

A Darlington Schoolboy's Diary

“**J**N this I intend to keep an account of every day, beginning 9th mo. 1st 1827. I am now at Darlington, where I came on 8th mo. 22nd.

“I do not write in this every day, but I copy it from one (in which I do) when I have leisure. 1st Book.”

So writes a Darlington schoolboy, as an introduction to his diary of school-life, in an oblong book of ruled paper with blue paper cover and white label on which is written :

Thomas Whitwell
9th mo. 1st 1827.

On the last page is written :

End of the
First Book.
Darlington 1st mo. 31st 1828.

The Diary was kindly lent by Robert J. Whitwell.

JOHN WHITWELL, of Kendal, son of John and Hannah Whitwell, born at Kendal, 12 xi. 1735, died 15 vi. 1782, aged 46, married at Kendal, 4 ii. 1765, Dorothy, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wilson. She was born at Kendal, 2 xi. 1741 and buried 24 vii. 1774, having had two sons and four daughters.

ISAAC WHITWELL, eldest son of John and Dorothy, born at Kendal, 2 xii. 1765, died there 25 vi. 1835, married at Bradford, 19 v. 1806, Hannah Maria, daughter of William and Jane Fisher. She was born at Leeds, 14 xii. 1778 and died 22 vi. 1866, having had six sons and two daughters :

William, 1809-1890.

John, M.P., 1811-1880.

THOMAS, born 14 ii. 1814, died 7 vi. 1828.

Isaac, 1815-1890.

Edward, 1817-1893.

Henry, 1818-1848.

Jane, 1807-1858, married Joseph Travis Clay.

Hannah Maria, 1810-1875, married John Jowitt Wilson.

Hannah Whitwell, elder surviving daughter of John and Dorothy Whitwell, born 22 v. 1769, died 20 iv. 1835, married at Kendal, 10 iii. 1800, George Coates.

Rachel Whitwell, younger surviving daughter of John and Dorothy Whitwell, born 3 ix. 1771, died at Manchester, 18 x. 1833, married at Kendal, 3 xi. 1796, Edward Pease, of Darlington, eldest son of Joseph Pease and his wife, Mary Richardson. He was born 31 v. 1767 and died 31 vii. 1858, having had five sons and three daughters :

John, 1797-1868.

Joseph, 1799-1872.

Edward, 1801-1839.

Isaac, 1805-1825.

Henry, 1807-1881.

Rachel, 1800-1853, married Richard Fry, *s.p.*

Mary, 1802-1825.

Elizabeth, 1803-1866, married Francis Gibson.

The Journal opens 1 ix. 1827 and the last entry is dated 31 i. 1828. Each entry contains a record of the weather.

9th mo. 1st. Seventh day is very fine. This being the day in which we have holiday in the afternoon, we boarders 6 in number, took a walk to a wood called Baydales. I had letters from Mother, Aunt Mary, sister H. Maria, and brother John, which gave me much delight. This week we have only been 4 hours per day in school, but next week we shall be longer.

9th mo. 2nd. We went to Meeting at ten, in which cousin John Pease and Hannah Backhouse spoke. After meeting cousin Joseph introduced me to cousin Emma. I went to Uncles to dine, where I was told cousin John was going to Edinburgh and would be at Kendal upon the 15th. . . . I went with George Cruickshank to cousin John's to tea : we went to meeting at 5 o'clock, which was silent. After meeting along with Cousin Henry Pease, the Backhouses, &c., went to see Jonathan Backhouse's new house.¹ I went to Uncles, stopt till near 9 o'clock, then went home.

9th mo. 3rd. The 3 Flintoffs and Joshua Watson from Newcastle came to day. Went to West Lodge, where James Backhouse lives, to tea, and there saw a rein-deer sledge.

9th mo. 4th. I began to learn French. In the evening we went to a Bible-meeting, which was held in Friends' meeting house, and was numerously attended it lasted 3½ hours, a person named James Montgomery,² was the principal speaker.

9th mo. 5th. Henry Fisher, from Huddersfield has come to-day.

9th mo. 6th. I went to Uncles to dinner [after meeting], where were cousin Joseph & Emma and their daughter Jane, who is about 9 or 10 months old.

9th mo. 7th. The Catholic chapel (one side of which the boys played at fives against) is knocked down as there is a new one built; which is a great loss, as there is no other place about the premises, we can play against.

9th mo. 8th. In the afternoon we went a walk to Teescottage, where S. Smith's brother Thomas lives.³

9th mo. 9th. Uncle and Aunt Pease were gone to attend a country meeting. I went with cousin Joseph and Emma in the carriage to dine. J^{on}, H. & John Backhouse accompanied by D^r Steinkopf came to reading [at the school], after which D^r. S. spoke to us & prayed.

9th mo. 10th. Joseph Pease sent W. Aldam, H. Fisher, and me a present of a great quantity of apples & filbert-nuts, part of which we scuffled among the boys, and divided the rest among ourselves. Two boys called Leathams have come to day.

9th mo. 11th. Began to learn Greek. Some of the Gymnastic apparatus has come to-day, but all is not yet come.

9th mo. 13th. Went to meeting in the morning in which cousin Sophia Pease and H. Backhouse appeared in supplication, the former for the first time. This is the marriage day of cousin Sarah Crewdson of Kendal, to C. Fox of Wellington⁴. I went to dine with cousin J. Coates⁵.

9th mo. 14th. Our gymnastic apparatus having not yet come, we went with the French-teacher De Baste, to practise at his gymnasium where he teaches a number of young-men.

9th mo. 15th. This week I have got 44½ counters; I will explain how we get them.

[Then follows a long explanation of the method of good marks.] If we get 35 we have a holiday, generally on third-day afternoon. We went a walk to a village called Cockerton and back by the rail-road.

9th mo. 16th. [Letters from home brought by John Pease] mentioned the death of W^m. Hustler,⁶ who died at Lucerne on the 23rd of last month. Mother is gone to stay at Aunt Carter's, who is exceedingly depressed with the death of W. Hustler. It is intended to bring the remains to Ulverstone.

[At M.M. held 9 mo. 18, John Pease and Jonathan and H. C. Backhouse brought forward concerns for religious work, after which our schoolboy dined at Edward Pease's where he met "Uncle & Aunt Coates with cousin Rachel."⁷ Next day he was measured—height 5 ft. 5½ ins. and weight 8 stone 3½ lbs.]

9th mo. 20th. We went to meeting in which Catherine Backhouse⁸ and cousin John Pease spoke, and Aunt Pease appeared in supplication. A boy named T. Pease from Leeds has come. [Next day] Thomas Lloyd a boy from Birmingham has come.

[Several references to cousin William Wilson, who took letters to Thomas's brothers at Kendal.]

9th mo. 25th. I had a letter from brother William, which J. Atkinson brought, in it he wished me to inquire of J. Smith, the English of this motto: "Sortem ratio debet," but J. Smith says he believes the engraver has put debet instead of dabit.⁹

9th mo. 27th. This is the anniversary of the Rail-road being opened that being 2 years ago. It is the birthday of Henry F. Smith.¹⁰

10th mo. 1st. Uncle and Aunt Pease with cousins Rachel and Elizabeth are gone to Newcastle to attend the Quarterly meeting.

10th mo. 7th. First day is very dull and cold. Both the morning and afternoon meetings were silent.

10th mo. 10th. More of the Gymnastic apparatus has come. We had holiday in the afternoon to put the poles up. We should talk French out of school but as the French-master is not always here the boys often omit so doing. [Note the impersonal "boys" !]

[Other entries include reading in "the Library of Useful Knowledge," reference to the visit of Sylvanus and Mary Fox,¹¹ who had a very numerous attended public Meeting. On a M.M. day Thomas was one of "a great number of friends" at tea at E. Pease's¹² where they had a short meeting and then he finished the day with a visit "with the boys to see a Menagerie of wild beasts." A visit of Isabella Harris¹³ is recorded, also "an exhibition of gymnastics before the Catholic Priest."]

10th mo. 23rd. Not being quite well Dr. Fothergill¹⁴ was sent for. I was better in the evening. [Next day] I am

nearly well. In the evening Bevill Peacock¹⁵ and his father called, and some of us were sent for into the parlour, he i[n]vited us to go to the inn to-morrow morning to Breakfast with them [and in the morning] 6 of us went to get breakfast with Thomas Peacock.

[A visit from his parents, Isaac and Hannah Maria Whitwell, is next recorded. He "went in Uncle's carriage to Stainthorp" and while waiting for the coach to arrive he took a walk to Raby Castle. The parents brought letters and presents from "Aunt Mary" (a fruit knife) and other relations. A few days later: "I went with cousin Edward Pease by the Rail-road to Stockton" to be with his parents who were on a visit there and at Norton.]

11th mo. 3rd. Seventh day. Father & Mother, Aunt Pease, cousin Edward and J. Coates and myself went by the Rail-road to Darlington, on the way we met Uncle and cousin Henry Pease, who went back with us. [Note the term "Rail-road". It almost looks as though the Stockton and Darlington Railway was, in its early years, a Pease proprietary article! Did the train stop to take up the "father of railways" and his son? Next evening Edward and Rachel Pease entertained twenty-two to tea, a party which broke up about ten when nephew Thomas went back to school.]

11th mo. 5th. Father and Uncle came to see us practise Gymnastics. We went to Blackwell¹⁶ to dine and drink tea. There was a great Bon-fire in the Market place, it being the anniversary of the Gun-powder plot.

11th mo. 7th. Fourth-day is wet. Father & Mother, Aunt Pease and Aunt Coates came to see us practise Gymnastics. We went to dine with Joseph Pease, and took tea and supper with J. Bowman Pease.¹⁷ [Does *we* imply the whole school, or only a specially favoured few? and how about the lessons of the afternoon? A few days later he was at seven o'clock breakfast at E. and R. Pease's. Small wonder at the announcement: "I have been so much away this week that I have only got 19 counters."]

11th mo. 12th. I have become a member of the Debating Society.

11th mo. 15th. Fifth day is fine. In meeting cousin John Pease appeared very beautifully in supplication. It is just a year since W^m. Ashworth died of the Typhus fever, how

short a time it seems since the intelligence reached Kendal of his death. It often surprises me how quick time passes ; and how many hours of each day are wasted by some persons in trifling and useless employments.

[Next day] If the Holidays begin at the usual time it wants 30 weeks to that delightful time. . . . H. Pease with Theodore Lloyd came and played with us at Beggar my neighbour.

[Early next week " E. Horner, W^m Aldam, T. Lloyd and I " were invited to tea at " Uncles." Perhaps these were some or all of the favoured few.]

11th mo. 24th. In the evening I attended the meeting of the Debating Society, the question discussed was, has Phrænology any foundation in truth ? it was decided it has. W^m Bainbridge was Orator and J. Sparkes Respondit.

11th mo. 29th. Fifth day. In meeting cousin John Pease spoke ; after dinner he scrambled a great number of pears amongst us.

12th mo. 3rd. The Phoenix came out to-day ; it is a magazine to which every member of the Debating Society is expected to send an original piece ; it comes out once a month, and the members take it in turn to write it ; my piece was on slavery.

[" Cousin Henry " attended the next Debating meeting. The subject of debate was : " Are the present miseries of Ireland owing to misgovernment ? " It was decided in the negative. " Owen Flintoff was Orator and John Backhouse Respondit." There is a reference to Thomas Pease³ who lived about two miles off. Then followed the announcement under " 12th mo. 17th " : " I have to write the Magazine this time." Another item, in regrettable anonimity : " We are going to change one of our teachers." The next subject debated was : " Should Foreign grain be admitted into England ? " the decision being in favour of admission.]

12th mo. 25th. Third day is fine and warm. This being Christmas Day we had holiday ; in the morning we went a walk and we spent the evening in the house, and had a feast to which we subscribed 1^s 6^d a piece. The mercy and the goodness of God is particularly seen in the great atonement, which was made by Jesus Christ on the cross, for wicked miserable sinners as we are. How thankfull we ought to be,

for having a means by which our sins are forgiven, and we may enjoy an everlasting happiness !

12th mo. 30th. First-day is cold. I went [to] Uncle's to dinner and tea, and there heard of H. F. Smith's wish to return¹⁰. Cousin J. Pease spoke in the afternoon. Uncle Pease attended reading.

12th mo. 31st. Second-day is fine. Think that this is the last day in the year ! I hope that the next year may be spent more profitably, both as to my eternal welfare, and as to an increase in knowledge.

1st mo. 1st, 1828. This being Quarterly Meeting, we went to meeting in which several friends spoke, most of whom I did not know. Aunt Bragg¹⁸ invited me to go to Newcastle. [Next day's record :] W^m Doeg has come to be a teacher. . . . W^m Aldam and his daughters¹⁹ came, and gave us a scuffle of nuts. . . . Thomas Wemyss came to examine us ; a number of friends were present, we got through well, and had holiday in the afternoon.

1st mo. 5th. The question debated upon was " Has England just cause to fear the increasing prosperity of America ? " It was decided not. John Hattersley was Orator, and I respondent.

[A few other entries must suffice.] James Richardson, a friend from Ireland, came to see us in the evening. . . . I went to the Debating meeting, the question debated upon was Has Monastic institutions benefitted the World ? It was decided not. T. Saunderson was Orator ; & W^m Backhouse Respondent. . . . Seven or eight of us went to Mary Cudworth's²⁰ to tea. [The last entry reads] :

1st mo. 31st. Fifth-day is also fine. Hannah Backhouse spoke in meeting, and Margaret Atkinson²¹ appeared in supplication. The same party that went to M. Cudworth's went to tea at Blackwell.

Probably our diarist continued his rough records and he may have written them out into another book, but of this there is no evidence.

According to his calculation of thirty weeks to the holidays from 11 mo. 16, " that delightful time " would occur about the middle of June, but, prior to that, the young life came to a sudden close. He died on the 7th of June, being

accidentally shot by his brother, William, who was playing with an air gun, at their home at Kendal.

Scholars attending the School of Henry Frederick Smith included George Cruickshank, three Flintoffs, Joshua Watson of Newcastle, Henry Fisher of Huddersfield, William Aldam, two Leathams, Thomas Pease of Leeds, Thomas Lloyd of Birmingham, E. Horner, William Bainbridge, J. Sparkes, John Hattersley, T. Saunderson; also, from other sources, we may add: John Gurney Fry, William Storrs Fry, Jacob Bell, William Hodgson of Sheffield, Henry Pease, William Backhouse.

NOTES

¹ This was Polam Hill, afterwards Polam Hall, occupied of recent years as a school for girls under the management of the Proctor sisters and now under the care of Helen Baynes.

² This is an interesting reference to JAMES MONTGOMERY (1771-1854), poet, editor, and philanthropist. See vol. x. pp. 51-55.

³ This would be THOMAS PEASE (1786-1849), who was a brother of Selfe (Pease) Smith and son of Edward Pease who married Selfe Pennitt.

⁴ SARAH CREWDSON (1805-1886), daughter of William Dilworth Crewdson, of Kendal, married Charles Fox (1801-1860), of Wellington, Som. They both left Friends at the time of the Beaconite Controversy.

Charles Fox's brother, Henry Fox (1800-1876), married Rachel Crewdson, sister of Sarah, in 1833. She died in 1882. This couple also left Friends at the same time. (Information from Margaret W. Fox of Wellington.)

⁵ Perhaps, JOHN COATES (1805-1840), son of George Coates and Hannah Whitwell.

⁶ Probably, WILLIAM FELL HUSTLER, son of William and Jane (Fell) Hustler, who was born at Bradford, 16 xii. 1798/9. The birth-date is given in S. B. Foster's *Wilson of High Wray*, 2nd ed., 1890, p. 84, but without date of death. His father had died in 1802 and his mother may have gone back to her birthplace, Ulverston.

See Hodgson's *Friends in Bradford* for Hustler family.

⁷ RACHEL COATES (1806-1852) was the youngest daughter of George and Hannah (Whitwell) Coates. In 1836, she married Joseph Jowitt Fryer. She was mother of the late Joseph Fryer, of Smelt House, Co. Durham, and of Rachel Ann, who married Edward B. Mounsey, and who died recently at Darlington.

⁸ KATHARINE BACKHOUSE (1792-1882) was the second wife and widow of John Backhouse, of Beechwood, Darlington. See vol. xx. "Her small dapper figure, her white hair, with curls in front of her Friend's cap, her bright smile and her cheery voice were welcome everywhere she went" (*F.Q.E.*, 1917, 122).

⁹ Sortem ratio dabit—"Reason will provide one's lot in life."

¹⁰ FOR HENRY FREDERICK SMITH. See vols. XIX. XX. XXII. He was related by marriage with the Pease family. See *The Diaries of*

Edward Pease, 1907, p. 180 n. We cannot, at present, explain the reference under date 12 mo. 30.

¹¹ For SYLVANUS and MARY FOX, of Wellington, Som., see vols. XX.-XXII.

¹² EDWARD PEASE lived for many years in a commodious house in Northgate. After his wife's death in 1833, Abigail Thorp kept house for him.

¹³ ISABELLA HARRIS (1757-1832) was a daughter of William and Mary Bull, of Dublin. At about fifteen years of age she became a Friend and at about twenty-one, she married Anthony Harris, a master mariner of Maryport, Cumberland, who was drowned in 1795 while crossing to Waterford. There were seven children, one posthumous. In 1803 Isabella Harris entered Ackworth School as "principal mistress," and remained there till 1826. The remainder of her life was spent within the compass of Durham Q.M. with one or other of her children. Many trials fell to her lot from ill-health and other causes. She was a Minister in good esteem.

Annual Monitor, 1834, supplement.

¹⁴ JOHN FOTHERGILL (c. 1786-1859), M.R.C.S., was a Quaker doctor, with a large practice at Darlington. He was an ardent worker in the temperance cause.

¹⁵ BEVILL PEACOCK grew into Thomas Bevill Peacock, M.D., of London (c. 1813-1882). In 1848 he was Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Royal Free Hospital and to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. In 1854 he was Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital. In "Old Edinburgh Friends," written by William F. Miller and printed in vol. x., we read of "Dr. Bevil Peacock, afterwards of Finsbury Square. Whilst accompanying my father on some of his First-day evening walks, he first interested me in our common wayside wild-flowers."

¹⁶ JONATHAN and HANNAH CHAPMAN BACKHOUSE lived at Blackwell, a village near Darlington, until Polam was built.

¹⁷ JOHN BEAUMONT PEASE (1805-1873) lived at North Lodge. He married Sarah Fossick, of London.

¹⁸ MARGARET WILSON (1761-1840), youngest daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wilson, married Hadwen BRAGG (1763-1820). She was great aunt to Thomas Whitwell. They are frequently mentioned in *The Diaries of Edward Pease*.

¹⁹ Probably, WILLIAM ALDAM (1779-1855), formerly William Pease, of Warmsworth, Yorkshire. He had three daughters—Katharine (1815-1868), who married William Backhouse, of Darlington and St. Johns, Wolsingham, Isabella and Susannah.

²⁰ MARY CUDWORTH (1785-1871) was the widow of William Cudworth, grocer and druggist, of High Row, Darlington, who died in 1820. See *My Ancestors*, by Norman Penney, 1920. Mary Cudworth carried on her husband's business for many years.

²¹ MARGARET ATKINSON (1780-1860), was the wife of Benjamin Atkinson, whom she married in 1809. She was the fifth child of Anthony

and Elizabeth (Holme) Clapham and was related to Rachel Pease. See *The Diaries of Edward Pease*, p. 131.

This is the only reference to any ministerial service in Darlington Meeting engaged in by other Friends than of the Backhouse and Pease clans.

A manuscript has been in our hands, lent by Charles Lawson Smith, solicitor, of London, dated about 1858, which refers to "Richard Smith formerly a schoolmaster at Darlington." The record opens with :

"George Smith, of Brick Hall, Skipton, Yorks, had but one daughter, who died unmarried—no brother or sister. He left his property at Addingham to Richard Smith, his cousin, who was a schoolmaster at Darlington. Richard Smith was uncle to R. Smith of 10, Highbury New Place, London." Richard Smith married Mary Roland and lived at the Manor House, Addingham, between Skipton and Ilkley.

Richard Smith had a brother Stephen, *a quo* Edward Smith, of Fir Vale, Sheffield (1800-1868), philanthropist and active Elder among Friends.

Edward Smith, of Sheffield, is to be distinguished from Edward Smith, of London (1787-1834), though, it may be they were relations. For the former, see x. 51, for the latter see xv. 35, and for both see *Biog. Cata., London Friends' Institute*.

Query—What was the connection between Henry Frederick Smith, schoolmaster of Darlington and Richard Smith who held a similar position in the same town ?

ELIZA BREWER IN ENGLAND (xxii. 66).—John D. Crosfield writes :

"It fell to my lot to meet Eliza Brewer and Rachel Cronkhite on their landing at the Canada Docks, Liverpool, in 1876, and drive with them some ten miles to the house at Aigburth of my uncle, Henry Crosfield. They were surprised at many things. I pointed out the Jews' synagogue in Prince's Road, among other sights, and they remarked: 'Is it possible that there are still people in Liverpool who worship after the manner of Moses?'

"The first morning, my uncle's housemaid told my cousin that they had done their rooms and tidied up generally, and they came down to breakfast in aprons. But they did not do those things when they came back on the way home—not at all, simplicity quite gone!

"Some Friends thought that their liberation was not for the best."

"It was a regular custom, charged on the Hardshaw Estates, to fit American Friends out when they went home.

"I think it was Sarah Hyatt [xx. 63] who spent four hours shopping at Lee's in Basnett Street, Liverpool, the cab not having been dismissed."