coblenz lay far below us nestling into the angle formed by the junction of the Rhine & the Moselle - forming with Ehrenbreitstein an enormous fortified camp of the first order - After a sleepless night we again embarked on the Rhine, & having a larger boat & fewer passengers we were more comfortable but the day was still unfavourable; the scenery however was of a decidedly sup. character to that of the lower part of the river, & some of the Castles, perched on the summit of the steep rocks wch. lined the river, with the Church & village below them told a tale of the olden time which it was not difficult for the imagination to fill up, & which could not be contemplated without considerable interest - My feelings however respecting these scenes were not as enthusiastic I must confess as I expected them to be - but I do not attribute this either to my increased age or to my bad health, but partly to the want of sun to draw out the beauties with which they abound, & partly to the fact of their having perhaps been over-praised. There is not much architectural beauty in any of the castles & their ruins have the rubbishy appearance of a broken down barrack or of a dilapidated manufactory rather than of a feudal palace of knightly dwelling - They suffer too from being seen with a back ground of the same rocks offering no contrast or clear outline to the eye & there is not much variety - I should hardly venture to record such heterodox notions if I had not happened to find them confirmed by a Gentleman & Lady on board (Sir C. & Lady Doile) the former of whom, with a masterly hand sketched the different scenes as far as they appeared in sight.

We arrived at Mayence 56 miles about 3 & had to wait two hours for the next train to this place, very hot & very tired with our walk across the bridge of Boats - The railway to this place appears to be a very good one, on a single line, through a flat, but very fertile country - the distance is 22 English miles.

I like what I have seen of Frankfort very much - it has many capital houses, wide clean streets, & excellent shops - The Inn too at which we have put up is a most splendid affair but our beds are very bad.

**7th.** We have seen today the Statue of Ariadne by Darmacher, a most satisfactory & exquisite performance. I called on Hock who was extremely civil - At 1 o'clock Charles, Mr. Dyne, & his Uncle dined with us in our grand room by invitation & we gave them an excellent French dinner - We had the pleasure of hearing fm. home today.

The evening was cloudy & cold in consequence of which there was no assemblage or band in the public gardens wch. surround the town, but we drove about for an hour or two & saw every thing we could - After tea we took leave of Charles & his friends who proceed tomorrow to Baden, whilst we turn off & take an easterly direction towards Carlsbad.

**8th.** Left Frankfort this morning at ½ past 6 &, passing over a sandy plain, cultivated, but not very productive, we arrived at Aschaffenberg, 5 miles. The day was very fine & we soon saw by the appearance of the people that it was a holiday for they were all dressed in their best &

looked extremely neat - On entering the Bavarian state, which you do immediately on leaving the free town of Frankfort, you find yourself again amongst a picturesque & apparently unsophisticated people - Their costumes are very pretty, & the men always made their bows & took their caps off as we passed - We met a great number of people returning along the road in all manner of vehicles, & on foot, from some distant point, & they formed a very pleasing picture of happiness & sober enjoyment - Amongst the women we saw many very pretty faces - a broad black ribbon folded two or three times round their hair at the top of their heads, so as to form a cap & to come nearly to a point & inclining backwards, with the ends of the ribbon hanging down, forms their usual covering in front of wch. many of them wear round their foreheads a red Handkerf. neatly folded wch, gives them a very Turkish appearance. They invariably use a gay coloured Hkerchief outside their gowns neatly confined at their wastes by their aprons - almost all the men wear dark blue jackets & Waistcoats, & not a few more leather breeches with light blue stockings & a cocked hat, like Greenwich pensioners. We only saw one man drunk all the day - The roads are excellent with ample stores of macadamised stones prepared by the way side - The distances are measured by Stunden - two of which make a German mile, & equal therefore to about 2,375 English. At every Stunde Stone there is a seat for wayfaring travellers, & the distances between are marked by eighths - After leaving Aschaffenburg the road passes for many miles over a succession of Hills through a continued forest consisting chiefly of beech & fir but interspersed with Oaks & other forest trees - This is the remains of one of the ancient forests of Germany, & it is a fine wild district - The vines are very fine & intensive & there were many very pretty spots, particularly at Lengfurth where we crossed the Maine by means of a ferry, just under the large chateau of Trifenstein but the country being very unproductive is but thinly peopled. The forest however is by no means neglected - Park palings confine it on each side of the road, & large piles of neatly arranged cord wood donate the use to which the birch, which grows so luxuriantly here, is for the most part applied.

In every different state in this country a peculiar color is adopted with which the Barriers, Posts, gates, & public offices of all kinds are painted - In Prussia it is black & white in diagonal stripes, & every place is disfigured by it. The color of Hesse D'Armstadt is Pink & white which is bad enough. Bavaria has adopted light blue & white in chequers which is much better, & the Austrian territories are designated I believe by yellow & black - We have had fine, sound, well made horses every stage & they use them without blinders, but I never saw them start - They see every motion of the Postilion & are completely under command, but his voice has a great deal to do with this as he much oftener remonstrates with his team than flogs them - They move along at a pretty good pace, but instead of dashing through the towns as we do in England the fashion here is to crawl through them at a most funereal pace - We have seen very few sheep on the continent, & the Cattle, or Das Rind as they call them here, are of a very small breed excepting those which are employed at the plough or in drawing the carts which are somewhat larger. All the work of the fields here seems to be done by the women & they also carry heavy burdens in a large conical basket wch. hangs at their back & in wch. I have sometimes seen their children - The Men tend the Horses & smoke their Pipes. We dined today comfortably enough at a small village called Hessenthal 7 miles German fm. Frankfort. (On the map it

appears to be 7 miles from Aschaffenburg.) Our whole distance today has been 15 miles German.

**9th.** We left Wortzburg this morning at 9.o'clock dined in the Carriage & arrived at Bamberg at 6. For the final two stages the road lies over an open, elevated, sandy country, all cultivated but producing little &, being entirely divested of wood, it is very uninteresting, but the crops were more abundant, & the forest again appears during the 3rd stage, & the scenery became very park-like & beautiful as we approached the Abbey of Ebrach, the richest monastery in Franconia, & passed through its domaine. The whole of this country was formerly under Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, & all the great towns, such as Wortzburg, Bamberg, Baireuth, Munich, etc. were governed by Sovereign Pontiffs who were possessed of enormous wealth. Wortzburg for example was ruled for a thousand years by a line of 82 Bishop Kings, & numerous Abbeys, Palaces, Churches & Convents now attest their former Power. Of the latter many have been suppressed, but the Roman Catholic religion appears to be in full force here - Images of the Virgin Mary & of our Saviour as large as life, representations of the Holy Trinity, & many other designs of the same kind & of large dimensions attract one's notice in every town & village, & it is said that constant Pilgrimages are going on to distant shrines where valuable relics abound or where miraculous powers are still believed to exist.

This subject of relics is not one on wch, one would be disposed to speak lightly & therefore I will only add that after due investigation I think we may fairly attach as much credit to one which is preserved in the Cathedral Church, or Dom of this town as to any other, viz. to the Petticoat of the Empress Hunigunda, the touch of which is a sovereign remedy against the toothache.

**10th.** Bamberg seems to be a dead uninteresting place but the country all round it is highly cultivated, & the crops were abundant - Hops are grown in great quantities, but we have seen no vines for some time, not since we left the neighbourhood of Wortzburg I think, when we last saw these they covered the country on each side of the road, & we observed that they looked richer & much prettier, when covering whole fields as they do here than they do on the patches, & slopes of the Rhine, where you see more of the supporting walls than of the vine - In all the plantations upright sticks are used about 4 feet high to which the vine attaches itself.

The road between Bamberg & the place where we next slept is very interesting. The Maine is crossed again by a ferry, & throughout the whole distance you have within view on your right the district which has been called the Franconian & which runs down as far as Nurenburg abounding in beautiful views & in fine, wild forest scenery. The deep woods consist of high firs, but there is a good deal of oak & more beech & birch, & we saw at the different stations as we passed some timber of large dimensions, & a good quantity of cord wood very neatly piled - It was a very beautiful day & the brilliant sunshine & passing clouds gave a variety to the landscape which was very pleasing, but, withall this, I was excessively tired & so we were all. We had 7 miles to reach our dining place, Bayreuth, & 7 miles in this country is in other words 7 hours - After leaving Bayreuth which had little to recommend it, we had 9 long miles before us to our sleeping place at Eger but we were so tired that we stopt short at the village of Weissenstadt 12 miles from Bamberg, & continued to pass a tolerable night there. In all these places excellent bread, butter, milk & eggs are to be found & having good tea with us we could

have no just ground of complaint - Indeed I should say that you are subject to very few serious privations or annoyances in travelling through Germany, for tho' it is true that in most of the Inns you get pie dishes instead of wash hand-basins, Handks. for towels, no soap, & in some places quart bottles for jugs, these are only sources of amusement, or at least they may be made so, & even the beds can be worked up to something very comfortable as we know by experience, but it is difficult for those who are very tired & exhausted not to feel annoyed at the phlegm & coolness of the Bavarian post-boys; during the journey of today we have had nothing but a succession of Hills, some of them very steep, for the roads here dip down into every dell & over every hill, & at the commencement of each descent, a post with the national colors invariably appears, with a drag painted on it - The post Boy drags accordingly & the moment he gets to an ascent he gets off & leaves the 4 horses to crawl slowly to the top.

**11th.** From Weissenstadt to Eger is 4½ miles - Here we dined & were detained by the house being full of soldiers. Opposite to us was the town hall & I cd, not help thinking all the time of poor Walleinstein who was murdered there in his bed room by his Scotch & Irish Officers 209 years ago by order of the Emperor, & whose life I had lately been reading in the family library. I learnt here the mode of killing fowls in Germany & I do not know when I shall be able to eat one again. Between Eger & Carlsbad 6 Miles, the Austrian frontier is crossed, & a short way beyond you go through the romantic village & pass of Elgbogen. It is a beautiful spot & the views from the upper part of the terrace wch. winds round the hill are very striking. The Austrian post boys get along at a much better rate than the Bavarian & we soon reached Carlsbad where we are to take up our residence for a month or six weeks. The place was full & we had some difficulty in getting rooms even at the noisy Inn where we stopt. The next day, the **12th**, being Sunday we attended English service in a room where we found about 40 of our countrymen & Countrywomen assembled. The Gentleman who officiated is a Mr. Clerks of whom I will only say that his manner left doubts on our minds as to whether he was really a clergyman. We found here a Mr. Tubbs with whom we had become acquainted on the Rhine, & by his assistance we soon made our way about this romantic little place, wch. lies in a dell in the form of an S. through wch. the river Teple winds. It is full of beautiful walks - good houses, handsome shops, & wealthy visitors. - Germans, Russians, Poles, Jews, Xtians, & Pagans, Turban'd Turks & bonneted Moravians, Russian Generals driving their Droroskys with 4 horses abreast, & the Sprudel steaming away in midst of them all as it has done for the last 500 years. On Monday by great good luck we secured a suite of apartments in one of the best houses at about 39s, a week for which all the work is done except cooking which is not wanted as we dine every day at a Restaurant for 1 shilling to 1/6 a head including wine. Dr. De Carro came to me after Church, & on Monday the **13th**, under his direction I began to take the waters from the Muklbrunn - the temperature of wch. (138) is lower than that of the Sprudel.

**27th.** We have now been here a fortnight & both Caroline & myself have been taking the waters during that period at the rate of 7 & 9 glasses a day. They are certainly very agreeable & one gets to look forward very soon with pleasure to the appointed hour of taking them. In 8 or 10 days however, the scene changed & their very powerful effect leads to so much weakness & extreme exhaustion that it requires some courage to continue them. It is impossible to describe

the extreme prostration of strength & the very uncomfortable feeling which attend the periodical attacks of this kind, or crises as they call them here, which occur frequently whilst you are going through the regular course, but it must be acknowledged at the same time that there is nothing in it of the deadly feeling wch attends the taking of Calomel or any other of the Mineral poisons, & however great the effect, or overwhelming the exhaustion, the Doctors urge you to persevere promising you an abundant harvest of good health in the end, Dr. De Carro is an agreeable man but being more than 70 & rather fond of gossip, I should recommend Dr. Maisner to any friend coming here as I hear him exceedingly well spoken of & I see that he is very much employed by the Germans.

We like Carlsbad very much but its character, appearance & habits have been so well and so accurately described by Turnbull that I shall not repeat here. What I can find so much better said in his pages; Caroline however, has discovered a trait in the inhabitants of this pretty place which appears to have escaped his observation viz, that the younger branches of the community allow the cats to pursue their avocations in peace & do not worry them or set the dogs after them as they do in England. I have no doubt that there is very good foundation for the remarks, for we have found the Germans are exceedingly quick & kindly disposed people. They heal their oxen & their horses with peculiar gentleness, & tho' we are close to the market place we have never once seen them quarrelling with each other. It is quite natural therefore that Grimalkin should have his share of their affection particularly as his nightly catterwallings have a great affinity to high Dutch if not to the purest German. The Heat has not exceeded 70 since we have been here & has generally ranged from 64 to 68 in my room, but in parts of the town more exposed to the sun I daresay it rises higher. Having had an opportunity since I have been here of reading Turnbuls very interesting acct. of the state of education in Germany I will merely say here that all my enquiries lead to the same conclusions, In Prussia a uniform compulsory system prevails, in which the military demands of the country are very much considered & religion very little. In Austria the whole population, rich & poor, is taught gratuitously at the expense of the country, & religion & good morals are the base of the whole, so much so that no profession can be followed, no degree or office taken without ample certificates.. or religious knowledge & good moral conduct - at least one million five hundred thousand children are now being instructed under this system. In Bavaria some attention is paid to religion in connection with education but not much, & in the other states the pupils I am afraid are left in this respect very much to themselves, whilst the rein is given to the imagination, & discussion is freely allowed on deep questions of religion, morals & politics by lads hardly out of their teens. On the other hand however, if we put aside this fatal error, there appears to be something in their system admirably adopted to create habits of thought, to attach the boys to the pursuits in which they are engaged, & to give them a thorough knowledge of the subjects which they are studying. The prominent part wch. they are taking in scientific & literary pursuits and the talent which they display in every profession, appear to justify these remarks & surely it is of the utmost importance that in England we should become thoroughly acquainted with the details of a system by wch. such admirable results are produced.

We have been studying the German. since we have been here, with the assistance of a Master, but we find it extremely difficult. The form & character of the letters is quite different fm. ours & so is the arrangement of the words in a sentence. The genders of nouns have no analogy with

those of the languages derived from the Latin with wch. we have been to familiarise. Gutterals of a peculiar character abound.

All the difficulties & varieties of the French LL occur in every line. The Adjectives are not only declineable but they are declined under different circumstances in three different ways. The difficulties in short are of a very serious nature but I hope we shall persevere so as to acquire at least the power of reading the languages.

**21st.** Nearly a month has elapsed since I made the last entry in my journal & I must therefore confine myself now to a very short summary of our proceedings - indeed our time has been spent so uniformly that there is very little to say - The society which was very brilliant for the first month after we arrived here, has undergone various changes, & has gradually assumed a more plebeian appearance, which I understand is always the case towards the end of the Season, The difference was strongly marked at two early balls at which we "assisted", one soon after our arrival at the Russian Ambassadors which was select & elegant in every respect, the other at the Salle de Sane, where the company was very mixed, the dancing bad & the attendance very indifferent - We have made some pleasant acquaintance since we have been here - viz. Mr. & Mrs. & Miss Mence - Mr. Bigge Miss Durre - Mr. Tubbs Miss Middleton - Mr. & Mrs. Austin. Mrs. Ramsay & Mrs. Bell besides others with whom we were not so intimate. Our visiting however did not go beyond the occasional exchange of a cup of tea. The two last mentioned kind old Ladies were from Naples & we saw a good deal of them. Mr. & Mrs. Austin are clever, agreeable people. The latter is known in the literary world as the translator of French & German works, & the former also appears to be a good German Scholar,

**22nd Augt.** Left Carlsbad this morning & winding along through the deep wooded valley of the Teple we followed the course of our favourite walk by the Posthoff & Freundshafts Saal to Hammer. Nothing could be more beautiful than the appearance of the woods & rocks & river at that early hour of the day, one side sparkling in the morning sun, & the other reposing still in the deepest shade. We took leave with regret of the scenes in wch. we had spent so many tranquil & pleasant days, & leaving Hammer on our left began the ascent of a long & steep hill wch. brought us into the open country above. There is nothing peculiarly interesting in the remainder of the road to Marienbad but the day was most beautiful & we passed many spots, either amongst the forests of Pine, or in the more open country wch, were very pretty. Notwithstanding the heat the grass was beautifully green in the valleys, & we were much struck with the vigour & strength of shoot of the young firs. The distance between Carlsbad & Marienbad is only 24 English miles but the journey took us full 6 hours, & we were glad to sit down at 1 o'clock in Klingers excellent hotel to the best dinner we have had in Germany.

**Monday the 23rd.** We like this place very much. Not long since it was a part of the forest with which it is now surrounded, & like a young American town it is covered with stumps of trees but partially cleared, but it is more open & cheerful than Carlsbad, & nothing can be more soft & Claude like than the distant view. The Spring, or rather the Buildings which cover them are here very ornamental, & the extensive green round which the houses are built in the form of two sides of a large irregular Square is very prettily laid out. Hills covered with pines, & full of pretty walks, surround this cheerful spot, leaving one side only open through which the distant view is

seen. We have been very fortunate hitherto in having had the opportunity of hearing our own beautiful service read by a clergyman of the Church of England every Sunday since we left home. Today about 35 English met in the house of a Mr. Blakesley, who I understand has been officiating here for some weeks.

**Regensburg 29th Augt.** We left Marienbad on the **25th**, & visited the Chateau of Konigswort belonging to Prince Metternich on our way to Eger where we dined. Slept at Wieden & found a tolerable Inn there. The next day we reached Regensberg & put up at the Golden Angel where the rooms are rather low & on other occasion I sd. try the Three Helmets, wch. was recommended to me by Mr. Brandt. Of our journey to this place & of the objects which deserve attention here, I have spoken fully in a letter to my Uncle Crawley & I am not at all disposed to enter again on the subject here. I may add however to the objects of interest here the new tomb of the Prince of Thorn & Taxis which is very beautiful. The Cathedral pleases me more & more every time I see it. The new art of glass painting is seen there in great perfection. Each window is said to have cost £3000 but I am told that there are two men in Edinborough, of the name of Cooper who paint glass beautifully & are much employed.

**Sept. 1st Linz.** I must again refer to a long letter which I have written to Joseph with an acct. of our proceedings to this day. This evening we took a drive to Castle No. 1 on the Salzburg road & an intelligent Commoner showed us all over it. We afterwards went to the round red Tower of Prince Maximilian, from where we enjoyed the most noble view I ever beheld. On ringing at the Bell I found that Ladies were not admitted & then I learnt for the first time that it was inhabited by Priests. The Supt. went over the Castle with me. I had an interesting conversation with him. He was dissatisfied with the centralising system established by Joseph 2nd & with the toleration which the Govt. so much encouraged. With respect to the 1st I understood him to say that Govts. have no right to interfere with the regulations & revenues of the Church & with regard to the second he said that truth was only one & that it must be wrong therefore to put all religions on a par. It showed & created indifference. He rejoiced in the violent & ill judged opposition which the King of Prussia had shown to certain Bishops as it had created a reaction in favor of religion & had done much good. On my asking him whether he was a Benedictine he said No he was a Jesuit, & that establishment consisting of 30 was the only one allowed to them but they had a very large one in England near London! called Stoneyhurst, & another in Ireland. His society he said was the only one governed according to its ancient regime & their system of education was very different from that at present in vogue. In speaking of the spread of infidelity he mentioned the names of the writers Hogel, & I think Schillen & [ - ]. He was a very agreeable & intelligent man, & if I had been at all prepared for finding such a fraternity in the Castle I should have extracted much more out of him.