

# ALFRED CHAPMAN'S DIARY

January 1, 1869 - June 18, 1870

*Transcribed by Anne K. Chapman Merillat, 1991*

*Note: This is a small 4 1/2" x 7" book, black and brown in color. It is written in brown ink or black ink which has since faded. Alfred doesn't use all the Old English spellings that his father used (see Joseph's diary, 1843-1849). Like his father, he has a unique handwriting style. It is much less ornate than Joseph's and easier to read. I have skipped a space between page changes. I have also added punctuation where needed for clarity. AKM*

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## Alfred Chapman's Diary 1869

January 1st I wish I had commenced to keep a diary at 15 years of age and continued it to the present time. It appears to me that the various incidents in the history of my life have been of a very peculiar character and if they had all been recorded it would have been very useful for me to reflect on in after life. On looking back over the past I am convinced that an allwise Providence has been directing & overruling my proceedings and although things in

general have worked against me I hope and trust it will eventually be all for the best. I now commence to keep a diary with the intention to continue it. I will make no determined resolution to do so because I know if I were to do so in my own strength I would fail but I humbly beseech my Almighty Creator to assist me to carry out my intention well this day January 1st. Walked to Dunsbear Farm (Mr. Lawrence Ashton's) this morning and from there to Winscott. Had about one hour and half's interview with I.C.M. Stevens, Esqr.

in reference to my relation to him as tenant of Specott Barton. I referred him to the unjust treatment he had subjected me to & told him plainly I could not and would not stand it. He admitted he had neglected the repairs and promised once more after deceiving so many times that it should be done. Said he intended Little Specott for me. If words have any meaning the interview was favorable but I am very sorry to say that I put very little confidence in his words he has so grossly misled and deceived me so many times.

Seeing the position he occupies as a magistrate, as a Captain in the Yeomanry, as a practical farmer, and as a so-called leader (being chairman of the committee) of the Conservative Party in North Devon, his words ought to be valued at a very different price.

Jan 2nd Saturday Home in the forenoon. Called at Mr. Tanton's at yard on my way to Torrington Market. Mr. Wm. Sanders paid me cheque for wheat L 16.17.0

Jan 3rd Walked to Merton Chapel at 11 A.M. Mr. Poole and his children came to practice with the harmonium. Home in the afternoon. Wm. Bailey

came back to tea, walked to chapel with him in the evening. Mr. John Hopper preached. Text: Lord revive thy work. Home about 9.

Jan 4th Monday Home all day winnowing wheat &c.

John Ashton called in the evening.

Jan 5th Tuesday A very rough stormy morning, rode to Great Torrington. Paid N. Provincial Bank on acct. L 12.0.0. Received the book & half-years-old cheques. Had a rather long consultation with Mr. Ashplant, partly on planning a four wheel donkey carriage for the children to ride to Merton School. Saw a Mr. Wright about drawing his

caravans from Torrington to Okehampton. Came home about 3 p.m. Lewis Ellis here repairing the threshing machine.

Jan 6th Was invited to Exbourne today rifle shooting for prizes and to dine with Capt. Madden and a few friends at Mr. Wm. Peake's but could not conveniently go. Was taking in barley in the morn. Walked to yard and on to Mr. Lane's, Smallridge, rabbit shooting. Home about 5:30 p.m. 9 guns, 40 killed. Walked to Merton Chapel about 7:30. Meeting held for the purpose of reletting the seats after the enlargement and reseating. I paid my

seat rent up to Xmas 1868 for the old seat viz. 7/0 and one quarters rent for 5 seats at 4d each per quarter up to Lady Day next. Very successful meeting. I believe the seats were all let but 5 or 6. Home about 10:30.

Jan 7th Home all day threshing Furze close barley. Wm. Clarke called to see fat cow and fat wethers, could not deal. Lost a sheep. Found it dead in Specott Down Barnpark.

Barometer 29.85

Thermometer 48. in hall

Jan 8th Home winnowing barley and taking in oats. Rode over to Mr. Tanton's at yard in eve. Called at the Gribble Inn on my

way home to see Mr. Tanton. Staid a short time. Had a not unprofitable conversation for an inn, on the Atlantic telegraph, Great Eastern steamships, hydraulic pressure, hydrostatics, &c. &c.

Home about 8:30 P.M.

Barometer 29.97

Thermometer 48. in the hall

Jan 9th Threshing and winnowing oats in the forenoon. To Torrington market in the afternoon, saw Sam Duffy. Took tea at Mr. Ashplant's. A serious accident occurred by Butcher Tanton's horse running away. Bought Mr. Gladstone's speeches delivered in Lancashire.

Barometer 29.95

Thermometer 48. in the hall

Jan 10th Sunday Home in the morning. Went to Merton Chapel in the afternoon. Heard Mr. Holmes from Exbourne preach. Text Rev. 14 B. 13. V. "And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me: Write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the spirit, that they rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Last night after I went to bed and today have read three of the speeches delivered by Mr. Gladstone at Warrington, Liverpool, and Newton chiefly on the Irish Church establishment, reform and public expenditure.

Barometer 29.65

Thermometer 46. - in the hall

Jan 11th Home threshing and winnowing oats.

Jno. Stacey completed the improvement in the road at stone post. Told Mr. Clarke of sheep and 2 cows for L 45.6.0

Barometer 29.60  
Thermometer 46. - in the hall  
Weather very mild, much like April.

Jan 13th Home all day. Mr. Edmond Tanton went over the farm with me and valued the repairs that I have done, also the repairs now wanted. He staid until past 9 p.m. Had a long and pleasant chat with him. Walked nearly all the way to Gribble with him. Came back about 11 p.m.

Barometer 29.31  
Thermometer 40 outside the door

Jan 14th Home all day. Fitted up some board hen's nests in the calves house. Mr. Lawrence Ashton Senr. called in the eve and invited Bessie and I to Dunsbear tomorrow at tea and spend the eve.

Barometer 28.86  
Thermometer 42 outside

Jan 15th, 1869 Home all day. Finished fitting up the hen's nests. John Thorne called about 4:30 p.m. Staid until 9:30. Was prevented from going to Dunsbear for which I was sorry, the Ashtons are such good behaved neighbourly people. But I believe I enjoyed myself more in my conversation with J. Thorne.

Barometer 29.45  
Thermometer 36 outside at 6 p.m., 43 at 10:30 p.m.

Jan 16th Home all day. In the afternoon went ferreting rabbits at Specott Downs with John Ashton. Caught 4.

Barometer 29.52  
Thermometer 48 outside

Jan 17th, 1869 Sunday. Walked to Merton Church a.m. Mr. Kempe preached: Text Philipians 3rd Chap. 20th verse. "For our conversation is in Heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ." Home in the afternoon. Walked to Merton Chapel in the evening. Heard Mr. Madge, a stranger to me. Text: Jeremiah 8th Chap. 22nd Verse. "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

Barometer 29.70  
Thermometer 40 outside

Jan 18th Home until 6 p.m.  
Mr. Crocker, cattle dealer, called. About 6 walked to Merton.

(Jan 18) 1869 Called at Mr. Robins and Mr. Clarke's. Brought home microscope. John Mills called about the fat pigs while I was away.

Barometer 29.87  
Thermometer 43.

Jan 19th Home all day. Sold J. Mills pork pig at 10s/6d per score.

Barometer 20.90  
Thermometer 42.

Jan 20th Home all day. Taking in turnips from lower newer park.

Barometer 29.77  
Thermometer 42.

Jan 21st Home all day. Taking in turnips from lower newer park. Mr. Wm. Rowtcliffe called for the property ins.

Barometer 29.68

Thermometer 33.

Jan 22nd, 1869 Home in the forenoon. In the afternoon went to Lambert farm rabbit shooting with Mr. Lawrence Ashton, his three sons, Mr. W. Tucker of Monk Okehampton and others.

Total guns 8. Killed 29 rabbits and 1 hare. I only shot 2 rabbits and the hare. Spent the evening at Dunsbear.

Barometer 29.75

Thermometer 32.

Jan 23rd Home all day. The foxhounds and a score or more horsemen came across the farm three times during the day and did a good bit of damage in riding over the turnips and wheat. I walked out and saw them a little. I have ridden out with them

a few times before now but as my conscience did not feel comfortable afterwards I have given it up and do not intend to commence it again.

Barometer 29.42

Thermometer 32.

Jan 24th Sunday. Walked to Merton Church in the morning. Mr. Kempe preached text Gen. 1st Chap. 31st verse. "And God saw every thing that He had made, and Behold it was very good." He dwelt on the work, wisdom, and love of God. Afternoon home. Evening walked to Merton Chapel. Mr. Banbury preached. Text: Hebrews Chap. 11th, Verses 24, 25, & 26th, "By faith Moses when he was come to years

refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."

Barometer 29.57

Thermometer 26.

Jan 25th Home all day loading dung drawn to Furze close. Fred Chapman called in the evening.

Barometer 29.36

Thermometer 40.

Frosty morn. Dry fine day.

Jan 26th, 1869. Home all day. Met I. Bawden in Specott Moor. He said a good deal about Mr. Moore Stevens's peculiar manner and that his sons did not like him.

Barometer 29.30

Thermometer 41. Mild and dry.

Jan 27th Home until about 4 p.m. Walked to Moorhill to see Thos. Snell who has been ill in the bilious fever. Took tea and spent the evening. Had 3 games of chess with T. Snell. There is to be an eclipse of the moon tonight but as it is cloudy now it is not probable that we shall be able to see it.

Barometer 28.75

Thermometer 43.

Mild, cloudy, dry day. Misty rain in eve.

Jan 28th, 1869 Home until 7 p.m. Walked to Dunsbear in the eve. Home about 9 p.m. There has been a pigeon shooting match at Merton today. Was pressed by some friends to go. I am very fond of shooting, but I cannot agree with the principle of pigeon matches at an inn. I never shot at but one and I hope I shall never do it again.

Barometer 28.20

Thermometer 48. Query glass wet.

Mild, bright, dry day. Very stormy evening.

Jan 29th, 1869 Home all day. Rook, Willoughby, & I went ferreting in the afternoon. Killed 5 rabbits. Mr. Smith called for subs. for the Western

Times. Bessie paid him. I was not in.

Barometer 28.37

Thermometer 38.

Wet, windy night. Stormy day. Little snow in eve.

Jan 30th, 1869 Home nearly all day. Walked to Dunsbear in the morning.

Barometer 28.68

Thermometer 42.

Dry night. Dry, mild day. Bright at intervals. Stormy eve.

Jan 31st, 1869 Walked to Merton Church in morning. Mr. Kempe preached text, "And man became a living soul." Gen., 2nd Chap. 7th verse. Home remainder of day.

Barometer 28.42

Thermometer 48.

Stormy night, thunder & lightning. Showery day & eve.

Feb 1st, 1869 Home all day. Winnowing barley &c.

Barometer 28.50 (at 12. at noon 28.10)

Thermometer 48.

Stormy night and day.

Feb 2nd, 1869 Home all day.

Barometer 29.30

Thermometer 36.

Mild, dry bright day & eve.

Feb 3rd, 1869 Home all day about the drain through yard & orchard. Mr. Thos. Paddan called in about noon, staid until 4 p.m.

Barometer 29.40

Thermometer 48.

Wet night. Misty rain nearly all day.

Feb 4th, 1869 Home until 6 p.m. about drain & bridge in the yard. To Merton in the eve.

Mr. Ed. Clarke paid

me balance of accts. 37L.5s.0d. Spent 2 or 3 hours at Mr. Robins.

Baro. 29.57

Thermo. 46.

Misty rain in night, mild, dry day, and bright & cloudy at intervals. At 1 a.m. bright starlight.

Feb 5th, 1869 Home all day. About hedge trough in rushy meadow.

Feb 6th, 1869 Home until 12 a.m.

Afternoon to Torrington Market. Fred. Chapman came just as I was going. Went to T. with me. Paid Mr. Colwill Balance L6.5.0 at P. Bank on acct. L37.5.0. Had a long talk with Mr. Gould about Dr. West's affair.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 47.

Quite a summer's day.

Feb 7th, 1869. Sunday. Walked to Merton Church. Mr. Fairclough preached text Luke 18th Chap., 32 & 33<sup>rd</sup> verses. "For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated and spitted on; and they shall scourge him and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again." He dwelt long on the appropriateness of the text to the time, viz. "Sunday before Lent" and spoke of the privilege of having such a season as Lent for the purpose of fasting & prayer. I did not much like the sermon and fear if we never get any better, there would be very little good done in our churches. Home in the afternoon. Walked to Merton Chapel in the eve.

Mr. Madge preached text 9th Psalm, 14th verse. "I will rejoice in thy salvation."

Baro. 29.30

Thermo. 48.

Little rain in night. Misty day. Stormy, windy eve.

Feb 8th, 1869 Home until 1 p.m. To Sheepwash to meet Fred. Chapman in the afternoon & to load home timber from loft. Rode on to Black Torrington. Uncle Edmund paid me L 10.8.0 balance of accts. Sold him 2 loads of more barley at 5s/3d per bus'l.

Called to Mr. Vansbanis at Woodhead on my way home about attaching chaff cutter to threshing machine.

Baro. 28.95

Thermo. 51.

Wet night, windy stormy day.

Feb 9th, 1869. Home all day. Caught a mole today. White all over.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 46.

Windy night & windy day with little rain.

Feb 10th, 1869 Home all day. Killed a pig of the long white sort. 23 score exactly.

Baro. 29.43

Thermo. 48.

Rainy night, misty rain with wind day & eve.

Feb 11th, 1869 Home all day. Ferretting rats & rabbits. Lost a ewe. Died in orchard.

Mild, misty rain night & day.

Baro. 29.57

Thermo. 42.

Feb 12th, 1869 Home all day. Put up the chaff boxes in stable with

Wm. Sanders. John Ashton called in the evening. Told us that Mrs. Gaydan of Barnstaple was very ill.

Baro. 29.34

Thermo. 42.

Terribly wet night, showery day. Waters landed.

Feb 13th, 1869 Home. Work with the carpenter about gates &c. Mr. Robins called about tea time. Took tea and staid until 9 p.m. Went part way to Merton with him.

Baro. 29.98

Thermo. 40.

Dry night, bright, mild, fine day.

Feb 14th, 1869 Home to forenoon. Afternoon walked to Merton Chapel with Willo., Rosy, & Alf. Mr. Banbury preached text

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversations received by tradition from your fathers but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1st Epistle Peter 1st Chap., 18th & 19th verses. After service walked to Merton. Took tea at Mr. Wm. Bailey's with Messrs. Poole & Chas. Bailey Ims.

Baro. 30.

Thermo. 44.

Dry night, cloudy day with slight showers.

Feb 15th, 1869 Home, to work with the carpenter. Mr. Josiah Lane called in the evening.

Feb 15th Baro. 29.80

Thermo. 44.

Damp night, misty rain forenoon. Dry, cloudy afternoon.

Feb 16th, 1869 To Bideford Market. C. Smah the servant girl went to sell the marketing. Settled accts. With Hunt Co. Dined at Pome's. Mr. Ashplant of Torrington rode back with us as far as the union house. Home about 7:30.

Baro. 29.40

Thermo. 46.

Dry night, cloudy day with slight showers.

Feb 17th, 1869 Home until 10:30. Walked to Mr. Lane's Smallridge rabbit shooting. 10 guns. Killed 51 rabbits & 2 woodcocks. I killed 3 & 2 woodcocks (out of season - I suppose I broke the law). Home about 9:15.

Baro. 29.15

Thermo. 40.

Mild, cloudy with occasional showers.

Feb 18, 1869 Home threshing barley. Alfd. Merton paid us a visit - staid about 4 hours & rode back to Winkleigh. Walked to Merton Chapel missionary meeting. Speakers Messrs. Lamb, L. Thorne, John Hopper, & Banbury. Wm. Ward, Chairman. Collections about L2.14.0

Baro. 20.30 Dry, bright, fine day.

Thermo. 34.

Feb 19th, 1869 Home all day. Winnowing barley.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 37. Dry night, slight frost. Dry mild bright day.

Feb 20th, 1869 Home until 12:30. Rode to Sheepwash in the afternoon. Waggon took home plank & e from the loft. First ewe for the season lambled last night. Double strong ewe lambs.

Feb 20th (continued) Today I have been strangely reminded of the proverb "Misfortunes seldom come singly". As I write we have a horse very bad, I fear inflammation; a calf with the diarrhea very ill; a ewe about to lamb but with much more danger than ordinary. Willoughby has a very severe cold, and Bessie is gone to bed very poorly indeed. I am happy to say that I am in perfect health and have much to thank my Heavenly Father for.

Baro. 29.20

Thermo. 40.

Showery night. Wet dirty day.

Feb 21st, 1869 Home all day. Attending the grey mare & the ewes. The former died this afternoon. Value about L 10.0.0. Mr. Penhale V.T. came

to see her. It is very unpleasant to spend the Sabbath like this.

Baro. 29.45

Thermo. 38.

Mild, bright, fine day.

Feb 22nd, 1869 Home. Taking in barley &c. Took a living lamb off the ewe (referred to on the 20th) late last night and this morning had a difficult case to take off 2 dead lambs from the same ewe. Bertie is very poorly.

Baro. 29.52

Thermo. 34.

Mild, dry, fine day.

Feb 23rd, 1869 Home. Threshed barley. 2 servant boys & 1 servant came to offer service.

Baro. 29.85

Thermo. 36.

Mild dry fine day.

Feb 24th, 1869 Home. Repairing the garden hedge by the front.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 40.

Dry morning, rather windy afternoon with heavy rain.

Feb 25th, 1869 Home. About garden hedge &c. Mr. Poole and Mr. Z. Smith called, canvassing for the Great Britain Insurance Office. Agreed with Wm. Cole (horseman) and Maria White (servant) to stay after Ladyday for the same wage.

Baro. 29.45 Thermo. 46.

Dry morning. Ground sea roared and the red was up in the East. Heavy rain commenced about 11:30 & wind & rain continued all day after. Wind NW.

Feb 26th, 1869 Home. Winnowing barley. Attached the chaff cutter to threshing machine and cut some chaff by horsepower for the first time since I came to Specott. I could not do so before for the want of a Barnsfloor.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 46.

Fine dry day. Misty rain & windy in evening.

Feb 27th, 1869 Home all day. Baby born (No.6 a girl) at 3.5 a.m. Greenwich time. Doctor Jones of Gt. Torrington and Nurse Bassett attending. Ewes brought forth 4 doubles and 1 single after yesterday 12 a.m. to today 9 a.m.

Baro. 29.75

Thermo. 48.

Showery morning. Dry, bright day rather cold N.W. wind

Feb 28th, 1869 Home. Sunday attending ewes and lambs. 3 ewes have swollen udders. Have learnt but little today. Have felt weary through breaking rest.

Baro. 29.27

Thermo. 40. Feb. average 43.8

Cold wind with storms: last night there was thunder & lightning.

March 1st, 1869 Home until 5:30. Dr. Jones Jr. & a lady with him called to see Bessie. He lanced Bertie's head. Evening rode to Merton at a meeting of the Committee of the Huish Cottage Garden Society. Agreed upon the prizes, rules &c. for the ensuing year.

Baro. 28.85

Thermo. 51.

Dry morn. Ground sea roared afternoon & eve. Very stormy with high wind.



March 2nd, 1869 Home until 1 p.m. Rode to Sheepwash in the afternoon. Loaded back timber in the waggon. Came back through Merton. Home about 6 p.m. John Snell called in the evening.

Baro. 29.25

Thermo. 35.

Very stormy night with thunder, lightning. Very stormy day.

Hard & high wind a regular hurricane.

March 3rd, 1869 Home. Ferretted rats & rabbits. Agreed with servant girl Stacey's daughter. Mrs. L. Ashton called to see Bessie.

Baro. 29.57

Thermo. 34.

Cold, cloudy day with very slight showers.

March 4th, 1869 Home. Chiefly attending to the ewes & lambs. Mrs. Goss and her daughter Annie called to see Bessie.

Dry cloudy mild.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 34.

March 5th, 1869 Home. Worked the chaff cutter part of the day. Mr. Gould called about 6 p.m. Took tea. I walked as far as Gribble with him.

Baro. 29.60

Thermo. 38.

Dry, bright at intervals. Rather cold wind.

March 6th, 1869 Home. Repairing garden for potatoes.

Bright, dry, mild, warm day, cold evening.

Baro. 29.75

Thermo. 33.

March 7th, 1869. Sunday. Evening walked to Merton Chapel. Mr. Wm. Hulls preached text 40th Psalm, 1st 2nd & 3rd verses. Saw John Snell to chapel for the first time.

Fine, dry, bright day. Rather cold wind.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 36.

9th Home. Tilled peas, onions, leeks and broccoli in the little garden. Took in Tarbarian oats. Miss M. A. Ashton called & took tea. J. Ashton called in the evening.

Very slight frosty morn. Dry day, sleet some places.

Baro. 28.85

Thermo. 38.

March 10th, 1869 Home. Tilled ash leaf kidney potatoes and 2 sorts of peas. Threshing oats in the afternoon. Mrs. Paddon, Grace Duffy and Mrs. L. Ashton took tea with us.

Dry, cold, cloudy, mild.

Baro. 28.75

Thermo. 34.

March 11th, 1869 Home attending stock & heifer in calving chiefly.

Dry, cold wind, bright & cloudy with one shower of sleet.

Baro. 29.

Thermo. 30.

March 12th, 1869 Home. Minded Tarbarian oats. Mary Talyssy and two Miss Bonifants called in the evening.

Frosty morn. Dry, bright warm mild beautiful day.  
Baro. 29.  
Thermo. 28.

March 13th, 1869 Home. Took in black oats.  
Snowy night, snow & sleet until noon. Afternoon dry, bright, very cold smart wind.  
Bright starlight at 9 p.m.  
Baro. 28.95  
Thermo. 29.

March 14th, 1869. Sunday. Home in the morning. Took off a calf from great heifer.  
Afternoon to Merton Chapel. Mr. Banbury preached text 2nd Cor., 5 Chap., 1st verse. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Home in the evening.  
Sharp frost in the morning, cold raw wind with occasional showers of sleet.

March 14th, 1869, Continued

Baro. 29.25  
Thermo. 27.

March 15th, 1869 Home. Began to till oats.  
Dry, bright, cold. Little frost a.m.  
Baro. 29.25  
Thermo. 28.

March 16th, 1869 Bideford Market. M. White servant girl went with me to sell the marketing. Home about 5:30. Rosy & Alfie walked up to meet us. 8 lambs since last night, 3 double & 2 singles.  
Dry, frosty morn, cloudy cold wind, began rain about 6 p.m. Rainy eve.  
Baro. 28.70  
Thermo. 40.

March 17th, 1869 Home. Staid up good part of last night looking after the sheep.  
Mr. R. Quance called

today, the Poors rate, paid him up to Ladyday 1869.  
Very wet night, showery morning. Dry, bright warm afternoon.  
Baro. 29.  
Thermo. 38.

March 18th, 1869 Home. Gardening in the forenoon. In the afternoon went round Little Specott rabbit shooting with Messrs. Milford, Hooper & L. & J. Ashton. John Ashton took tea with us. Up until 12 p.m. looking after lambs.  
Dry night. Dry day, cloudy and bright at intervals. Rather cold wind.  
Baro. 29.40  
Thermo. 37.

March 19th, 1869 Home. Threshing and winding oats.  
Showery night. Rainy day with very high wind.  
Baro. 28.95  
Thermo. 36.

March 20th, 1869 Torrington Cattle Market. Cattle were selling well. Beef 13s/0d p. score, mutton 9d to 9 1/2d per lb. Were steers 3 years old from 14L to 18L each. Met with L. Dufty, I. Bowds, Z. Robins, Snells, Ashtons & many other friends. Had a long chat with Mr. E. Fants at Miss Fowler's.

Very rough windy night - dry, cold, windy day.

Baro. 29.23

Thermo. 38.

March 21st, 1869. Sunday. Drove to chapel with Bessie, Willoughby & Alfred. Rosamond and Herbert came to meet us. Mr. Weeks of Iddesleigh preached text 9th Chap. 2nd Chron., 18th verse. "And there were six steps to the throne." Home in the eve.

Dry, cold wind, bright & cloudy.

March 21st Continued

Baro. 29.45

Thermo. 36.

March 22nd, 1869 Home. Winding oats. Dry, bright day with little wind. Rather cold.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 38.

March 23d Baro. 29.70

Thermo. 31.

Drove to Bullhead Iddesleigh. Bessie with me. Mr. & Mrs. Paddan told us about Grace Dufty's engagement to be married to G. Grendan. We think Grace has acted very foolishly in not having her money secured to herself as was at first agreed. Hope it may turn out well in the end. Mr. Paddan has sold a

pork pig at 11/6 per score, which is the highest price I ever remember.

Dry, cloudy. Cold wind.

Baro. 29.75

Thermo. 36.

March 24th, 1869 Baro. 29.75

Thermo. 27.

Home until 5 p.m. with the carpenter &e. After tea rode to Blacktorrington. Balanced accts. with Uncle Edmund. It happened to be quarterly meeting of the Shebbear circuit. Uncle & I went to the chapel in the eve. Expecting to hear addresses from two or three preachers. Mr. Dennis presided. He gave out an hymn & prayed after which he called on two young men

to address the meeting. When they declined to do so, Mr. D. continued to importune with them for several minutes with the congregation waiting and they still declined. It being nearly half past 8, Uncle & I left. Such an occurrence I never before witnessed. Came home about 11.

Slight frost, dry, cloudy cold day.

Baro. 29.70

Thermo. 35. at 11:30.

March 25th, 1869 Baro. 29.70

Thermo. 32.

Home in the forenoon. After dinner rode to Merton at the vestry meeting. Mr. L. Ashton and Mr. Snell of Moonhill were appointed overseers. Mr. Kernfar, Way warden. Mr. Goss

and myself assessors for the year ensuing. Spent an hour or so at the Merton School after the meeting with the farmers. Took tea and spent the eve with Mr. Goss at Mr. Robins's. Came home with Mr. Goss who appeared delighted at what he considered to be a monopoly among the Parish officers.

Baro. 29.65 Dry cold.

Thermo. 39.

March 26th, 1869 Baro. 29.65 Good Friday

Thermo. 40.

Walked to Merton Chapel. A very good congregation. Mr. Kempe preached text Isaiah 53d Chap., 5 Verse. "He was wounded for our transgressions." Came back to Moonhill with John Snell and dined. Home

to tea. Read the speeches of Mr. Gladstone, Coleridge, Bright and others in the debate on the Irish Church Bill. Majority in favour of 118.

For the bill	368
<u>Against</u>	<u>250</u>
Majority	118

Baro. 29.40 Dry cold.

Thermo. 40.

March 27th, 1869 29.30 Baro.

Thermo. 32.

Home until 2 p.m. Rode to Torrington Market. Saw Messrs. Loveland & Blatchford on Albert Chapman's business. Bot laver &c.

Baro. 29.20 Snowstorms & sunshine at intervals.

Thermo. 34.

March 28th, 1869 Baro. 29.

Thermo.

Home in the morning seeking

March 28th contd 1869 sheep. Afternoon home. Bessie walked to chapel. Mr. Carrsey came back to tea. Walked to chapel in the eve. Mr. Carrsey preached text Dan. 6th Chap., 20th verse.

Baro. 29.10 Dry cold.

Thermo. 31.

Mar 29th Home until 2 p.m. Walked to Merton Easter vestry meeting. Accts. audited. Cash on hand up to today about 24 L church rate accts. Rate for last year 3d in L. None made for this year yet. Staid at Mr. Robins couple hours.

Baro. 29.30 Dry cold.

Thermo. 31.

March 30th, 1869 Hatherleigh Market. Had an interview with Mr. Pearse on the office of assessor

and in reference to making a will. Settled accts. With Mr. R. Strang, Mr. W. D. Blatchford, and Messrs. Glass & Rockhey. Bessie has been to Bideford Market. Butter 19d per lb.

Baro. 29.40 Dry cold.

Thermo. 34.

March 31st, 1869 Home until 6 p.m. Walked to Little Potheridge. Saw Mr. Wm. Rowtcliff about the assessed taxes received from him the Collector's Duplicate for 1868 and the Land Tax Assessments for 1867/8 & 1868/9. Went back to chapel, Chapel Building Committee meeting.

Baro. 29.35 Dry cold.

Thermo. 36.

April 1st, 1869 Home all day. Revd. J. C. Kempe called in the afternoon. Staid talking with me for upwards of two hours principally on parish & church subjects. Told him I had no objection to church rates, that I was willing to pay whatever the rest of the ratepayers would but I believed it would be better to trust to the voluntary contributions of its members at once than

to endeavour to keep up the rate and to be eventually obliged to give it up. Mrs. Robins & Thos. Snell called and spent the evening.

Dry cold.

Baro. 29.35

Thermo. 33.

April 2nd, 1869 Home tilling potatoes in Little Down. After tea

rode round with some of the notices of assessed taxes.

Dry, mild morning. Misty rain in afternoon, windy eve.

Baro. 29.5

Thermo. 43.

April 3rd, 1869 Rode to Torrington market after dinner. Came back and bathed the heifer's udder which I am afraid will be a very bad case. It is very difficult to get out any milk and the udder is very large and swollen. In front of the udder there is a knot swollen as big as my hat.

Dry, mild, cold. Windy eve.

Baro. 28.90

Thermo. 34.

April 4th, 1869 Sunday. Annie's birthday. 2 years old.

Sunday. contd. Bessie, Willoughby, Alfred & I drove to Merton church. Mr. Kempe preached text 20th C. St. John, 21<sup>st</sup> verse. "Then said Jesus unto them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father has sent me even so send I you." Walked to Merton chapel in the eve. Mr. Kempe preached text 20th C.Rev., 11 & 12 verses.

Baro. 29.30

Thermo. 37.

Dry cold showers flying above vane here.

April 5th, 1869 Home until 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Saml. Bulleise called to see fat cow. Sold it at 13/- per score. Walked to Dunsbear to meet Bessie. Settled accts.

with Mr. Lawrence Ashton. Home about 9:30 p.m.

Baro. 29.60

Thermo. 41.

Dry, mild, rather cold.

April 6th, 1869 Home until 6 p.m. Rode round with papers respecting the assessed taxes.

Showery day.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 48.

April 7th, 1869 Home drilling barley in laver grass. Walked to Merton rectory in the eve.

Had a long conversation with Revd. Mr. Kempe chiefly on the church rate question. Came back with Thos. Snell.

Dry fine day.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 46.

April 8th, 1869 Home tilling potatoes in Little Down.

Misty rain, very mild.

Baro. 29.48

Thermo. 44.

April 9th, 1869 Home until 6 p.m. Walked to Moonhill & accidentally met J. Goss & his 2 sisters & Harry Clarke. Spent a very agreeable eve. Thos. Snell's birthday, 25 years old. Mild, dry, colder this afternoon than yesterday.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 42.

April 10th, 1869 Home all day. Drilled Ewes, Close barley.

Very warm day, bright, mild.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 50.

April 11th, 1869 Sunday. Willoughby &

I walked to Merton church. Mr. Kempe preached, text Numbers 23rd C., 10th verse. "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his." The Psalms for today, viz. the 56th & 57th, suited me exactly under present circumstances. I would recommend all who are in the midst of difficulties and conflicts to read those beautiful Psalms. John Snell & Misses Eliza & Ursula Ashton came to tea and spent the evening.

Very hot, bright, mild.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 54.

April 12th, 1869 Home. Mixing guano salt &c. and weighing up potatoes.

April 12th contd. Dry, mild, bright, warm.

Baro. 29.80

Thermo. 51.

April 13th, 1869 Bideford Market.

Dry, mild, bright, warm.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 48.

April 14th, 1869 Home. Sowed 3/4 cwt. of nitrate of soda & 1/2 cwt. of guano per acre over the wheat in Lower Down & 3 cwt. of salt per acre. Bessie went to Potheridge to tea & I went about 8. Staid until about 10. Came at Specott gate by 10:20. Found it locked. Had to lift Bessie over the gate.

Dry, bright, very hot. Thermometer in shade at 1 p.m. 72.

Baro. 29.40

Thermo. 48.

April 15th, 1869 Rode to Hatherleigh to see weight of fat cow at 13/- p-score. Took breakfast at Mr. John Bullied's. Went on to Bullhead. Staid until about 3 p.m. Home to tea after walking over the farm. Walked to Gribble to the drill of Marland Troop N.D. M. Rifles.

Baro. 29.

Thermo. 43. Foggy morning. Misty rain with one smart shower.

April 16th, 1869 Home threshing & winding oats. Mr. Wm. Rowtcliff called for assessed income taxes. Paid him up to March 20th, 1869.

Very wet forenoon. Dry, windy afternoon. Showery eve.

Baro. 28.70

Thermo. 42.

April 17th, 1869 Rode to Hill Gt. Torrington. Paid Mr. E. Tanton L 60.18.9 together with 1/2 years income tax receipts L 1.11.3 Made L 62.10.0 buy 1/2 years rent of Specott up to March 25th 1868. Came back to Torrington Market. Home about 7 p.m.

Windy, cold with occasional showers.

Baro. 29.15

Thermo. 42.

April 18th, 1869 Sunday. Walked to Merton Church with Rosamond and Alfred. Mr. Kempe preached text Luke 10th C., 9th verse. "And heal the sick that are therein and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." Rosy & Alfy stopped at Dunsbear. Home in the afternoon. Bessie walked to chapel with Willoughby.

April 18th contd. 1869. Home in eve.

Dry, mild, bright, cold.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 40.

April 19th, 1869 Home. Finished tilling spring corn in Middle Down. Dr. Jones called and vaccinated Annie and Helena Mary. Told me that Mr. Joseph Rirdan that formerly lived here at Specott is now lying dead.

Dry, rather cold, little wind.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 44.

April 20th, 1869 Home. After tea walked over to yard and George Andrews about the thatching.

Heavy showers most of the day.

Baro. 29.30

Thermo. 44.

April 21st, 1869 Home. Took in wheat. Mowed west barn park. Killed 9 rats in it. 3 escaped.

Fine, dry, mild, warm.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 49.

April 22nd, 1869 Home. Finished sowing clover and laver. After tea rode to Gribble to the drill of the Marland Troop.

Mild, dry, bright.

Baro. 29.50

Thermo. 48.

April 23rd, 1869 Rode to Barnstaple. Tom Goss accompanied me. Agreed with Messrs. Gaydon & Green for quarters and stables when the cavalry meet on the 27th May. Took dinner & tea at Mr. Merton's.

Mild, fine, with one slight shower.

Baro. 29.60

Thermo. 42.

April 24th, 1869 Home all day. Gardening &e.

Dry, bright, warm.

Baro. 29.68

Thermo. 48.

April 25th, 1869 Sunday. Willoughby, Alfred & I walked to Merton church. Revd. Mr. Kempe preached text Luke 16th Chap., 31st verse. "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." Home in afternoon. Walked to Merton chapel in eve with Willoughby. Mr. Glass preached text.

Dry, mild, warm foggy eve.

Baro. 29.75

Thermo. 46.

April 26th, 1869 Home. Walked to Potheridge after tea for

April 26th contd. Mr. Goss to sign the assessors certificates & land tax assessment. Dr. Jones' son called to see the children's arms that were vaccinated.

Dry, hot, mild.

Baro. 29.70

Thermo. 52.

April 27th, 1869 Bideford Market. Sold 40 bushels of wheat 62 lbs. per busl at 6/- Recd. of Mr. Champion balance due on potatoes. Mr. Ashplant rode back to Torrington with us.

Dry, hot with huffling wind.

Baro. 29.65

Thermo. 56. 9:15 a.m.

April 28 Walked to Merton after tea. Called at Mr. Robins. He walked back part way with me.

Dry, hot, little wind.

Baro. 29.70

Thermo. Broke thermometer. About 51.

April 29th, 1869 Hatherleigh with Mr. I. Goss with the assessed papers. Came home to tea. Rode to Gribble to drill of the Marland Troop.

Dry, hot, rather windy.

Baro. 29.70

Thermo. About 50.

April 30th, 1869 Home all day. Done the lambs with Bissett Prehedant, 7 fat lambs &c.

Dry, bright, cold wind.

Baro. 29.60

Thermo. in hall 55.

May 2nd, 1869 Sunday. Home until after tea. Walked to chapel. Mr. Saml. Piper preached text. Isaiah 12 Chapter, 2d verse.

Dry, cloudy, mild, a few drops of rain.

Baro. 29.52

Thermo. in hall 55.

May 3rd, 1869 Thos. Tanton told me about a fortnight since that he had accidentally heard that Squire Stevens intended giving me notice to quit the farm. Today I have heard that he intends putting Quarry Hills and Specott Moor to this and to take away Specott Downs. I think it very likely that he intends to injure me and it is because I did not vote for his candidate

at the county election, viz. Mr. Weldron. I have been much troubled and weighed down about it this morning. I feel I have no human friend to guide and direct me but I know there is a Divine friend, "a friend above all others" who can and will arrange all things for the best to those who love and serve him and to him this morning I have appealed in my deep distress and he has heard my prayer. When I arose from my knees I opened the Bible to those words "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most high, Therefore he brought down

their heart with labour; they fell down and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of



darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bonds in sunder. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness & for his wonderful works to the children of men." Psalm 107th, verses 11,12,13,14,15.

Nothing could be more suitable to me on the present occasion. It ought to be sufficient to keep me from doubting as long as I live. But I cannot lay hold of it as firmly as I

might. Lord help me. I know it is correct & true. Fifteen years ago this day I broke my leg. It was a narrow escape with my life. I kept my bed 8 weeks & my leg is nearly an inch shorter. During these 15 years I have not lived to God as I ought. May the Lord help me to live for the future a more holy life and to trust for salvation on the merits of Christ & him crucified.

Finished planting mangold wurzel today in front field.

Cloudy forenoon, afternoon beautiful, rain, mild, warm.

Barometer 29.15.

Thermo. in hall 55.

May 4th, 1869 Torrington Fair and Agricultural Exhibition

Sold 7 lambs

at 26s/-d each & 2 ewes at 52s/-d each to Mr. Ed. Clarke.

Soaking rain all day.

Baro. 29.30.

Thermo. 50.

May 5th, 1869 Home winding wheat &c. Walked to Merton chapel meeting about making arrangements for the bazaar.

Showery day.

Baro. 29.

Thermo. 50.

May 6th, 1869 Home all day. Raining nearly all day.

Baro. 28.45

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 7th, 1869 Home until after tea. Walked to Grange Mr. Poole's & Mr. Clarke's & Mr. Robin's, Merton.

Raining nearly all day.

Baro. 28.45.

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 8th, 1869 Home. All day felt very poorly in my head.

Cloudy with occasional showers.

Baro. 28.85

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 9th, 1869 Sunday. Walked to Merton church in the morn. Mr. Kempe preached. Saw Mr. Thos. Rockhey there. Walked to chapel in the eve. Mr. Banbury preached.

Wet day.

Baro. 28.90

Thermo 55 in hall.

May 10th, 1869 Home all day. Threshing and winnowing wheat. Mr. Pile's entire house came. Today I am 33 years of age, being about the average age of man. Since I was born in 1836, I suppose there have been as many passed out of the world as there were then in it. Shall I or shall I not live through another generation? It is very unlikely, but I hope & trust and believe that if I do not I shall go to a better country where there shall be no more pain or sorrow and where all tears shall be wiped away. I find it is no use to think that we can live here without

trouble & sorrow because whenever one difficulty is surmounted another comes. Help me O God to trust in that gracious promise  
"As thy days so shall thy strength be."

Showery day.

Baro. 28.97

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 11th, 1869 Bideford Market. Brought home some goods for Merton Chapel Bazaar.  
Fine dry day. Rather cold.

Baro. 29.40

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 12th, 1869 Home taking in oats. Walked to Merton in the eve to assist in making arrangements for Bazaar & Tea tomorrow.

Fine dry day.

Baro. 29.60

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 13th, 1869 Home to forenoon. Afternoon rode to Merton Rectory to pay tithe up to Lady day 1869. Went from there to the Bazaar in behalf of the Bible Christian Chapel at Merton held at the Grange Farm, Mr. Poole's.

Fine dry day.

Baro. 29.60

Thermo. 54 in the hall.

May 14th, 1869 Home all day. Was invited to Potheridge rook shooting but felt too indisposed to go. Miss M. A. Ashton called in the eve.

Dry, cold wind, cloudy.

Baro. 29.45

Thermo. 53 in hall.

May 15th, 1869 Torrington Market. Had some oils of Mr. Penhale to rub in horse leg and had a little conversation with Mr. Penhale about Little Speccott.

Dry, cold, cloudy.

Baro. 29.20

Thermo. 55 in hall.

May 16th, 1869 Sunday. Walked to Merton Chapel in the eve. A. Poole and Mr. Halls preached text Isaiah 55 C., 1st verse. Uncle William spent the day with us.

Icy, wet.

Baro. 29.20

Thermo. 53.

May 17th, 1869 Home all day threshing oats &c. R. Hooper called. Took tea with us.  
Icy. Heavy rain with thunder.

Baro. 28.95

Thermo. 55.

May 18th, 1869 Rode to Bullhead. From there to Sticklepath. Saw Mr. Wood's premises Flour & Bone mills &c. for the first time. From there to Oxenham. Mr. Grendas walked over the farm back to Bullhead. Stopped the night.

Very wet, storms.

Baro. *(no entry made)*

May 19th, 1869 Rode home from Bullhead &c.

Baro. 29.

May 20th, 1869 After tea walked to Merton. Drilled with the Marland Troop in Mr. Clarke's field. Spent the eve at Mr. Robins with Mr. Cabo,

Thos. Goss, Mrs. Bowden, Misses Ashton & Gosses.

Dry fine day.

Baro. 29.40

May 21st, 1869 Home after tea walked to Yard Rifle Practice.

Dry fine day.

Baro. 29.50

May 22nd, 1869 Rode the pony to Torrington Market. Mr. Robins came back with me. Took tea.

Baro. 29.60

Dry with occasional showers.

May 23rd, 1869 Rode to Merton Church with Bessie, Willoby & Rosy. Mr. Kempe preached text 2Cor. 13C., 14 v. Home in afternoon. Walked in to Potheridge after tea to take home Rosy.

Dry day. Cloudy.

Baro. 29.55

May 24th, 1869 Queen's Birthday. 50 years of age today.

May we never get a worse monarch on the throne. I do not wish for a better. Home all day winding oats &c.

Slight showers & cloudy.

Baro. 29.25

May 25th, 1869 Bessie & I drove to Bideford Market.

Cloudy with few showers.

Baro. 29.

May 26th, 1869 Home all day preparing to go to Barnstaple tomorrow to the meeting of the North Devon Hussars. Dear me how time passes. I joined the Regiment in 1852 just 17 years ago. There has been only 2 promotions since that date one of which has fallen to my lot. When I joined the Regiment was

called the North Devon Yeomanry Cavalry. It then changed to North Devon Mounted Rifles and is now North Devon Hussars, by Her Majesty's royal command.

Cloudy with few showers.

Baro. 28.90

May 27th, 1869

(Note: Nothing more written here)

Jan 24, 1870 On the 27th of May I went to Barnstaple for 8 days exercise in the North Devon Hussars and I have neglected writing my diary ever since. When I began I was afraid I should not continue. Now I hope to make a start again. Today Saml. Dufty and Thos. Paddon paid us a visit and went at Winscott to see Mr. Stevens about my

leaving as he gave me 6 months notice to leave on Sept.28, 1869. It seems very probable that we shall have to leave at Lady day next & I cannot see my way clear what to do. Oh Lord do thou direct me I beseech thee for the sake of the dear children thou has given me.

My mind is inclined for America.

Jan 25th, 1870 Rode to Hatherleigh. Paid the Land Tax, Income Tax & Inhabited House duty to the Receiver. Saw Mr. Pearse about will. Mr. John Strang is now lying dead. Poor

Fellow. Last time I was in Hatherly I took tea with him. When I came in he was engraving to breastplate for the coffin of old Mrs. Madge Frier's Hele.

Poor old woman. She was very partial to me. Came back to Sheepwash in company of Robt. Puddicorn and Saml. Pile. Went on to Blacktorrington. Called on Dr. Gwen & Uncle Edmund. Came back to Woodhead. Gave Mr. Tanton cheque of L 10.00 on acct.

Jan 26th, 1870 Walked to Merton in the eve to see Mr. Kempe. Spent couple hours with Mr. Robins.

Jan 27th, 1870 Bessie & I drove to Winkleigh to a family party. Met Mr. & Mrs. Paddon, Mr. & Mrs. Ward, Mr. & Mrs. Grendon, Mr. & Mrs. S. Dufty and Mr. & Mrs. Meikan & Mrs. Dunston. Had some conversation with them all about the

unfortunate position in which I am placed with my tyrannical landlord. One would have done one thing if they had been in my place, another would have done another thing. I find I must keep my own counsel and act upon my own judgement. They all agree that under present circumstances as emmigration is the best course. If I must really leave I think so too; perhaps next year by this time I shall be across the Atlantic Ocean. O Lord I beseech thee direct me in this great strait. I wish to act honorably, conscientiously & straitforward with every body, but at present everything is extremely dark.

I am almost on the verge of "giving up". What does "giving up" mean, does it mean allowing despair to take such an hold on me as to get mad. No doubt I should be mad before now was it not for the confidence I have in the Great God who brought me into this world and who will take me out. O Lord I know thou art at the helm and I trust my anchor is cast on a rock.

O helper of the helpless

Abide with me.

Jan 28th, 1870 Home. Have a very bad cold. Mr. Edmd. Tanton called in the afternoon with a message from Mr. Stevens that he intended to put Quarry Hills and Specott Moors to this farm. I am to meet them

at Torrington tomorrow when I suppose my doom will be fixed. Walked over to yard in the eve.

Jan 29th, 1870 Rode to Great Torrington. Had a long interview with Mr. Ed. Tanton who had seen Mr. Stevens about my leaving and he was very austere in reference to my business. Most likely I shall have to leave and I expect the tyrant will robb me of half my property through my puffy confidence in him. It is high time the English land laws were altered. If many other Landlords were to act like mine I am quite certain England would soon be in such a desperate state of anarchy as Ireland and perhaps worse.

Jan 30th, 1870 Sunday. Walked to chapel with Willoughby, Rosamond and Bertie. Mr. Brown preached a pretty good sermon from "The Root of the Matter is found in me". Bessie has been very unwell today. I believe it is caused partly by the shock to her nerves by me telling her last night I could see no other way of getting out of our tyrannical Landlord's hands than by going to America and that I ought to go first.

Jan 31st, 1870 Walked to Winscott. Mr. Stevens was gone hunting. Left half an hour before the hounds passed Winscott, I believe on purpose because he would not see me.

Feb 1st, 1870 Drove to Bideford Market. Very dull market indeed.

Wheat about 5s/6d per bushel of scores. Barley 3/6 but no sale. Oats 2s/3d

Met a Mr. Passmon at the Peacock Inn who has just returned from America. He came from Flint in the state of Michigan to Fairy Cross near Bideford in 14 days. Came back and packed up the best books.

Feb 2nd, 1870 Walked over to Winscott to see the Squire at 9 a.m. He could not see me because he was going hunting. He promised to see me tomorrow morning. Rode to Bullhead saw Mr. Paddon and to Winkleigh saw Mr. Wm. Snell and Saml. Dufty about arranging for the sale &c.

Feb 3rd, 1870 Walked to Winscott where the squire was gone away again. I do not see the slightest chance of remaining now. He appears determined to keep putting off seeing me. Came home, putting things in order to leave. Lord I beseech thee give me strength to stand this trial. It

is hard to be obliged to leave the country and my dear wife and children behind to get out of the hands of a tyrant but if it must be so, I must submit and grant O Lord that it may be all for the best.

Feb 4th, 1870 Received letter from Isaac Beane from Cleveland Ohio America in answer

to a letter I wrote him Decr 29th, 36 days. Rode to Hatherleigh consulted Mr. Pearse. On to Bullhead saw Mr. Paddon. Went on to Court Barton consulted Saml. Dufty. Rode on to Moreland Road Station. Left the horse Charlie there and took the mail train for Exeter. Arrived at 10 p.m. Stopped the night at Crabtree's, South Street.

Feb 5th, 1870 Went to Mr. Southcott's, 30 Magdalen Street, to get information about emigrating to America. Left Exeter by the 10.10 a.m. train. Left Marchand Station by 11.30 a.m. for Great Torrington. Arrived at 2 p.m. Good work, 20 miles in 2 1/2 hours.

Feb 5th contd Met Messrs. Snell and Thos. Paddon at 3 p.m. to discuss over my difficulty. Decided to see Mr. Fulford on Wednesday next. On my return home at 5 p.m. was much surprised to receive a letter from Mr. Stevens in which he states "he will forget the past" and concludes by saying he wishes to be as he always has been my sincere friend. The olive branch. Wonders will never cease.

Feb 6th, 1870 Rode to Merton church in the afternoon. Mr. Kempe preached. Waiting for the consolation of Israel.

Feb 7th, 1870 Walked to Winscott. Saw Mr. Stevens and had an interview with him at last. He has indeed

held out the olive branch. He is willing to forget the past and has offered me Quarry Hills and Specott Moors and wants to take away Specott Downs. He has promised to give me a price in it in a week. I am very doubtful he will play me a trick now. He is beginning to see that I am clearing for action. Unless I now make a foolish move I think I ought to checkmate him easily. The Lord has been at the helm. O I beseech thee do thou O God continue to direct my paths.

Feb 8th, 1870 Home threshing oats and surveying Quarry Hills and the Moors by myself.

Feb 8th contd Sold John Mills 20 live fowls at 6d per lb. 92 lbs.

Feb 9th, 1870 Rode to Eggesford Market. Back to Mr. Fulford's, North Tawton, with Mr. Wm. Snell. Stated the whole of my case to Mr. Fulford who said it was the most cruel treatment he ever heard of. Came back & took tea at Specott, Mr. Snell's. Home late.

Feb 10th, 1870 Home.

Feb 11th, 1870 Walked to Gt. Torrington.

It is bitterly cold.

Feby 13th, 1870 Walked to Merton church. Mr. Kempe preached. Walked to chapel afternoon and evening. Mr. James Thorn preached missionary sermons. Came here to tea. Very cold wind.

Feby 14th, 1870 Home.

Feby 15th, 1870 Walked to Winscott. Mr. Stevens not home. Rode to Bideford Market.

Feby 16th, 1870 Rode to Hatherleigh to pay Mr. Pease bill L35.00. On to Specott, Mr. Snell not home. Back to Bullhead. Saw Mr. Stevens this morning. He could not give me price on farm because Mr. Arnold had not valued it. I told Him plainly that if he insisted on my paying him the note he holds against me for L229.16.6 I would not stay. He promised to give me back something and I should pay off rest of installments in shape of rent. I wish I was clear of the tyrant.

Feby 17th, 1870 Home. Lit furze on fire

(Feby 17th contd) Quarry Hill Moor nearly came to burn the Yard plantation.

Feby 18th, 1870 Walked over to yard and lower yard. Mr. Balkince was rabbiting. Rode over to Dolton to see Mr. G. Arnold about valuing the farm.

Feby 19th, 1870 Home.

Feby 20th, 1870 Home all day. Bad foot.

First 2 lambs singles.

Feby 21st, 1870 Home threshing oats &c.

Frost gone this morn & began to rain.

Feby 22nd, 1870 (AKM note: no entry made except the following notation diagonally across the rest of page.)

Troubles Difficulties

Battles &c &c

(AKM: Page 91, more than 3 months later):

June 1st, 1870 Rode over to Peters Marland at the laying of foundation stone of Bible Christian Chapel.

Very wet day.

June 2d, 1870 Rode to Northtawton to see Mr. Fulford about lawsuit. Came back to Winkleigh stopped the night.

Dry & hot.

June 3d, 1870 Drove to Marchand Road Station with Sam Dufty and on to Exeter. Went to Mr. John Tyrell's with Mr. Fulford who gave me a very favorable opinion of defending the action brought against me by Mr. Stevens. Went to see Mr. Thos. Latimer who was exceedingly kind. From what he could see of my case he thought Mr. Stevens had caught a tartar. I hope I may prevent him

from robbing me and my children but it will be a hard battle. Came back the 4.0 p.m. train from Exeter and home about 10 p.m. Stopped to tea at Winkleigh.

Dry & hot.

June 4th, 1870 Drove to Torrington with Willoughby. Bought 2 bedsteads &c.

Dry & very hot.

June 5th, 1870 Sunday Went to chapel in morning. Mr. J. Thorne preached. Afternoon rode to Winkleigh. Went to Wesleyan chapel in the eve. Mr. Passmore preached. Left pony to W. Went on to Exeter. Stopped the night at Mr. Latimer's, Editor of the "Western Times".

Dry & hot.

June 6th, 1870 Went to Tarenton in company with Mr. Latimer at the meeting of the

Bath and West of England and Southern Counties Agricultural Association. Went through all the classes of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs and poultry. Came back to Exeter and stopped the night to Mr. Latimer's.

Dry & hot.

June 7th, 1870 Met Mr. Ivy at the Exeter R. Station. Went on with him to Bristol. Stopped the night.

Dry & hot.

June 8th, 1870 Came back from Bristol to Bridgewater to sister Lydia, Mrs. H. Poole. Found her looking very thin and poorly but comfortably situated. Was very glad indeed to find her so well off and respectably

connected. Louisa Chapman was with her and talks of going to America. Lydia's husband's father and mother are living in Bridgewater. The maiden name of the latter was Denner. She has a brother living in the town. He (L. husband) has a brother and a sister. The former William Poole is cheese and bacon factor and married a Miss Hawkins sister to Mrs. Culverwell of Kenton Devon. The sister married a Doctor Syrnes. Has given up his profession but still lives in Bridgewater. He and his wife do not live very comfortably.

Dry & hot.

June 9th, 1870 Went down to Tarenton

again saw the implement and machinery. About 30,000 people present today. Went back to Bridgewater. Stopped the night.

Dry & hot.

June 10th, 1870 Came home. Stopped at Winkleigh to tea on my way.

Colder today.

June 11th, 1870 Home.

12th, 1870 Sunday. Went to chapel in eve. Mr. Landes from Holmill preached.

Cloudy.

June 13th, 1870 Home writing &c.

14th, 1870 Bideford with Bessie. Met Mr. Merton. Brought home sewing machine.

Rather hot.

June 15th, 1870 Home. Dry cloudy.

June 16th, 1870 Home. Little rain.

June 17th, 1870 Home morning.

Afternoon to Ash to see Mr. Rockhey.

Little rain & cloudy

June 18th, 1870 Rode to Mr. Rockney's & from there to Torrington through Merton. Settled accts. With Albert Chapman. Took tea with Mr. Robins at Mrs. Clarke's.

Cloudy. Misty. Rain, very little.

June 19th, 1870