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Begun Jan: 1. 1905

15 Bruton Street W.

1.

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Jan 1.05. Sunday, and I did my best to forget that it was New Year's day, succeeding pretty well in this. I would not go to Church for fear of being reminded of the fact so I took Meg for a walk in Hyde Park with her new collar on. I was careful not to wish Aunt Mary a "happy New Year" but she was equally careful, rather formally to wish me every kind of happiness of prosperity in my coming work. Wishes for my personal happiness always fall hollow on my ears.

I began the day by writing to Mr. Scott asking him if he would employ me as paid correspondent for the Manchester Guardian in S. Africa - my first attempt at earning my living. I realize that standing as I now do, wholly on my own legs, & that too in a far & costly land, I must add to my income at least £100 a year. Failing

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this, I have no hope of even an occasional visit to England. If he refuses, I shall not know where to turn. Having always done voluntary & unpaid work all my life, it was a very hard letter to write. I realize now to the full how ill-advised it is for solitary women to work, as since youth I have always worked - for others, spending thus my entire time & strength, so that I have never qualified myself to earn a living. I hold it is every woman's duty to provide for herself first, gaining a home & a footing & then she is at liberty to spend & be spent for her family & the world at large.

I spent the afternoon at my usual work of correspondence & the evening with Aunt Mary.

2.

Jan:2. Monday. The first New Year's post

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brought me a real joy in the shape of

a letter from William Watson. It was in reply to me[,] I had ventured to write to him thanking & congratulating him for his beautiful new collection of poems just issued. Letters such as his come now & again & lift me higher & are treasures to be preserved. I shall put his in my large album of addresses & testimonials. So on wings I floated all day; at 5'oclock came Dr. Bisschop to help me with my difficulties concerning Mr. Celliers & the translation. He condemned it utterly, and strongly deprecated publication. He took away again Mr. van der Post's story "Piet Uys" to keep till it should seem advisable to publish it.

3.

Jan:3. Leonard wrote to Aunt Mary saying he should come to lunch to talk over Uncle Arthur's memoir, but
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I was engaged to lunch with Barbara Hammond and so did not see him. I started early to go round by Linden Gardens & there had a chat with Barb Mrs. Bradby, but Dorothy was gone to pack up her Aunt's belongings. Mrs. Bradby in her own sweet way spoke about her promised loan of £200 for the Boers and Miss Mayo's £300. I suggested she would give me a cheque to pay in myself to the Standard Bank.

Then Mrs. Chitty & Christopher walked with me across Kensington Gardens to Sloane St. & she promised to send me the gift of saucepans.

I took bus to Battersea & walked over the Park to Barbara's. Dry & Cold. Her electric bell had gone wrong of course, but after some delay she herself came to the door looking radiant in health & beauty. We had lunch alone & a nice chat till 3pm. Chiefly

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outlining my plans & prospects but partly about her work for the Speaker. Metherell fetched me in the carriage & on the way home I called at Lady Osborne Morgan's (out of town) & Mrs. Mackarness (not at home). Got soap and plate powder, after trying 3 chemists, and to home.

4.

Jan 4. School in forenoon & finished my

piece of flannel - my first production. every process from the lamb's back being done by myself. Miss Grasett kind & helpful as usual.

Expected Dorothy at 2.30 but an express note from Mrs. Chitty to say she was too unwell & could I go there. Aunt Mary dropped me there in the carriage, Meg struggling much - and we discussed a list to send Lady C. Toler for circulation of my letters.

I bought some black chiffon fichus & hurried home to meet Dr. Krause

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due at 5pm. He spoke of his mother's death and of his own prospects being in London for rehabilitation at the bar. Especially he told me of Miss König a Boer girl on her way back from a missionary training in Chicago and desirous of devoting her life to her people. He thought she would help me.

5.

Jan 5. Thursday School in the forenoon testing various spinning wheels & winders wh: Campbell had mended. At lunchtime came Campbell with a message to say that the looms had arrived from Norway and had[?] been sent of the kind that would not take to pieces. A great blow. Next nuisance the small carpenter came with a heavy box for my light wheel instead of an open crate. Lunch swallowed. I rushed up to the school where

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stood the three great looms in the narrow gangway & Miss Grasett in grief. Dreadful bore! But she was so concerned & helpless that I felt bound to give way & take them, though it will add to the cost of carriage & inconvenience in S. Africa. Decision had to be instant & so off they went to the docks. Afterwards I regretted I had not sent them straight back to Finland, for the other kind had been ordered.

Mrs. Tristram came to work & fit dresses all the afternoon - At 8 o'clock I to dine with Mrs. Mackarness alone for a chat. This was very enjoyable & she told me all about

their difficulties in making two ends meet and her arrangements to sell the house & move into a cheaper quarter. But the

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plan was frustrated & she retains her beautiful home.

Came home in a cab clutching my 1/- which fell as I stepped out, evidently in the cab as it made no clink. I opened the door to light the candle to search for it when down jumped cabby & with his lantern forestalled me. I could not find it but from his manner I am quite sure he did, but I had to go in and fetch another shilling.

6.

Jan 6. Friday. Bad news from Maud that she had gone to Wimbledon to appeal to Leonard to speak to Ernest. In the afternoon she & Nora came & she stayed a few hours & told me the ins & outs. I feel sure he is quite insane. She was calm & firm, her self reliance having developed. We had tea with Aunt Mary & I showed her the clothes set aside for her which pleased her. She returned to Wimbledon

7.

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Jan:7. Saturday I went with Aunt Mary to Lincoln's Inn Fields to get H. Farrer to help her sign the paper setting out money for the death duties. We met Harry Farrer first outside & he took us to his room. Very handsome. The old house of the Dukes of Newcastle doors & ceilings very ornamented. We drove home by the Embankment noting how high the river was & how the muddy water stood along the streets. In the afternoon I to the New Gallery to the Private view but found I had mistaken the hour & it was an evening affair. So came back & wrote as usual. At dinner Aunt Mary very full of some 60 & 40 year old letters she had been reading & after dinner continued the same to me till I found it time to go to the New Gallery. Fine [Page 10v] [Page 11r] night so walked there & found a

great crowd. Spent most of my time with Dr. Bisschop & his Dutch friend Mr. van Stoffelaar who pointed out the etchings of the Dutch Maris & the wonderfully interesting sculpture of A. Rodin "La main de Dieu". Saw also the Hammonds and Holroyds and Scott-Skirvings & Julia & Rosamund. Walked home alone.

8.

Jan: 8. Sunday. Away early to Wimbledon to hear the news about Maud. Walking to Waterloo via Hungerford Bridge & from Wimbledon Station to Leonard's house. He told me all about his interview with Ernest & how he found him merrily playing at badminton, quite callous. After bluster & blabbering he got him to sign a paper agreeing to all the points which Maud laid down as essential

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1 The privacy of her correspondence

2 Indecency of his own attire and so invading the children's rooms & paying no heed to Constance's desire for privacy & propriety.

3 Yelling about the house in the mornings

4 Not to invite people to the house at all hours unknown to her.

5 To be civil to guests who it is agreed should come.

6 That she should be final referee in matters concerning the children

These points he signed but Leonard hopes with the aid of a solicitor to get him to re[-]sign it with a sentence attached making Maud more complete mistress of the situation in case separation becomes necessary.

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I gave Leo £1. towards his expenses in the matter & brought Oliver home to luncheon. We walked from Waterloo to Bruton St. just in time for lunch. Aunt Mary gave Oliver 5/- and the toy artist, and stamps & a puzzle to amuse him while here. At 3.30 he left & I wrote till Mrs. Macdonald came to tea. I told her all my S.A. plans and she made me promise to come to a farewell

meeting at her house to speak
to people of the scheme.

Walter Hobhouse came to see
Aunt Mary & told her his anxiety
about the Guardian & the money
influences at work upon the
press. We dined alone with
Meg & our usual avocations in
the evening.

9.

Jan 9. Monday A letter from Mr. Lyttelton
telling me what I knew before

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viz that Lord Milner's report
had come & that he saw no
reason to reconsider the cases
which I have applied for.
It was just because the Boers
had exhausted every official
line in S.A. that they had, through
me, referred their cases to
the Home Government! Hopeless.

I went to Elliott's to get easy boots
& shoes & thence to enquire in
Linden Gardens - Mrs. Bradby in
bed with acute bronchitis, Dorothy
with bronchial catarrh, Christopher
with asthma, Letitia just
emerging from a cold & Mrs. Chitty
nursing them all. Pouring rain.
After lunch asked Walter to
clean my silver and spent an
hour greasing & tying up my
bicycle. Margaret Clark came
to tea & then wrote letters for me.

We drafted one to Mr. Lyttelton and

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sent one to Captain A.O. Vaughan with
the cutting about Lily Boshoff from the M.G.
May he reply! [Note: He never did E.H. 1925] Worked till 7.45 &
she away to her club & I to dress for
dinner. Quiet evening reading & sewing.
Kropotkin on Russian Constitution &
"Elements of Dyeing".

10.

Tuesday Jan 10 M. Clark at 9.30 & together
we shopped at Debenham's sale, she
buying coat & skirt & I summer gloves.

At 11 I was due at Fifields in Fleet
Street where I found a very young
man in a small but plucky
way of business. We discussed the
pros & cons of publication of Boer
diaries - he can't afford it - & as
5000 copies would cost me £35 to
put out I doubt if I shall ever
be able to do it. Must consider
& consult Stellenbosch. Left him &

walked up Fetter Lane looking
for Heatylers[?] but found it not.
Bought a will form in Oxford St.

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& so by bus to Biebers[?] where asked
them to find "Berthollet" second hand
for me. Home & there found Lord Farrer
at the door & Julia who came in
had a chat with me about our
affairs & probability of Aunt Mary
wishing for her companionship.

Lunch & to drive with Aunt M. Getting
out at Days[?] for novels to send her to sleep
& in K. Gardens to exercise Meg and at
Kensington Church to look at the marble
tablets all round the walls. I was dropped
in Oxford St. & went to buy a stamp
damper for Aunt Mary, who suffers
from parched mouth. So home &
much letter writing, especially about
Mr. Celliers & his tiresome translation.

A telegram from Mr. Leipoldt saying
he could not come to say goodbye &
so I let the fire go out & having written
as much as my hand would
let me went upstairs to pack
odds and ends. Quiet tête à tête

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I believe she did

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dinner and then reading & work. Began
a stupid novel of Ellen T. Fowler's "Kate of
Kate Hall". Took it to bed and read
for an hour.

11.

Wednesday Jan 11. Bright morning. After
breakfast to do remaining purchases -
paints - stocking blocks - umbrella cover
& receipt book. Very pleasant walking.
Coming back met Julia & Lucy with
an umbrella they had taken yesterday.
Told them it was Lord Farrer's.

Found Aunt Mary determined on a drive
& I read the Times to see what Milner
is doing about a Transvaal Constitution.
She home late to lunch when I found
she had actually been to Hampstead
& her face bore marks of tears.
I wonder if she went into the chapel
& Columbaria to see Uncle Arthur's
urn. Afternoon I to buy a good
waterproof at Burberry's but could
not decide at once and returned
empty. Sales on everywhere.

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Worried for hours writing & re-writing letters
to Mr. Celliers & Dr. de Jonge. Must refuse
but do not want to offend. Tired out
I went up early & got lumbering Annie
to wash my head which she did very

badly & uncomfortably. Dined tête à tête
as usual & read old letters after dinner
& worked. In bed read one of George MacDonald's
fairy stories - pretty.

12.

Jan:12 Thursday. Large frost. Bright morning
went in as usual to visit Aunt Mary
in bed - she had a good night. Meg as
usual on the coverlet. Lady Farrer
announced she would call - so I hurried
off to Burberry's to decide finally about
the cloaks & found the decision
simplified by the fact that nearly
all the garments were too small for
me. Chose a 4½ guinea long Juverners
& got it at sale price £2.2.0. Cheap. *[Note: Still have it 1925]*
Called for my umbrella & paid 4/-
for items recovering. Black elastic 4, 2
remnants of print 4/- stamps 3/-
How money trickles away daily!

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Home & Aunt Mary asked me to take
off her hands the distribution of Uncle
Arthur's remaining clothes - which I
promised to do, and she sipped her
beef tea. Lady Farrer appeared at 12.30
and she & I had long talks of my plans
- good generous soul she insisted on
giving me £100 to relieve anxiety &
give personal ease during the year.
Perhaps a little more salary for
Sister Adeline & good food & servant &c.
Very very kind. We lunched together
all three & then I went on with my
endless letters wh: are wedged in
between everything till she came to
say goodbye & tell me that Aunt Mary
had asked her to come & stay when
I was gone. I was glad. So out
with Meg to the school to ask if
my cases done. The 4 cases finished
& off. Miss Grasett said the big one
must be opened on the address
side, it contains about 9 or 10 wheels.

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Hope I may remember. The school looked
empty without my belongings.
Home by Grosvenor St. to give Meg a
run, when the poor blind thing nearly
fell into an open trap, & my heart
was in my mouth. Home & looked
over Uncle A's clothes with Smith
and then interviewed the carpenter
about my crate for spinning wheel
& then came Miss Pretious & we
talked business. She gone I to my
typing & letters. Mr. Rose wrote asking
me to join executive of his S.A. Bulletin
Committee, but not I.

Usual quiet evening. Went through

Uncle Arthur's poems with Aunt M.
deciding which to type.

13.

Friday Jan:13 Several letters. Fine sharp morning. Wrote rapidly the most necessary & then to Westminster, saw Leo in his office & arranged with him to come to lunch & chose what clothing was suitable.

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On to Army & Navy Stores where I had the difficulty of choosing a tea & lunch basket - to serve me & the others.

Got a beauty much reduced for £3.5.0

a good deal, but it will last to the end of life. And it wasn't perfect at that. They cannot tell what travellers really want.

Home by bus & after a chat with Aunt Mary to look over Uncle A's clothes by daylight. Sorted what would suit Leo. Then I began to pack my big box - a great work. Lunch & Leo full of chat about politics. He was going to a dinner to Winston Churchill who all think clever & useful to the party though ill-mannered, & ill-health and probably not to be trusted. Mr. Morley had told him he was impressed by his having the "political mind" as few have. We discussed Walter Hobhouse's resignation of the

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editorship of the "Guardian" & this brought us to dwell upon the serious condition of the press. J.B. Atkins London editor of the M.G. had first been brought over by the newly manned "Standard" who doubled his salary to be their Foreign editor in Paris.

Mr. Filson Young is turned out of the Outlook. Leo fairly hopeful that Maud would have some months of relief - but said the solicitor thought E. mad.

We went upstairs & settled matters about Uncle A's memoirs and then downstairs where L. chose the clothing he needed. He away & I to my letters till Aunt Mary took me out with her to go to get the poems & extracts typed at Reilly's. I was then put down in the Park & walked to Linden Gardens where I found the 4 sisters never seen together before. E.D.B. recovering

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but weak. Mrs. B. still very ill. Coming

home in the Tube, it stuck, a horrid sensation. Letters & usual evening.

14.

Jan:14. Saturday. Early to weaving school & there asked for final bill, much less than I expected. On to Devonshire Place to ask Julia if she would accept some vests & she said she would run down after me & look at them. Then bought stamps & clasps & home, Julia close behind me. Glorious spring like morning. We sorted the clothes & she was very glad of warm vests & dittos[?], and just finished came the carpenter about the bill. I showed him the other carpenter's bill less than # of his; he very angry, but I said at least he must put down the items that I might know what I was paying for. They gone came Lady Agnes' carriage to the door simultaneously with Aunt M's so they talked while the Macleod girls came in & I [Page 23v] had to entertain them which I did by talking of Uncle Arthur's last days. Then I settled to my packing till lunch time, & continued after till all was done. So changed my dress and awaited Miss Trevelyan meanwhile I had tea with Lady Jenkyns & Aunt Mary, but when she came we talked together & she showed me Lefebure's book on lace. My lovely new bits she believes earliest Alençon, but if so it must have been very early even in Colbert's time when the Burano influence was still paramount. I was very tired when she left but read & made notes of my dye books. We dined quietly and I teased Meg for variety.

15.

Jan 15 Sunday. Very cold, high wind & bright. I took Meg on rapid run in the Green Park - she very blind - & then home, typed & finished me letter to [Page 24r] Dr. de Jonge, it taking two hours. Such time & bother has that translation worry caused to be wasted. I had hardly finished when Lady Farrer came to have a chat - kindly bringing me her gift for "easement" of £100 and sympathetically desirous to hear the latest news. Mr. Outhwaite was shown in upon us which cut short all intimate talk & we had to go upstairs. Mr. O

told us much of Chinese labour & of Australian persons & politics & the talk turned also on artesian wells and locusts & other plagues common to S.A. and Australia. I on tenterhooks because he muttered under his moustache & Aunt M. could not hear. Before they left word was brought that Miss Thornton & Miss Batchelor were downstairs & to my astonishment I found Ethel & Helen. The latter told me she had just come back from 1½ years engagement under the

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Government in the Mauritius, but her usual excited form of conversation made it impossible to gather any comprehensive story of her work there or her reasons for leaving it.

16.

Jan:16 Monday If I forget this journal even a day I find it hard to remember the occurrences so bad has my memory become for details of this nature. All Sunday Aunt Mary seemed unusually low. Today early I went out to settle bills with Miss Grasett whose charges are absurdly moderate & Argand[?] & Bright who charged 5/6 for making a 6[?] tin vessel for holding the methylated spirits of my tea basket, then came Penhale's absurd bill of just £5 for making 3 small packing cases & carding two packages. I hurried home in time to receive Maud & we had a long talk on her affairs. She fears from a letter just received that he means to go back from the agreement he signed with Leonard

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& to my mind it shows the uselessness of expecting such an agreement will be kept by a man not in his senses.

Maud would have stayed to lunch & have talked over my plans & future possibilities with me - but Nora wired her to meet her at Charing X station to go with her to a restaurant lunch & a theatre. A great pity, so lost my only opportunity of a good talk with Maud.

H.H. & Stephen arrived to lunch, leaving hastily for a meeting & then I had just settled down to write my will when Arthur H. came & stayed a half hour. I set to work again but then arrived the Express man to take away my boxes to precede me to the ship & ere the man left Mrs. Lecky called. After a few minutes with that very depressed widow (of 2 years standing) I took her to Aunt Mary with a hint not to be emotional & came down to find Dr. Krause just arrived. I read him my letters

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to Dr de Jonge & Mr. Celliers finally refusing the translation but could not quite make out his feeling about them. He said they were alright, both firm and considerate, but I am not sure he thought so. So I am going thro' them again carefully. Our talk fell upon Pakeman's article in the Chronicle that morning & Dr. K amused me with stories of his past. It appears he, Dr. K in his capacity of public prosecutor arrested Pakeman for high treason in the pre-war days. Feeling sorry to have to put a man of his position in prison, & there being no bail for high treason, he got it reduced to some offence under the Press Laws(?) & took bail for £500 & two sureties. But Pakeman escaped over the border leaving his two sureties to pay which they did. He told me also of the way in which he Pakeman sent the false cables from Johannesburg which poisoned public opinion here before the war.

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as these cables would have been stopped in Johannesburg by Dr. Krause - they were all sent by private hand by mail every night over the {boarder} (some 12 hours) to Newcastle & thence cabled unobserved. One of these packets fell into his hands, and he discovered the system. Dr. Bisschop joined us and we discussed the future of the country now that (as he said!) the gold miners had consolidated.

Quiet evening. Aunt Mary very tired but roused herself to a game of piquet with H.H. I sat up late working & afterwards could not sleep.

17.

Jan:17. Tuesday. Several letters. Mr. Trotter announcing that he would call for me in his motor at 10.30. Read the Chronicle (deadly dull) & finished my morning correspondence & awaited him. Asked Henry if what one must do in face of an exorbitant bill. He says - one can refuse to pay it & make an offer.

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it is the man's place if he chooses to put it into court & then a magistrate decides if it is an unfair demand. One is not, until then, legally bound to pay an unreasonable bill.

When Mr. Trotter came, to Linden Gardens where I found D. ¹ in bed, but looking very well - would not be persuaded, even with the carriage, to attend

¹ Dorothy

the Committee. Mrs. Bradby getting better. Then to Hampstead to pay final respects to Mr. Maurice, but both out. So home & to lunch, taking only 20 minutes from Hampstead. I had time to call for my shoes write more notes & mend my black silk gown before lunch.

After lunch in the Victoria to Mrs. Mackarness's to the Committee 2 members ill so only 4 of us. Mr. Gooch clear & kind but hurried and looking very ill. I was glad to get it over & to know we had £1100 odd at our

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backs. Miss P. was to retain Hon Treasurship & a new secretary was to be found. Mrs. Mackarness looking uncommonly young & fresh in black with a fichu of soft green silk. I walked home, it being lovely weather though cold, & got through much writing before dinner.

Sir Wm. Farrer dined, thus making 4, and so we sat downstairs - but unfortunately Mr. Leipoldt chose this evening to call to say goodbye & so had to be shown into drawing room where I had to see him while I knew they were wanting a 4th hand at whist. He thinks of Venice for his holiday and so I could supply him with pension addresses. He approved the tone of my replies to Mr. Celliers & Dr. de Jonge & at last I have summoned courage to send the letters & return the M.S. I hope this may end a tiresome business.

18.

Wednesday Jan 18 The days slip past & now but six are left. I wonder what will come of it all - if we shall succeed - or if

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only failure will result. Kind letters have come to me from Mr. Bryce, Bishop of Hereford Prince Kropotkin and others. I go on as it were seeing clearly only one step, not knowing if it will eventually entail a permanent life in S. Africa. This, if it comes about, can't be done on my present income the utmost limits of which I now know - but I must add about £100 a year to it, or I shall be an exile complete. Mr. Scott's answer has come refusing my offer to be correspondent for them, tho' welcoming occasional articles - not of course at all the same thing. Perhaps eggs & poultry would pay, or sometimes I wonder if I could succeed with sketches but[?] where sell them?

Mr. Trotter came & I thought of motoring with him to Bromley there to call on Prince Kropotkin & leave him Leo's book as an offering during his

convalescence. But it grew a little

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too late & he dared not venture; I was sorry - so to Battersea where I left my newspaper cutting books for the Hammonds who were not at home. So called on the Courtneys just returned & heard who had accepted for the farewell party. Home & lunch. Then determined to go to Westbourne Grove about the lace which lay heavy on my mind as a chance being lost - found my lovely bit of old Valenciennes in quite perfect condition, also some Alençon of different dates, both very early, and a wee edging. Turned my back on several gems. Home just in time to see the Maurices who came to tea, as well as Lady Elsie Northcote, and Mr. Maurice kindly brought me a farewell offering from Joan of Arc's birthplace Domremy of a peasant made book marker & cutter with her name & battle-cry. I wrote & sewed till 7 o'clock when dined alone & thence to Lincoln's Inn Fields to the J.R. Macdonald's party.

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This was interesting as usual, tho' an odd assortment of guests - but I liked talking to Mr. Aylmer Maude, & Mr. J.A. Hobson both of whom were full of chat. Mr. Hobson warned me if I started a Raiffeisen Bank to beware lest I let Jews have a hand in the first loan. Mr. Maude told me much about Tolstoi and Russia. I spoke about ½ an hour and then people asked questions & showed great interest in various ways. A dear little girl artist with a winsome face came & talked to me about the designing & decorating side of my work. Lily Montagu & Mrs. Franklin also spoke to me about Jews in S. Africa. She has some 12 of her club girls married & settled there who correspond with her & she asked me to look them up which I promised to do if at all in my path. I walked back with an unknown escort as far as Tottenham

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Court Road & then got into a Royal Blue & so home. Henry not gone to bed, so a few words with him in the drawing room when he showed me the wording for Uncle Arthur's tablet to be placed in Pitcombe Church, & the verse he Uncle Arthur had himself written, the sentiment of which was he had striven to leave no duty unfulfilled & to leave unstained his father's name.

19.

January 19. Thursday. Feeling poorly. To the Bank with Mr. Trotter where I dismissed him & his useful car, and there did

business. I left a balance of £100[?].
I had £220 mailed to S.A. but £14 of
this is Mrs. O'Grady's gift to widows,
and £50 my return ticket money.

Coming home sought a felt hat &
found one not very satisfactory at
Liberty's. Sale going on, & the saleswomen
seemed bored to death at serving you
and only want to get rid of you
& one simply cannot shop in that
kind of bored atmosphere. Home

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to lunch & then H.H. stayed in the room
while Penhale's man came to collect
his bills. Quite successful. I offered
£4. (even that being double the right
cost) in settlement of the £4.10.6 and
it was at last done with and settled.
Lady Idlesleigh Cousin Lucy (young) to tea and
then finished letters & accounts
& wrote up this journal. My work
is finished at last, and there
will be rest till Philippolis is
reached. I hear the Louis Jacobiz's
are going by our boat.

20.

Jan 20. Friday. Evidently Aunt Mary is very
weak. She is constantly so breathless &
the hoarseness wh: comes when she has
talked a little while is very trying to
her. But she is much less deaf.

For myself I am weary of details
and sick to death of shopping, the sense
of money-leakage makes me
anxious and yet I think we really
need all we have bought. If I had

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only known so much money would have
come in I would have stuck to my
lace scheme which I still believe in
most thoroughly - & it looks so simple
now beside the multiplicity of other
employments. But people criticized
& would not believe and had I
kept to it probably the money would
not have come #in# even so well as
it has done. I ought to have stood
firm. However I shall hope to do it
in the end. At moments of pause
one sees mistakes so clearly. I ought
to have stuck to my own opinion -
but I can now only determine still
to stick on and carry it through
finally. But how much it is fair
& wise to spend upon some of the
glorious samples of which I now
have the chance is a serious questions.
A piece of Venetian (Coraline), of Spanish
point, and of first class Alençon
now await me, also a perfect specimen
of Flemish, delicate to frostwork.

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Probably £40 would cover the whole lot. I am tempted for from them one could work almost without teacher. Today I paid Brock 15/- for mending my clock & regulating my watch, he holds that both will go equally well in Africa but this remains to be seen. The inquiry into the North Sea Russian affair began in Paris & today the papers give the two statements of the case. Russia hold to the story of two torpedo boats, and I cannot forget that the first stories published on our side spoke also of these. I have a sneaking belief that they were there, but experience has made me suspicious & taught me the extraordinary things that are done in war & above all lies that are told. Will any evidence be forthcoming?

I finished my last set of mail letters and after lunch (rabbit pie which

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pleased Meg), worked & wrote again till the brougham came when I went with Aunt Mary to C.O.S. office in Maida Vale - utterly useless as they would not let me do anything for her. It will be a relief when the parting is over and the new life really begun. With all its coming hardships & discomforts it cannot be so hard & difficult & so utterly weary a life to live as this one has been in spite of the never failing intentional kindness.

In the evening came Julia Farrer & stayed so long talking that I was nearly late for the Courtneys' dinner. Indeed when I got there the whole party had assembled & Mr. Courtney at once took me down to dinner feeling very bashful #to be taken first# before so many married women. Were present. Gooches, Mackarnesses, Brailsfords, Hirsts, Percy Molteno, Felix Cobbold & Stephen Hobhouse. Very interesting talk. Mr. Brailsford telling me of the Macedonian Home Industries

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of which he afterwards showed me samples - a blanket, & embroideries &c. After dinner came many others. Basil Williams Lady Farrer & Gen. Noel F.S., Guy[?] Pretious, Miss Griffin, Barbara, Mrs. Chitty, & Mrs. J.R. Green, &c. All very kind in their manifold goodbyes. I wonder how many of them will be M.Ps before we meet again. Several are candidates.

21.

Saturday Jan: 21 Up & visited Aunt Mary in bed as usual, with Meg on the coverlet. The doctor came to see her & Mr. Trotter at the same moment to take me to Wimbledon. I saw that Dr. Fuller thought her very weak

and ordered a tonic. Then we started going via Battersea (where we called to say goodbye to John Burnsnot at home) thence by Clapham Common & Tooting to Wimbledon. Posters full of the budding revolution in Russia. At Wimbledon a lovely day. No one at home, so sat an hour reading Mr. Montgomery's draft scheme for an S.A. Bank. Do not think it will fit. At last Leonard came in from skating on the Common & after a [Page 32r] long chat Nora followed. He showed me the bulky M.S. of his book of which he has now completed the draft. Lunch with the children and then L & I walked on the Common & watched a game of curling on the ice & home to tea & a group of a dozen or so friends to say goodbye & hear of my plans. Berta brought me a lovely bouquet of flowers. I walked to the station & to home with Mr. Cornish & found Aunt Mary sitting at work. She enjoyed the flowers. #Mrs. Bouttell was awaiting me with some lace & I succumbed to a lovely and cheap bit of Alençon# We dined alone with Meg of course.

22.

Jan:22 Sunday. Up & to see Aunt Mary & told her I was going to the abbey & got there punctually. Rather enjoying the service. King's accession. Rev. Shepard preached rather well, a poor anthem. Home & to my correspondence. Much bothered by a letter from Mr. Celliers imputing to me unfair dealing as regards his M.S. Drafted a letter to him. At 3.30 came Mr. Montgomery & we discussed his draft at length. I practically agreed that it [Page 32v] would not suit the conditions of S.A. but that pure Raiffeisen would be best. Before he left came Mr. Hammond and to him I told what I could for an hour of Uncle Arthur & his life & character. A wide theme which none know enough to handle well. Took counsel with him about my reply to Celliers. Read Uncle Arthur's letters & poems with Aunt Mary in the evening.

23.

Jan:23. Monday A busy day, packing & sorting. First to dentist to have a tooth stopped. Then letters. After lunch to the lace shop where could not resist two rare & beautiful bits of Alençon. Called for mended shoes & home. Madeline Rawstone to say goodbye & following on her heels Mr. Courtney. He brought me "Diary of a Churchgoer" wh: he admitted in confidence was his own - and gave me words of warning

as to expecting discouragements &c.

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But we were interrupted by Barbara looking well & brilliant who brought me 2 pairs of scissors from Dowley[?] & Pepys' diary. We talked long & I was looking for opportunity to offer her Uncle Arthur's mantle when Lady Farrer appeared, & we had a most affectionate talk. She was most kind. Aunt Mary & I dined alone & she read me bits of Uncle Arthur & then slept soundly.

24.

Jan: 24. Tuesday Up, very tired, & the day a flagging one. Perhaps without giving way at all one "feels it" these leave-takings that are so sore. Saw Aunt Mary in bed who had coughed somewhat in the night. All the morning packing, then out to post &c. dear Aunt Mary gave me £10 for "ease" of tips &c. after lunch I to say goodbye to Julia who looks well. I now home to write this & finish up & tip servants &c. Miss Shaw Lefevre called & upon her Lady Iddesleigh who prosed on for nearly 2 hours [Page 33v]

unable to see how weary Aunt Mary was. They went Lady I. plainly telling me she did not like my leaving Aunt Mary, & in truth Lady I. and I should never see things eye to eye. Aunt M & I had a few farewell words ere Leonard came. We both found it hard. I physically so because a lump rises in my throat wh: actually prevents speech - & I feared also lest she should break down. Only she said & this I shall recollect always with satisfaction that happen what may she "is content". She sees work lies before me wh: perhaps only I can do, & for the still young work is right & good. And I said to her I have been with you thro' the worst. Nothing worse can happen than has happened in Uncle Arthur's death, & to this she agreed. Leonard came in & we spoke of Russian Revolution, of liberal prospects & of the memoirs. To dinner & Oliver came late & then I went up to say a last [Page 34r]

goodbye. Aunt Mary opened wide her arms & with more feeling than I ever saw in her before almost cried out "goodbye my darling". & we embraced. I think we both felt we should not meet again. tho' longingly we speak of "six months hence." And so it was over at last - the wrench We three went (Oliver Bodkin) in the brougham #to L'pool Street# & there met Margaret Clark with sister & friends in attendance & Adeline Darby with relatives & club girls in plenty. Easy crossing and pleasant. But my head ached

with unshed tears that had to be repressed.

The crossing was excellent all of us in one cabin & the ache in my head kept me awake. At Antwerp we got taken to the Kronprinz in a cab as contrary to the agent's assurances it was quite a long distance from the ocean boat. This was decked with bunting from stern to stern in honour of Mr. Steyn. It was several hours before he & his party came on board accompanied by a large circle of friends & sympathisers, and Helen Botha with her

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circle of friends amongst them the Du Prauxs from Malines who had been so hospitable to me in the spring. Monsieur Harry too was there and took me apart to say to me that he wished it known to one of the party that for some months he & his wife had no responsibility for H. Botha. In all this story part of which Madam H. told me last spring very little is clear expect a division of opinion as to the upbringing of the girl, and great jealousy between her various friends. Her great charm & beauty no doubt make all wish for her special friendship.

We were disappointed that the ship kept postponing its fixed departure & at last finding the pilot refused to take us out of the river till next morning at 4am we determined to go & see the cathedral the spire of which beckoned to us like a dream of beauty. The light improved & so we saw the Rubens to advantage the "descent from the cross" &c and what

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gave me more vivid pleasure many very glorious stained windows, the ruby colours inimitable, and what was marvellous the difference of the materials worn by the figures (whether silk, velvet, cloth, fur) perfectly represented in the glass.

We walked a little in the town to see the gabled houses and being too late for the ship's tea got coffee in a very bad restaurant which had no cakes but lots of people playing gambling games. Back to the ship still full of strangers and dined in a very hot saloon at the same table as the Jacobizs. Glad to creep into our small but airy cabins and sound sleep came except ~~out~~ until the siren announced our departure at 4am.

25.

Jan 26. Thursday. It was tantalising today to pass close under Dover Castle after nearly two days travelling. It was hard turning into the Channel & nearly all felt squeamish but it grew better as the day wore on & we could enjoy the afternoon. I began

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reading Roper's "More" to Mr. Steyn.

26.

Friday Jan: 27. A glorious day, & we sped down the Channel calm & steady, everyone able to enjoy the voyage. So calm was it that I got out my spinning wheel & gave M. Clark a lesson all the ship crowding round to see. She spun & carded all the morning while I read an hour to Mr. Steyn - he & I much enjoying Sir Thomas More. The French coast was in sight & very pretty all the day. After lunch I read an hour to M. Clark & Sister Adeline from Vol ii of Golden Treasury. O'Shaugnessy's poems were new to us, & Barnes. I also read again Wm. Watson's "For England" to Mr Steyn & at tea where we all gathered we had a lively discussion on women's suffrage and women's position & rights, Mr. Steyn proving himself a splendid champion for our cause & all the women supporting him against the Cape Town Dutch consul Mr. Van der Hoop & the young Baron van der Goes. They had no arguments. It grew cold as we rounded Ushant

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& instead of keeping the Emperor William's birthday with a ball as intended most of the ladies retreated to bed. It was still wonderfully calm & smooth but just a trifling swell upset all. At dinner at the fish a German got up & made a speech proposing the Emperor's health wh: we all drank standing & with great solemnity & cries of "Hoch", and another man proposed the health of the soldiers who had fought in West Africa. Helen Botha would go out and dance in the bitter night air against the doctor's orders.

27.

Saturday Jan 28 All affected by the Bay of Biscay I was not ill but could neither write or read. Nursed Margaret & Sister Adeline.

28.

Sunday Jan 29 Again glorious weather. Out of the Bay of Biscay & everyone cheerful. Being Sunday we all attended the German services at which my friend Rev: Arndt of old Bloemfn. memories officiated. First I read Sir Thomas More to Mr. Steyn & finished it & next M. Clark read "Diary of a Churchgoer"

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to me, I telling her the secret of its authorship which I have now told to two persons but ought not to have done so. Then to the service whereat a great sleep came over me, & after dinner we all feeling thus overcome went to our cabins and slept soundly till tea time. A merry tea & then on deck where sweet Mrs. Jacobiz herself offered me to teach me Dutch

& did so for an hour. She herself speaks very sweetly, making the rough tongue sound most delicate. Her little girl wins all our hearts. The young people became uproarious over a game of French tig & I talked quietly with Mr. Steyn. He is a good & a great man. I find to my joy that he takes the real Liberal view about the question of British Indians in S. Africa. He thinks the first step should be to carry out the law (never heeded) & send back the Natal Coolies, and then ditto with the Chinese, & leave such Indians as care to
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come naturally to do so, not prevent them.

A lively dinner. Mr. Crichton our vis à vis ^{*} is interesting & we find he knows Cornwall & all our mines, & he hates London and motor cars. We are a comfortable set of people & I am hoping the home-folk are not wasting sympathy over us.

29.

Monday Jan: 30 A disappointing day for all of us had expected to be well and able to read & work, but we met a trade wind which brought about a fresh motion and upset the whole ship more or less. I could not read to Mr. Steyn nor he listen to me, and I had to cut very short my Dutch lesson from Mr. Malan. But the ship's company & servants are pleasant & all is simple & kindly. Margaret Clark introduced me today to the poems of Housman. "A Shropshire Lad" most charming. Quaint and original. A real joy.

30.

Tuesday Jan 31st A lovely day enabled us all to be busy. Read with Mr. Steyn More's
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Utopia to his great content & learnt much Dutch & began the translation of of Mrs. Badenhorst's narrative. Read Mr. Courtney's book & Boswell's Johnson. Much touched by Mr. Courtney's brave analysis of the amount of belief in Christ held by prominent men from St. Paul downwards. Find Boswell rather heavy in places. Shipfolk very merry. The peak of Tenerife in sight and land promised tonight.

31.

Wednesday Feb: 1st Early roused, for we were anchored in Las Palmas harbour. Glorious day & all

^{*} opposite at table

looking beautiful. Directly after breakfast we joined Mr. Jabcobiz's party for the shore. I should have preferred a drive into the hills having often seen the town. But we could not separate. All were excited by the brilliance of the sun and air & the girls (Steyns & H. Botha) so much so that they were very uproarious. We bought things we did not want & eat fruit. Visited the market, the cathedral, the [Page 38r] shops & finally lunched in the Hotel Catalina. The scarlet hybiscus in the gardens very beautiful and I drew sections of it, wondering if it would work into a good design. Likewise palm, & orange fruit & blossom. I long to make designs jumping in my mind across the long interval that intervenes betwixt now & the moment when they may be needed. Shall we succeed or fail? That question stands up & looks me in the face rather closely now. From such talk as I have had with my Boer friends on board I fancy they all think us doomed to fail but then they really do not know & never seem to care to hear our plans or schemes of work. Indeed are quite ignorant of the kinds of work proposed. It sometimes strikes me as curious how many of them go to Europe & return without having studied the things that might be most [Page 38v] usefully introduced into their country.

32.

2nd. Feb:  Thursday - Very busy.

33.

3. Feb: Friday. Yesterday having passed in the same round of occupations I did not write, but spent the time designing. Today the same lovely weather continuing we were as busy as ever. A talk with Sister Adeline yesterday troubled me much. It appears she has done practically no wool-weaving, while I had engaged her wholly as an expert on that branch - having as I understood agreed with her that from the date of the engagement she would spend her whole time till our departure (nearly 3 months) in hand training on that subject alone. She now tells me she could get no loom & has done almost none, & a good deal to that effect. I feel astounded, having pictured her hard at work at Haslemere School

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weaving woollen materials & gaining the confidence that comes from constant practice. How serious this may be in its effects on my work I can hardly say. It has weighed heavily on my mind ever since, & one feels wholly powerless to do anything. But I do feel Sister Adeline was most wrong not to have written and told me that she was prevented by lack of a loom from carrying out the necessary practice & learning of wool-weaving. Talked it over with Margaret who felt as I did about it.

Mr. Malan gave us an interesting lesson today which I repeated to Mr. Jacobiz in the evening for practice. Began David Copperfield to Mr. Steyn. Margaret has nearly conquered her spinning.

34.

Feb 4. Saturday Did not write

35.

Feb 5. Sunday. I have taken a real rest today, being rather tired by the [Page 39v]

close application of the past week. This brain won't stand much aboardship. The Steyn girls & Helen Botha remain indefatigable in their games - never once do they sit down except for meals. The fat German on board has had a silly bet with the doctor that he could fast a day for £5. Friends tempted him in vain. At 7 this morning his time was up or so he believed, but not until 11 (sandwich time) did he break fast. Then the doctor said the bet was his for he meant it must last not the 24 hours but till noon of the next day. The captain was made umpire & decided unfairly as we thought for the doctor who won the £5 & then treated his combatant to a lunch of iced champaign.

Read Utopia to Mr. Steyn & talked long with Margaret about Wm. Walton's [Page 40r]

poems & out prospects of work & began "Erewhon" by Samuel Butler. The sea continues perfectly calm & today for the first time we have felt the warmth oppressive nevertheless the thermometer is only 82° Fahrenheit. Last night we talked much Dutch with Mr. Jacobiz.

36.

Feb: 6. Monday. Wrote nothing

37.

Feb: 7. Tuesday. Yesterday and today we worked hard again, spinning carding Dutch &c: & I had the satisfaction of seeing how Margaret improved in her spinning. It was hot of course but not unbearable as we were blessed by a strong head breeze which after dinner increased suddenly & before we knew it we were in the midst of a heavy thunderstorm - rain lashing & lightning almost incessant - illuminating the entire sea. It was grand & [Page 40v]

lasted some 3 hours, somewhat relieving the oppression. Margaret & I unable to breathe in our unventilated cabins - stood outside in the dark watching the storm. This morning passengers report having seen a waterspout not far off but this I did not see & luckily our ship escaped. Today the ship is upset by a fancy ball which will keep us up till at least 12 o'clock & makes me half wish for a cabin below. Rather hard to have 2 balls in one voyage & stupid to try & dance exactly as we now are upon the Equator.

I have not yet summoned courage to say anything to Sister Adeline on the point of her weaving knowledge. Perhaps after all it will be best to wait & see how she does get on.

38.

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Wednesday Feb 8 Ellie Jacobiz's birthday.

I gave her a toy I bought at Las Palmas but all day I, like the rest, was "paap[?]" owing to the bad night we had had joined to the hot weather. The fancy ball had been kept up very late & degenerated into a rowdyism kept up till 4 am in the smoking room.

It was distressing to us to see 3 such young girls as the 2 Steyns & Helen Botha allowed to remain up to late in such rough company. They were all three in the smoking room singing songs with the men till 1.30 long after the actual dance

had ended. I lay in my hot bunk & listened to the noise next door. All were pape[?] & ill next day. I was glad to learn that Mrs. Jacobiz was as sorry as we were about these doings.

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Helen, she affirms was in mind still a child, but unfortunately she has the appearance of a woman of 20 & is beautiful into the bargain. It appears she had wished to figure as a boy but this Mrs. Jacobiz had prevented successfully - she had however supplied a young German lieutenant who went as a girl of the period, with all her clothes down to her chemise. At 3.30 that night unable to endure the combined heat and noise any more I left my cabin & fled to the ladies' saloon, but at 4 o'clock the smoke room emptied & the tipsy men went noisily round & round the deck making sleep impossible.

So we were disorganised all day. I finished reading

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the Utopia to Mr. Steyn & then Mr. du Preez massaged my arms & Mrs. Steyn made me lie down in her cool cabin. I should have slept here, had they not talked loudly outside all the morning. After breakfast lunch our rest time brought no sleep, but later I continued David Copperfield to Mr. Steyn and translation with Mr. Malan. Had a long talk with fluent[?] Mrs. Jacobiz at night.

39.

Thursday Feb:9 A good night which partly set us up again, but a complaint has attacked us of our heads being like turnips. However all our usual avocations were carried out except the spinning & carding. Margaret & I called on Mrs. Aindt[?] in the 2nd class & inspected their premises, sitting for sometime at the stern.

Afterwards the captain gave me

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leave to sit on the boat deck, his sanctum during the sports wh: are filling the ship with noise this afternoon. It was perfect quiet & peaceful there and I read Leo's book for 3 hours

undisturbed.

40.

Friday Feb:10 Wrote nothing being very poorly.

41.

Saturday 11th Feb: Yesterday was a perturbed day because not only were Margaret and I very poorly and shaky, but Sister Adeline was laid up with a bad knee. She had an accident Thursday evening after tea. Apparently she challenged the young Baron v.d Goes to run after her & he doing so and bearing down upon her caught his foot in her sandal and she fell heavily upon her knee. The pain increased so during the evening that I insisted upon the doctor being consulted & [Page 43r]

he at once said the knee cap was cracked, not broken & it must have repeated ice applications throughout the night. She was put to bed & this was done, the stewardess giving kind attention throughout the night. Next morning she was carried on deck & he put it in splints & alarmed me by saying it must so remain for some weeks. I am left wondering what to do under this unlooked for added difficulty . A knee sound & good is essential for weaving. Maybe she will have to be left in Cape Town or even sent straight home. I feel altogether much perplexed by the little woman & have my doubts to her usefulness or success as a teacher. As a person with all my appreciation of her fine qualities & pure mind I find her & so I discover, does Margaret rather hard to get on with [Page 43v]

She speaks to us as if we were also the factory girls amongst whom she has longed worked & as if every word of hers must be looked on as an oracle, even if on the commonest subject. She has no lighteners of conversation and seeks to impress every empty remark with her eyes as if we must write it on our souls. Instinctively we resent this, wishing to sustain an attitude civil & friendly but impersonal & evidently she is rebuffed. I trust however she will shake down into a more natural

manner & state of mind.
 She strikes me as wholly devoid
 of common sense. Her wearing
 of bare feet & legs with sandals
 amongst a medley of strangers
 with a flimsy skirt in a
 high wind has been trying.

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& one feels somewhat insecure as to
 what she will do or where turn up.
 This morning she was better, the
 pain having abated, & the doctor
 hoped 14 days might see the
 end of it, but one cannot tell if
 the knee cap can then be used as
 hard as will be required. I shall
 have to wait and take Dr. Murray's
 opinion in Cape Town. We are making
 bad runs and not likely to get in
 till the 18th.

Yesterday was Margaret's 27th birthday
 a rather dreary day for her as she
 was poorly. I gave her Marco Polo
 which pleased her very much.

42.

Sunday Feb:12 The month slips by but
 we now feel sure we shall not land
 on the 16th as the runs have been
 bad. Today I had considerable
 giddiness & felt shaky. Mr[?] President
 too had a headache and several
 of the others were poorly. We do not

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know why unless it is some new
 movement of the ship occasioned
 by a fresh swell. All the morning
 I sat reading 50 pages of Labour
 Co. partnership. Several poems,
 & some Dutch w Mr. Malan. After
 lunch a horrid attempt at
 sleep which made me feel very
 queer, & after tea read "Erewhon
 Revisited" and walked the deck.
 At dinner Mr. Brown entertained
 us by talk of his experiences in
 China where he dwelt 7 years &
 told us how he got into trouble
 & disrepute in England by "showing
 up" the falsity of the sensational
 Daily Mail telegrams about
 the people murdered(?) in China in
 1900, which proved as he said
 wholly untrue. A long talk
 with Mr. Steyn about S.A. & the
 prospects of the Liberal Party.
 Sister A's knee less painful but
 [Page 45r]
 one can easily hear it grating & it
 must yet remain 14 days in
 splints.

Margaret most kind & attentive.

43.

Monday Feb:13 Wrote not

44.

Tuesday Feb. 14 Valentine's day. Parliament meets.
Wrote not.

Wednesday Feb 15 Last night we anchored near
a wreck off Swakopmund - unable
to get in till the mist lifted, but
this morning we found ourselves
arrived, the vessel having crawled
in at half speed last night.
Good after 14 days to see land & life
again, though the land be bit
a sand bank and the life 3 or 4
officials in a tug & 3 or 4 negroes
in a lighter. Owing to the war
some ½ doz. German ships are in the
bay. There is no dock or even
mole[?] or pier and we have to
lie 2 miles out & have no chance
of going ashore. The delay is

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considerable as the majority of our
passengers and a good deal of
the cargo is discharged here.
We shall have to do our own
packing today and so after
breakfast I spoke to Sister Adeline
about the necessity of leaving her
behind at Cape Town and taking
Dr. Murray's advice as to what
course she must pursue. I said
she must keep all her goods with
her. She was amenable.

Monday night they had a farewell
dance & next morning the girls
all appeared with black ribbons
worn as mourning for the companions
who were to get off at Swakopmund.

In the afternoon the whole party
invaded my sanctum, the boat
deck. Imitated Syrens and made
a hullabaloo so hideous that
I decamped & poor Mr. & Mrs. Steyn
were deprived of their siesta.

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They are a most thoughtless lot of
young people, & the girls allowed a
most undesirable freedom.
I have finished reading "Erewhon revisited"
ingenious but not so amusing as
"Erewhon" and More's Utopia, More's
Life by Roper, Mr. Courtney's book, Leonard's
book and am half through Sidney's
"Arcadia" & Boswell's Johnson. Also
various books on cooperation - banks
& Co. partnerships. I read David Copper-
field to Mr. Steyn 2 hours daily &
we continue our Dutch lessons.
Writing & designing have been a

difficulty. Such a long entry as today's is due to our pause at this little place.

45.

Feb: 16 Thursday A very weary day, the trade wind almost due ahead & causing a most dismal pitching.

46.

Feb:17 Friday. Ship still pitching though somewhat abated. All of us affected in our heads and [Page 46v] and unable to do our packing excepting in short stages. I read to Mr. Steyn as usual. Margaret much upset by packing. The Chief officer promised to call us at 4am to see the approach to Table Bay at dawn. He told us it was true about the two black spots seen by some of the passengers in the tropics, but that they were only visible in some of the latitudes. They had seen them last voyage & had reported them at Hamburg but had heard nothing of in the way of explanation.
To bed early.

47.

Saturday Feb:18 Rose at dawn & there was the grand still beauty of the Bay outlined against the already glowing sky. The Blauwberg Mountains were sharp cut against the gold, the Table group more tenderly. Soon we passed into the dock (the old [Page 47r] familiar dock where my weary imprisonment was once spent, & there news & letters came on board. Mr. Steyn calm & grand as usual. We had time for breakfast before our various friends began to arrive van Broekhuisens, Mr. Bredell, Onye Jan, Mr. Chiappini[?], Mr. Malan, Mr. Fischer, the Transvaal delegates Ewald Esselen & Jaapie de Villiers which last I had so long desired to meet. Mr. Schultz, kind as ever and General Smuts. A rare & delightful gathering. Mr. de Villiers seemed to know me at once & came & sat down & talked to me & I felt full of strange interest in him. A man of whom I had heard so much that was good and noble, & about whom (all unknown) had had such
I liked his face, very strong &

rather rugged - with fine expressions
dark grey eyes, full of feeling &

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of humour, and a sweet smile
showing fine white teeth. In
strong easy language he painted
affairs in Johannesburg & the Transvaal
words replete with feeling, and
intensity of purpose & complete
grasp of the situation. A reliable
man, strong and good. I wanted
to see more of him, talk more
to him, hear him tell me more.
Soon they all left with the
President leaving General Smuts
to look after us. It transpired
that the carriage good Mr. Schultz
had brought down for me had
broken down en route & as he
would not let me take a cab
I was to wait till he brought
another. So we sat in the dock
with Smuts and enjoyed his talk.
It was good to see him look so
well. Suddenly radiant as usual
Mrs. Sauer appeared & together we all
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drove off Mr. Schultz & Smuts in a
cab behind us. At the customs gates
a rough man stopped the carriage saying
"Which of you 4 ladies is Miss Hobhouse?"
A momentary shudder went through
me, but he added "because I want
to shake hands with her. I have
read her books & admire her".
This was easy & we proceeded he
shouting after us "I'm Irish
that's what I am"!

To the bank where 2 home letters
for me and 13 for Margaret! What
a difference having a family!
Aunt Mary's was very short & Mrs.
Chitty's very kind & sympathetic.
Then up to Avignon to greet Mrs. de
Villiers & leave Mrs. Sauer with the
President. At 11.30 we started
for Kenilworth, Margaret going on
to Wynberg in charge of Malins de
Villiers & Sister & I got out & were
helped up here by James Molteno
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who also jumped out of the train.
Mrs. Murray gave us a warm greeting
& we lunched & had a quiet
afternoon, Margaret coming over
later to do some writing for me.

48.

Sunday Feb 19 I did not sleep much.
I was excited & missed too the
rocking of the waves. All night
I lay awake thinking of the
past & the future and interwoven

with all my thoughts was were []
 #the []# words #spoken to us that day# I talked with Dr. Murray
 about Sister's knee which he
 thinks will take some time to
 cure, & in the morning at 10am
 came Margaret who wrote for me
 a long letter to Mr. Fraser &c:
 Mr. James Molteno kept us all
 alive with his jokes. After lunch
 Margaret came back with
 Hembury, her railway friend
 who had come up from Beaufort
 [Page 50r]
 West especially to meet her. A
 very nice man. They gone, came
 Mr. Fischer, but to my disappointment
 []#others were not# with him
 for my notes of invitation written
 the day before had not reached
 either one. He told us much news
 and promised legal advice about
 Raiffeisen banks if I would send
 him the papers about them.

When he left I went with Mrs.
 Murray to buy look at a Swedish
 stove much recommended to
 me, & thence to call on Mrs.
 Koopmans in Wynberg. Dear
 old soul she becomes more of a
 bore and less entertaining with
 advancing years. But the days
 here are full, my thoughts various
 and it disappoints me to find
 how impossible it is to write
 all in one's journal & after all
 how little of one's true inner

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feeling one writes, one is shy
 even of one's own journal.

49.

Monday Feb 20 Early up & to town with
 Jarvis Murray who was very attentive
 and took me to the up express
 to see my friends off. Jaapie de
 Villiers was first to arrive & I
 was glad to see him. He & Mrs. Esselen
 and Helen Botha & the Rissiks were
 the party leaving. I had a long
 talk with Mr. de Villiers, we falling
 apart from the rest and standing
 in the shade against another
 train. I was impressed with his
 courage & hope for the future of
 the country. He said he thought
 the future held more hope than
 before the war. The people had
 been sifted & tested - & were now
 consolidated as never before.
 The issues were clear. He said
 much that was encouraging
 about my work & promised all
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the assistance in his power. He asked me to let him know when I came north, writing to him at the Rand Club. ☐

Then Margaret and I turned to our hot days work. This consisted in the usual weary round of offices & clerks. We succeeded however in at last in getting the promise of a rebate on the duties charged. They had put a 10% duty on all as if foreign goods whereas British should only be 7%. I had given careful instructions from England that this was to be seen to, as our things were almost wholly British but they sprung upon us the rule that

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that private assertion was not enough, it was necessary to have certificate assurance from the head of English firms. I pleaded ignorance of this rule - and eventually the comptroller of customs consented to take my word for it.

We bought a stove and saw to the other matters. Lunched with Jarvis Murray & on the way back got out at Rondebosch to see Mrs. Botha at Ivydene. She was out & we only saw the girls. Went home and to our dismay found Mrs. Saul Solomon fully installed & awaiting my arrival. She exhorted us for nearly two hours in pulpit language of the appropriate gestures to aid & abet her in her scheme for organizing the S.A. comm. She would not answer our questions & would not listen to our views but simply preached till we were weary. Most people think her scheme will

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fall thro' as soon as she leaves S.A. which apparently she shortly means to do. Anyhow to be her correspondent & keep her fully informed as it appears she wishes, is quite impossible for me.

50.

Tuesday Feb:21. Wrote for the mail all the morning and in the afternoon to drive with Margaret & Sister Adeline - up Wynberg Park, thro' Newlands Avenue & into Groote Schuur. They overwhelmed with the beauty, I missing the green of other seasons. Moreover the blue hydrangias were over.

51.

Wednesday Feb 22. Early to town and joined by Margaret. Meeting Mr. Fischer we went to see him & the Jacobiz family

off by the express. Said goodbye to sweet little Ellie. Went round to the Bank. Mr. Schultz & agents finding out if all our goods were gone - all had gone, so we hope to find them north on our arrival. Met Lady de Villiers [Page 52v] and Mrs. Marais & others, all very difficult to get away from. Home to lunch & then Margaret wrote for me.

It was this afternoon that we went all three to drive as I have just described for Tuesday. And it was the previous day, that M. & I drove together to Bergvliet, Diep River to call on the Purcells in their charming new home in the old picturesque farm.

52.

Thursday Feb: 23 Up early to catch 7.40 train & go to the Sauers. Took 2nd class tickets but at Salt River met the Sauer trio & had to get in 1st with them. Met Mrs. v.d. Post in the train. I drove with Mr. Sauer in the buggy & ponies the others with Con: Cloete in the cape cart. Coolness & fruit on arrival in the well remembered beauty of the place.

Delicious to be amongst such sweet & friendly people once more.

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How impossible it is to put down a tithe of what passes daily in one's life leave alone one's thoughts. Aunt Con came & sat on my bed telling me much of her wishes to go north & help in the up-bringing of the Dutch girls - a work much needed. But she dreads hurting her sister's feelings. She spoke of the people she met at Johannesburg & of Jaapie de Villiers as the one who most interested her - the strongman & the fine intellect - "but alas!" said she, "he showed no interest in me!!!"

53.

Friday Feb:24 Delightful to be at Uitkijk once more. Yesterday afternoon we saw them bringing in the grapes & treading out the wine in the press. Wonderful to see the juice flowing out in a great stream. Little Paul with his bare feet newly washed trod merrily with Africa the Kaffir.

Today up early at 6am & down in the orchards to gather figs & eat

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them ice-cold off the trees. For the first time too, I wandered in a vineyard & gathered my own bunches

of grapes whither & in what quantity I would. Mrs. Sauer watered her garden & at 8 we assembled for breakfast. A delicious morning reading, writing & sitting on the stoep while Margaret rode with Mr. Sauer for the post. The papers announce that the Paris Enquiry exonerates the Russian admiral which in my own mind I always thought it would - but we know no details yet.

After lunch "Aunt Con" drove us to Stellenbosch to Mrs. Marais who assembled the de Vos's & Professor Hofmeyr & Mrs. Neethling to meet us & they made me tell my plans and ideas.

I called on Ella Neethling in her bedroom & talked about my troubles

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with regard to the translation of my book. She was willing to translate short things like my new collection of stories. Home rather late & to dinner after wh: we talked about lace & Mrs. Sauer showed me what she had.

54.

Saturday Feb 25. I slept badly, and lay still listening to the crickets & the night-birds, & thinking much of what the future has in store. Margaret walked up the hill to see the sunrise & at 9.30 the Sauers departed leaving us to follow by the next train. It has been a delightful visit. A memory to carry with us.

We got away easily & had a ¼ hour at the station where the master Mr. Greear talked to us of the bad times & the docking of wages. £25 knocked of his salary now. We tried 2nd class & found it very uncomfortable

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much worse than English third. At Cape Town came Mr. van Zijl & Mr. Schultz to meet & escort us to luncheon, & I talked the whole time to Mr. Schultz being very glad of the opportunity & evidently Mr. van Zijl had much to say to Margaret. Mr. Schultz impressed me more than ever with his many sided kindness to all & sundry - even sending fruit once a week to Visser the convict on the break water.

He has hopes of helping Lily Boshoff through the Wounded Fund of which he still has

a reserve. He showed me a copy of the letter written by Scheepers the day before his execution, a farewell to Steyn & de Wet, very brave & manly. He has the original in his possession, which has recently

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reached him by a circuitous route, In the letter Scheepers asked to be buried in Bloemfontein cemetery, but said Mr. Schultz the body can never be removed for it was covered with lime to burn it to ashes.

Mr. Schultz put us into the train & helped us book our seats, and after we had had tea we wrote 6 letters & off to Wynberg to call on Mrs. Koopmans. She talked much of the rival societies for women formed and especially of Mrs. Solomon's - & I was glad to hear disapproved of Refuges for the Boer women fallen thro' unusual events. I agreed & feel too that it stamps them. She also fancies Mrs. S.S. has exaggerated the situation. She talked long & then we walked to Plumstead to the [] de Villiers' who made me stay to dinner. Nice quiet little people.

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They put me into the tram & so home where I found the Murray family assembled to enjoy music and joined them in that. Dr M. sings well.

55.

Sunday Feb 26 Very hot. I wrote or packed all the morning - in the afternoon came Margaret & we walked to the Chief Justice & had an hour's chat with him & Lady de Villiers & found there Mr. & Miss Philipson Stowe.

From there to the de Bruyns apologizing for the untimely call on clerical folk. She grown stouter, & nursing a big baby. Much talk of Brandfort.

56.

Monday Feb:27 Up early & to town for final arrangements - happed on the Chief Justice & went with him & Mrs. Charlie Molteno. He told me of the "Preservation Society" recently started & how they hoped to protect the castle, & I spoke of the ruined cottage near Stellenbosch where

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Piet Retief was born, & this he thought should be purchased. He said two

farms at Colesberg claimed to be President Kruger's birthplace. Our business done Margaret & I to [illegible] to call on Onye Jan - his wife busy canning tomatoes - we at leisure in a cool library. He told me £200 had been given as compensation for the misappropriation less Lydenburg good, not adequate indeed and only got after endless procrastination and when he had repeatedly & strongly spoken to the governor.

Back to lunch having proudly purchased a green veil like Mrs. Sauer's, & first thing finished packing & registered boxes. The Murrays all dressing to attend Lady de Villiers' garden party & I sought a good bath, & prepared our luncheon baskets. Dr & Mrs. Murray came to town with us to see Mr. Steyn & the faithful Mr. Schultz & many others were in attendance.

57.

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Sunday March 5. All this week I could not write, 2 days in the train and the rest sheer fatigue from overwork but more or less we are settled in though every night I am possessed by fears that I have attempted a task wholly beyond my powers & my means. The history of our journey up & the warmth of the welcome to Mr. Steyn & to me I have somewhat fully described in my letter home, which after being typed I shall hope to get again & this set of letters will form a kind of journal. Tuesday Feb 28 We crossed the Karoo, which was wonderfully cooler than usual & in one place rain was falling

The President's welcome at Beaufort West was very heartfelt & so simple Mr. Weeber, the M.L.A and Dr. Neethling headed the crowd & talked much to me. I out next morning at

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Nowald Pont was the most moving surprise when some 20 prominent Freestaters appeared to welcome their President & escort him across the border. The feeling was silent but intense. We, joined by the Frasers left them at Springfontein and came here. Moses to be our "boy" was at the station to meet us and I learned he had just come out of gaol. (for no great offence). A spider took Mr. & Mrs. Fraser, Margaret & self - with much changing and chopping of steeds - & sister A. & the two little Steyns in the cape cart.

For 9 weary & jolting miles we
crossed the velt on a lovely day
with clouds flecking the sky
and not too much sun. Emeline
Fraser had dinner ready for us
& nice cool rooms & there for
two days we rested in comfort
as far as bed & board went, but

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working every moment between
whiles to unpack & get our house
ready. Such a work! 50 cases
or more to be opened & unpacked
& the house to be cleaned & new
untrained servants. We worked
till Saturday night more dead
than alive & on Sunday were
but fit to lie on the sofa.

That rested us, & we started
with fresh strength & hope to
day (Monday) again. But at
moments in the heat & the
novelty - and the pressure
of work - everyone wanting
direction at once my heart
nearly failed me & my belief
in my own scheme, the mass
of detail obliterating temporarily
the ideal in my mind.

But now it dawns again &
if my plan of getting Constance
Cloete to come & keep house

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for us succeeds - I think we may
yet prosper. Nothing can exceed
the goodness & hospitality of the
Frasers & of other people here
& the eccentricities of widow
Boshoff & of black Moses.

58.

March 7. Tuesday A week in Philippolis
and we have done nothing yet but
struggle in the heat with our un-
packing - our servants - & our settling
of the work room. The work has
been severe & at times I felt I must
break down. I had to be everywhere
at every moment, & my feet ache
unmercifully. Today Margaret
who has been invaluable was
laid up and nursing her has
been on the top of all else. She
looks better tonight & I hope it
will pass off, for I need her
much. People in the village are
tired of waiting for us to show
ourselves, but we hope to be able
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to begin by the end of this week
that is - if all goes well with
our various machines for work.

The idea occurred to me yesterday

to implore Constance Cloete to
 come to our rescue - to take
 the entire housekeeping off my
 hands & give us her sunny
 presence. We have written &
 now also I shall telegraph
 for daily I see I cannot long
 hold out at this rate.
 We long to begin teaching & see
 how it "takes" & in what
 directions we most need to
 develop the work. Each night
 I am too tired to write, so
 a journal fails after all to
 be the companion & confidante
 I had hoped to make it.

59.

Wednesday March 8. A somewhat
 lighter day. Rose at 5.45 and
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called the others & made early tea,
 drew my bath water from the tap
 in the yard before sunrise, & dressed
 just as Moses arrived at 6.20am.
 Set him to light the stove & sweep
 the parlour &c and hurried
 round to help widow Boshoff get
 the breakfast. After a long struggle
 this was ready at 7.45.

Set Davel to work superintending
 Cook in flooring the new room
 & worked at unpacking in
 the workroom. Things getting
 on. Mr. Fraser & General Nieuwhoudr[?]
 called. Wired to beg C. Cloete
 to come & schemed to make
 her comfortable. Rested 2 hours
 & worked hard till 6pm.

Large cupboard made & therein
 packed our various work materials.
 Altogether felt more hopeful
 & sanguine about the future.
 After supper Emeline Fraser called.

60.

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Thursday March 9 Very hot fatiguing
 & busy day, but the workroom begins
 to look shipshape, & that consoles.
 Early[?] my soul was refreshing by
 a glorious great cactus flower
 sent in by Mr. Liefmann as a gift.
 The scent was powerful, the petals
 feather like 6 inches across. It
 blossoms at night and closes
 with the coming of the sun upon
 it. I have seen one almost like
 it in Mexico. Later he gave one to
 Margaret. During rest time I worked
 at Sister's bobbins & filled them

as she seems rather helpless
about everything - a person whose
fingers are all thumbs & who
always knows the way to do a
thing after she has been told.
I think she is a failure, so
far as one can at present see
& I reproach myself for not

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having more closely investigated
her practical working capabilities.
In the evening I left the house
the first time for a whole week
and went to congratulate Mrs. Fraser
on her birthday. Mr. F. very poorly
and ordered to bed.

Poorly myself and very hot. All
day considering if Aunt Con will
come to the rescue.

61.

Friday March 10 Too tired to write.

62.

Saturday March 11. Yesterday I was
poorly & it was so hot & we so
busy I could not write. Today
it was cooler & I set the convicts
to wash the school and had
a hard day myself as Mr. Davel
did not turn up & I had to
nail down C. Cloete's carpet &
do much work myself.

Sister A. struggled with her loom
she is evidently all at sea
over it and I fear is anything

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but an expert. By 4 o'clock
all was clean & tidy and
we had our first batch of
girls headed by Emeline
Fraser who interpreted now
& again. We explained &
they listened intelligently &
all are to come & begin on
Monday at 8am.

I am so far relieved but full
of qualms at Sister's too
evident inefficiency.

63.

Sunday March 12 Up early, & at 6am
found to my horror my fresh
1 lb of butter put outside to keep
cool wholly gone. Milk untouched.
Too evidently the work of fowls as
dish, butter paper & cloth all
left behind. Vexing. Went to
church with M. Mr. Fraser was
ill so an elder read interminably

in Dutch. Nearly fell asleep.
 Home & wrote for mail. Finished
 [Page 61r]
 preparing our wheels &c for next
 day, & after tea called on Mrs. van
 Heerden. She in bed. Told me
 of the governor's visit (Goold-Adams)
 & his fear of the word "compensation"
 & how she told him she hoped
 it would follow & haunt him
 day & night. After supper wrote
 while Sister went to a singing
 meeting.

64.

Monday March 13 A red letter day
 at 8 am began our teaching.
 The six girls came punctually
 & proved most nimble and
 intelligent. Kept Davel & Moses
 also at work. At 4pm they
 came again & Miss Strauss began
 with the knitting machine.

When it was over I down to the
 parsonage to tell Mr. Fraser how
 all had gone off. Found him
 in bed with bronchitis and
 determined to see me. He told

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 me Mr. van Heerden the R.M.
 had asked the government
 what (as an official) his
 attitude was to be towards
 me & the reply had been
 to "help the enterprise."
 Hence the convicts.

After supper walked with
 M. over the veld in the
 moonlight.

65.

Tuesday March 14 Second day of
 teaching. Very hard time 4 hours
 of the morning as the weather
 was unusually oppressive. Busy
 also trying to get the little
 outside room in order, for the
 arrival of Constance Cloete.
 I was up at 5.30 not having
 slept after 3a.m. and got
 tea before six - dressed & out
 to work before 6.30. Made
 Moses sweep the school.

After Mr. Lubbe called & brought
 [Page 62r]
 me a basket of tomatoes and
 hoped we would remain here
 20 years!!! After lunch so dead
 beat I went to lie down when
 thunder began and hearing
 the rain I had to rush out

and shut doors & windows
and take in curtains &c:
It poured, filling the tanks
and washing the court clean.
School at 4 till six, girls
busy & interested. Weaving
began. After school to the
parsonage where Emeline found
with neuralgia unable to go
& meet Constance tomorrow.
Saw Mr. Fraser in bed still
very bad - says he is besieged
by applications of girls wanting
to learn of me. Eat grapes
& came back. Found a
small snake in the front
passage wh: M. tried to kill

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by throwing the Manchester
Guardian upon it and
then stamping wildly.
I removed this & killed it
with Uncle Arthur's umbrella.
Moses said he killed two
today. Mrs. Bezuindenhout
sent in a present of a
freshly baked Boer biscuit
or sort of bread cake flavoured
with caraway seeds.

I am depressed by finding
daily how little Sister A.
knows about her work.
Quite unable to put up her
heddles & ties without
guidance and models.
I cannot make up my
mind where best to put
C.C. to sleep & whether I
ought to take the new room
& give her mine.

66.

[Page 63r]

Wednesday March 15. Joy Aunt Con's arrival

67.

Thursday .. 16 Delightful rest for
house taken in hand. Fresh hope.



68.

Friday March 17 Glad to end our week's
schooling. Much fatigued but
on the whole feel progress has
been made & the last half hour
we collected the girls and talked
over the work and its prospects.
We are a little uncertain as to
their feeling on the subject. After
school Mr. Liefmann & Mr. van Heerden

came in to see the school and expressed much interest. Called on Mr. Fraser who was on the sofa & somewhat better but coughing much & asked him about housing Winifred de Villiers & the girl from Wolmaransstad also de Villiers.

Sister A. very slow at her work today - took 4 hours to thread

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about # of the heddles, and had forgotten to tie the shade sticks which therefore did not support the warp - I feel very hopeless about her. Sat in the moonlight after supper & planned work & play for Saturday.

69.

Saturday March 18 Very busy all day preparing our week's work, doing accounts and so on. Not till after tea did we go out. I to sit on the nearer Kopje where I watched the sunset. ☐
#& wrote# letters. In the evening we each chose & read poetry aloud.

70.

Sunday March 19 All enjoying the pleasant meals & order wh C. Cloete has brought into the house. Moses with bare feet waits table in a clean apron, & Mrs. Booshoff is made happy [Page 64r]
by getting away early to bed. We worked or wrote mail letters all Sunday. I decided to write for Miss Jones to come as Sister A.'s mistakes continue & I cannot trust her work at all.

After tea a delicious walk with C.C. when we looked for cactus flowers and sat on a boulder & read Wm. Watson aloud.

71.

Monday March 20 The new girls arrived, but to our dismay Susie[?] Siebert one of the most promising old ones sent word & later came to excuse herself from further attendance. A blow. Jealousy I am sure, because there was no knitting machine for her use.

A hard day but fairly satisfactory. Saw Mr. Fraser in the evening and discussed pros & cons of

Winifred de Villiers & the Wolmaransstad girl coming.

72.

[Page 64v]

Tuesday March 21 Hard work. Teaching new girls. Found Sister's loom put up wrong & all helped to alter it. Very hard day. Much upset by Sister's incompetency. Thought of cabling for Miss Jones.

73.

Wednesday March 22. Cooler day - grey & showery. Steady work. With 12 girls regular & eager. Found Sister could not tie heddles right for easy twill - spent siesta time doing it myself. Cabled to England for Miss Jones cost £1.17.6. Hopeless to go on with her. Wrote yesterday to W. de Villiers & her mother asking her to come here for a month as my guest & to remain if it suits her. Walked with Margaret after school and enjoyed the damp air & wet soil. Mr. Postma Minister
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of Rustenburg offers me his daughter apparently at my expense. Moses quite another boy under Constance's training.

74.

Thursday March 23 Full day. Up by 6am not having slept much from colder air & paucity of blankets. Spun Angora before breakfast. Hard school.
Mail day & brighter letters from Aunt Mary who wrote from Sandhurst. After dinner washed wool Constance helping me. Dyed fleece & to school a new girl, deaf, came making 13. Gift of a loaf in the afternoon & flowers & eggs in the forenoon. Hardly a day passes without these gifts in kind. Walked with M. on the Kopje & rejoiced to hear her say she has never been so happy in her life!
I fear with Sister A. it is different.

75.

Friday March 24. Last day of second

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 week's teaching. A 30 hour week,
 odd so short a sum of hours
 should exhaust us so. Girls
 very good. 13 of them. Cannot
 take more at present. Three Four
 presents today Mrs. Lubbe, milk
 Mr. van Schalkwyk, mielies &
 melon. Mrs. Sugman, plants.
 Mrs. v. Heerden, springbok.

Very tired. Emeline Fraser visited
 school & seemed pleased.
 Sister rushed off the moment
 it was over & left me to put
 everything away. Very tired.
 Gave Moses a comb - he much
 pleased. Ups & downs of mind
 about our enterprise - one day
 all hope the next all despair.
 All depends upon plenty of
 ardent spinners.

76.

Saturday March 25 Lady Day. Found
 that C. Cloete had never heard of
 Lady Day. Curious. No teaching
 [Page 66r]

but much work. Experimented all
 the morning with dyes & washing &
 found the walnut husk answer best.
 Afterwards I tested this dyed fleece
 in the spinning & found it excellent.
 After lunch the others to walk on
 the Kopje with intent to choose a
 spot for us all to go and sleep
 out tonight. However thunder
 came on & this plan fell through.
 I stayed at home & took opportunity
 to sort my papers and try to
 arrange my books, a heartrending
 affair as so many are ~~absent~~ missing.
 In the evening we read Paraselsus[?]
 aloud & Neli[?] v. Heerden came
 in & listened. A great bunch
 of flowers was sent to me.

77.

Sunday March 26 Lovely morning
 after the thunder. I stayed in
 bed till 6.30 and drank my
 milk there. After breakfast
 took writing things & M. and I to
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the top of the Kopje where she
 wrote an article for the M.G.
 and I wrote my circular
 letter & other mail letters.
 Suggested to E.D.B. to send not
 only Miss Jones but also my
 lace teacher from Venice
 Signora Moratti.

Walked home at noon - very hot
 Dined & to sleep. Then I wrote
 again & after tea spun my
 dyed samples & at dusk
 had a rum with Constance.
 We are all concerned about
 Sister A. and our joint and
 several inability to get on
 with her. She is affected &
 unnatural, & do what we may
 we cannot mix.

78.

Monday March 27.
 Busy day. All up early. Girls
 showed more grip of work. Cloudy
 afternoon & heavy rain which
 [Page 67r]
 lasted all night. Sore throat & chill
 dosed by the 2 homeopathists with
 arsenicum. Read Shelley aloud
 Euganean Hills & Sensitive Plant.
 Mrs. Bezuidenhout sent a great
 loaf of bread. Delicious. Feeling
 poorly & unhappy about Margaret
 who undoubtedly feels the close
 air of her bedroom & must be
 moved. Hard to arrange. Lay
 awake all night planning.
 Decided to hire a room in village
 for Sister A. and give M. her room.
 Overslept myself, & told Constance
 my plan when she called me.
 She agreed to enquire.



The only news I have had
 to date as the "Friend"³ still tarries.
 Ordered it 22 days ago!

79.

Tuesday March 28 Up late. Breakfast
 7.15. Very wet. Steady rain all day
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 Much doctored by all the kind
 friends & got through school wrapped
 in a shawl and M's woollen
 waistcoat. Much happier about
 the work - girls grasping the
 sequence of processes, & worked
 well. Steady heavy rain.

80.

29th. Wednesday March. Still steady rain.
 Will fill dams & soften ground
 for ploughing but alas! too late
 for many of the crops. Slept

³ The Friend, a Bloemfontein newspaper

late and by much kind
nursing from M. & C. felt better
& equal to work. Girls improved
all except Marte Sugmann -
flax spinners promoted to wool.
In the afternoon dyed with walnut
husks & pomegranates.

Telegram from W. de Villiers to
say considering my offer & letter
to follow. No "Friend"⁴ yet
come. Tiresome to miss so
many weeks' daily news.

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I hear Mrs. v. Heerden will let us have
a stoep room, very kindly and insists
for nothing at all - much as I
wish to pay. So I hope to arrange
for Sister to go over there to sleep
& Margaret to take her room. I
feel sure M. feels the bad close
air of her room in the court.

Moses has taken French leave
and disappeared all the afternoon.
Margaret overdone and poorly. We
made her lie in C's room. She very
angry thereat and C. on the
parlour sofa. Box and coxing as
regards their clothes. All to bed
at 8.pm

81.

Thursday March 30 Pouring rain in the
night awakened us all. Did not
sleep after 3am. Fortunate M.
had been kept out of her room
as the wet streamed through the
ceiling & all was damp. I kept
her on the sofa all the morning
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& sent her for a walk when the
sun came out. Moses arrived
saying he had been very sick the
previous day. I dosed him with
chlorodyne with success.

One month in Philippolis is over
& I have as yet barely realised
I am here. In fact I am not
living in Philippolis but in an
idea. It seems to be taking
solid permanent form & shape
& there is much to encourage
in the aptitude & intelligence
& eagerness of the first 13 scholars.
A new one joins us tomorrow.
Our dyeing of yesterday seems a
success - a delicate green and
brown. Two gifts of flowers
today. Continued & heavy
showers. Margaret in school in
the afternoon. Constance an

⁴ The Friend, a Bloemfontein newspaper

angel.

82.

[Page 69r]

Friday March 31 Lovely day, bright and cool. My voice gone. Trouble with Sister A. She asked to speak to me & just before dinner did so in parlour. Had it out. I liked her better than ever before. She came out well in a singularly trying position. Said she only wanted now to enquire what could be done to remedy matters. Offered to take less or even no salary. I told her I had sent for an expert and I thought the best thing would be to terminate her engagement on this lady's arrival - & she agreed. Also meanwhile to teach herself by experiment.

She came to dinner but retired to cry. I gave her sal volatile and sent her to walk with the others. Lay myself in the sand to rest much shaken

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Mr. Fraser came & talked awhile before school. Sarie Bezuidenhout the new girl very pretty sweet & clever. Spun as if by nature on a difficult wheel. Extraordinary. Found Hester v. Schalkwyk had attempted home dyeing. Very encouraging. Walked out with Constance sunset delicious. All tired and very glad 'tis Friday.

Only present today walnut leaves & tins of husks!

83.

Saturday April 1st. Voice bad. Stayed in bed to breakfast. Pulled wool in the court with M. & began to spin it. Mrs. v. Heerden called & told me room was ready. Then I gave Sister A. her salary and asked her to move into the new room. She willing. Also begged she might not be sent home earlier than the six months

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lest her Father be hurt. Struggled with her loom all the morning. After dinner we moved the things over and helped her to settle in. She brighter. Busy preparing for guests. Laid out tea in the dining room, but

only a few came! Mr. Marais, Comdt. du Toit, Mrs. Lubbe, old Mr. Lubbe & wife, Mrs. Tarr[?], Miss de Villiers, Mrs. Louw, Mrs. Sugmann, Miss Young & Bultermann. My voice departed. Mrs. Marais the most interesting of the party.

Later Mrs. Sugmann sent a lovely dish of figs. Had a long talk with Emeline Fraser about the girls & the work. She most helpful. All glad the air is cleared about Sister A. and a rather false position mended. Rather annoyed with M. for taking too much direction of
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affairs upon herself, both as regards details of house and of my line of conduct.

84.

Sunday April 2. Very low physically. No voice all day. In bed to breakfast kept quiet. Wrote mail letters, a long one to E.D. Bradby about my troubles with Sister A.

About 11. arrived her cable saying Miss Jones could not come till autumn, possible not then. Again I proposed Miss Grasett or Miss Heard.

Constance & M. busy arranging their rooms after the change and Sister A. settled into her room at the van Heerdens. Went a short walk rather late & sat under the aloe shade as I had neither strength or voice. To bed very early, rubbed with Elliman.

85.

Monday April 3 Breakfast in bed. Voice a little bit better. Very little in school. Sat in the "Green room &
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prepared a lace sampler for Constance also in the afternoon gave her the first lesson. Long visit from Emeline Fraser who kindly found a Kaffir girl for us in room of Mrs. Boshoff who asked to treble her wages & also we are glad to get rid of. M. read aloud "Persuasion" in the evening.

86.

Tuesday April 4 Lovely weather. Still bed for breakfast, but I felt stronger & was more in school. Dialina Reusburg in school, new girl.

Began Angora spinning. Finished brown wool. After dinner slept, very tired. Mr. Steytler came to see me about the wools & I offered to take back the lamb's wool - too short. Lace lesson. Dr & Mrs. Strachan called. After school walked with M. to the cemetery. Jacoba Gurlin[?] began knitting machine.

Cable to E.D.B to urge[?] Miss Grasset or Miss Heard to come cost £2.17.6

87.

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Wednesday April 5 Constance away to the Geitenbach's farm with E. Fraser to spend the day. Brought home flowers, plants & mealies. We alone, found conversation hard, somehow Sister A. cannot join in it, & studiously to include her now that she is no longer #a stranger but# an inmate feels artificial & forced besides being very fatiguing. The 15 girls were good & interested but the day was oppressive & we teachers found the time long. M. & I half swept the school at 6. as Moses did not appear & the light begins to fade early. Working with Angora & Margaret has produced a baby's sock with this wool.

No "Friend" ⁵ arrived yet, & it becomes tiresome to have no daily paper.

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In the evenings we are reading aloud "Persuasion". My voice has failed & now Margaret is reader, but I fancy it tries her a little. We go to bed at 9. pm, & glad to get there. Mr. Fraser is gone to Bloemfontein.

88.

Thursday April 6 Mail day. I felt very poorly & staying in bed for breakfast was a trifle late for school. A new girl making it 16. The black girl Marie arrived & looks promising. Mrs. Boshoff departed & Moses delighted. Margaret was saddened by the death of her great aunt aged 88 the news of which reached her. Davel brought the pipe and

⁵ The Friend, a Bloemfontein newspaper

put up the stove so now we
can wash & dye. Corded the
stoep to prevent impudent
prying at the windows.

Work full of interest but anxious
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my one home letter from Aunt
Mary - short and rather shaky
obviously written with effort,
but if she were gone I should
have no regular correspondent
none to whom I ought to write
or from whom I am sure of a
letter. In fact "home" exists not
for me and I begin to fear
never will. The last days of
this year are passing & on Sunday
I shall be 45 and at that
age one cannot hope or expect
that the one longed for joy of
a real home ever will be given.
One looks back on the long
weary years of toil and travel
& discomfort and one longs
for a settlement & certainty
of rest bodily & mental.
Will my 46th year bring it?
I dare hope no more.