

Irish Quaker Diaries

THE following diaries, journals and reminiscences in the keeping of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, and housed at 6 Eustace Street, Dublin, are now kept in the New Strong Room there. They cover the years 1697 to 1864, and are to some extent illustrative of the life of Irish Friends during that period, though they may vary very much in detail and circumstance.

In the main they are entirely personal records, and it is only by reading parallel testimonies, minute books and letters that we can appreciate fully the background and course of the respective writers' lives. Unless indicated otherwise, it is the original manuscript which is preserved.

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 1 | 1697-1724 | Journal of Joseph Gill (1674-1741). |
| 2 | 1713-1740 | Account by herself of the early part of the life of Elizabeth Ashbridge (1713-1755) (copy; printed). |
| 3 | 1752-1756 | Diary of Joshua Wight (1678-1758). |
| 4 | 1781-1784 | Diary of James Abell (1751-1818). |
| 5 | 1785-1790 | Diary of George Newsom (1745-1790). |
| 6 | 1786 | Journal of the visit of Richard Abell (1750-1801) to London Yearly Meeting. |
| 7 | 1781-1855 | Life of Robert Goodbody (1781-1860) by himself (typescript copy). |
| 8 | 1794 | Journal of the visit of John Lecky (1764-1839) to London Yearly Meeting, 1794. |
| 9 | 1807-1818 | Journal of Elizabeth (Grubb) Clibborn (1780-1861) (original and typescript copy). |
| 10 | 1772-1826 | Diary of Mary (Shackleton) Leadbeater (1758-1826) (typescript copy). |
| 11 | 1809-1812 | Journal of Margaret (Boyle) Harvey (1786-1832) (manuscript and typescript copies). |
| 12 | 1813 | Journal of Joshua Newsom (1789-1833). |
| 13 | 1824-1852 | Extracts from private memoranda of Jane Abell (1787-1852). |
| 14 | 1833-1836 | Diary of William Raynor (c. 1758-?). |
| 15 | 1836 | Journal of a visit to France, Switzerland and Italy, by "A member of the Pim family." |

- 16 1837-1905 Reminiscences of childhood, and other
memorials, prose and verse. Compiled
by Deborah Webb (1837-1921).
- 17 1847 Sketch of the visit of Richard Davis Webb
(1805-1872) to Erris, Co. Mayo.
- 18 1847-1868 Diary of James Hill of Limerick (1818-1871).
- 19 1834-1851 Diary of Phebe Newsom (1797-1851) (copy).
- 20 1852 Journal of a three months' tour in Italy
with W. Harvey Pim (1811-1855). [By
Thomas Pim.]
- 21 1853-1854 Journal of John Abell (1791-1861) (copy).
- 22 1855-1899 Recollections of my life for my grand-
children, by John Lecky (1845-1929)
(typescript).
- 23 1868 Diary of Edith Webb (1854-1924).
- 24 1864 Journal of a visit to America, by Frederic
W. Pim (1839-1924).

1. 1697-1724. Journal of JOSEPH GILL (1674-1741). Folio manuscript bound in boards (original).

Joseph Gill was the son of William Gill of Skelton, Cumberland, a builder. His childhood was spent under the very strict surveillance of his parents, who were Friends, William Gill having been "convinced at the first coming down of George Fox into the County." In the 20th year of his age George Bewley, of Edenderry, persuaded his parents to allow Joseph to return to Ireland with him, with a capital of £50 to start in business. Finding he did not like life in the country at Edenderry he was, with the help of George Rooke of Dublin, introduced to Benjamin Crawley, a builder of that city. He "wrought with his hands" for a time, but his integrity was the means of promotion and he became overseer to work in Wexford and in Carlow. In the latter place Alderman Burton, on the building of whose large house he was engaged, entrusted him with the laying out of further buildings, finding local materials for the same. Following this he engaged himself in the building and furnishing of barracks. This work was uncongenial and caused him embarrassment, and he returned to Dublin as clerk in Crawley's dealyard.

In 1702, he married Isabel Clarke of Carlisle. The "big new Meeting House" of that city was crowded for the occasion. Delay by reason of contrary winds enabled the couple to visit many Friends in the North of England. On returning to Dublin they started a grocer's shop, but finding such work too confining, he took ground for a timber yard. Having prospered, resisting many temptations, and suffering imprisonment at the time of Thomas Rudd's visit to Ireland (1706), he became increasingly interested in the work of preaching and visiting, and the Journal from 1710 to 1724 gives yearly accounts of visits in

Ireland, England, Scotland and the Isle of Man. He notes the mileage travelled in 1716 (excluding Ireland) as 781 miles in 71 days, visiting 73 meetings. His wife died in 1713, and he married again in 1716 Anne Durrance, of Carlisle.

2. 1713-1740. Account, by herself, of the early part of the life of ELIZABETH ASHBRIDGE (1713-1755). Three copies, two in large exercise books, one indexed, and one in small leather notebook; all probably made in the 18th century. One copy contains at the back "A Brief and True Relation of Ann Wright" (d. 1670. See also Mary Leadbeater's *Biographical Notices of . . . Friends*).

This extraordinary story belongs to English rather than to Irish biography. Mary Ashbridge died at the house of Robert Lecky in the county of Carlow, having returned from America to the British Isles on a visit of service. The account of her life has been printed more than once, the first edition appearing in 1755 (see Smith's *Catalogue of Friends' Books*). She was the daughter of Dr. Thomas and Mary Sampson and was born in Cheshire. After making a clandestine marriage when very young and being widowed after five months, she crossed to Ireland where she had Quaker relatives (though her parents were Episcopalians). Finding herself swayed by religious doubts and unhappy, she hired herself as an indentured servant (not realizing the implications of such a position) and travelled to America where she suffered much of an ignominious nature. Three years later she married a man for whom she had no real regard, and who made a precarious living as a schoolmaster. As he never stayed for long in one place, the subsequent story of her hard life is one of constant journeyings through America, beset always by religious doubts. She became a teacher herself and a convinced Friend. Her husband scoffed at her religion, but presently attended Meetings with her. Temptation becoming strong he relapsed into drinking habits with bad company, left her, and joined the Army. Confronted with the need to fight he said he could not, and so severe was his punishment that he was sent back to the Chelsea Hospital, where he died. His wife heard of his death three years later and subsequently married Aaron Ashbridge, with whom peace at last came to her.

3. 1752-1756. Diary of JOSHUA WIGHT (1678-1758). Two small leather bound books (original).

Joshua Wight was the son of Thomas and Deborah Wight of Cork. Thomas Wight was for 49 years clerk to Cork Men's Meeting and compiled the *History of Quakers in Ireland*, later added to and edited by John Ruddy. Joshua married in 1708 Deborah, daughter of Richard and Mary Abell. He was a land surveyor (for a time acting for the Penn family) and partner in the drapery shop

of Wight and Pike in Cork. Whilst keeping this diary he was surveying the Estate of Esq. Hamilton of Newcastle, Co. Limerick.

At first sight the books seem to consist only of a weather diary, but closer reading reveals far more. He keeps meticulous day-to-day records of weather, but interspersed are shrewd comments on home and European affairs, on social conditions and on current prices of various commodities. He also comments on Meetings visited, with names of Irish and visiting Friends, and mention is made of persons connected with his work or local happenings. The first volume includes "at the request of several physicians" a relation of the story of the natural cure of a great swelling around his eye whereby he had lost the sight of the eye for some years. Six pages have been inserted into the diary at 3.ix.1753. These are written in another hand of which Joshua Wight disclaims all knowledge in his next entry.

A paper read to the Dublin Friends' Institute in 1917 by his great-great-great-grand-daughter Mary Pike on the material to be found in the diary is kept with it.

4. 1781-1784. Diary of JAMES ABELL (1751-1818). Two quarto volumes (original). One bound in boards covered with vellum, the other in calf. These are numbered Vols. 3 and 4. There is no record of Vols. 1 and 2.

James Abell was a merchant of Cork who in his later years became a much valued Friend as evinced by the long testimony to him at his death, signed by 62 Cork Friends, and by the appreciation of his life which appeared in a Cork paper at the same time. This news cutting is pasted to the back of a colour wash of him which has lately been presented to the Library. It depicts him as a tall, lean, angular man, with a large umbrella held handle downwards (presumably to let the drops run off after a shower) striding along, with a calm earnest face, possibly bent on one of his numerous charitable visits.

The four years of early manhood covered by the diary were apparently a period of ill health and great emotional strain. The writing is introspective, and conveys a sense of his labouring under a feeling of his own inadequacy. He was an assiduous attender of all meetings and records his impressions of those for Worship and Discipline, Monthly, Quarterly and National. There are records of the preaching and counsel of Friends, both local and visiting, whose names are in many cases known to the student of Quaker History. Marginal sidenotes record a number of marriages and burials. In first month 1782 he records the first time men and women overseers met together in Cork, "in order to assist each other in the exercise of this weighty office."

5. 1785-1790. Diary of GEORGE NEWSOM (1745-1790). Small copy book (original) in worn brown-paper binding.

George Newsom was the son of John and Catherine (Cooper) of Cork. He married Lydia, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Unthank)

Wilson and had 15 children, of whom the last was posthumous. He began the diary on the day he moved to a country place at Glenville, Co. Cork and the title-page styles it "A memorandum of occurrences at Glenville." Though three of his children were born there he mentions none of them. Nor does he mention a grave mishap to a ship owned by him at this period (see Grubb Collection, S. 195, Eustace St.). He appears to have been a very keen gardener and cultivator of his property, as evinced by the lists of plants, etc., sown, and accounts of improvements made on the land. The diary, which is very irregularly kept, ends with the entry 20-5-1790 "the red cow bought of O. Murphy calved." He died on the 29th of 12th mo. the same year.

6. 1786. Journal of the visit of RICHARD ABELL (1750-1801) to London Yearly Meeting, 1786. Small leather-covered notebook, closely written (original).

Richard Abell was the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Morris) Abell of Cork.

This is a full, detailed account of the journey, in company with four others, to London, and of each session of London Yearly Meeting. They sailed from Dublin on the 11th of 5th month, having come straight from the National Meeting there. They landed at Whitehaven after a 36 hour passage and visited several Friends there. Failing to hire horses, they started in a chaise, a method of travel which soon palled. At Workington, where they were welcomed by Jonathan Ellwood, they hired horses and set out on the long journey to London, which they reached on the first of 6th month, having travelled 437 miles. The journal sets forth, in tabular form, the mileage between each stop, showing the route taken through Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicester, Bedford, Hertford and into London by way of Tottenham. It is a lively, entertaining narrative, the names of those with whom they stayed, or whom they met providing valuable data. They were wont to start each day's journey very early and the diarist records that at one point they had told their hostess not to bestir herself, nevertheless when they arose they found her with a hot breakfast ready. "As I pushed in my chair after the meal the clock struck five o'clock. hearken ye wives and learn." In London he attended Meeting for Ministers and Elders by invitation, as well as other sessions and comments on all he saw and heard. He found the Meeting House very hot. The Journal provides an interesting commentary, not only on Yearly Meeting, but on personalities among Friends of that period.

7. 1781-1855. Account of his life by ROBERT GOODBODY (1781-1860) (typescript). The original is extant and is shortly to be given to the Library.

Robert Goodbody, ancestor to nearly all the family of that name in Ireland, was the second son of Mark and Elizabeth (Pim) Goodbody of Mountmellick. He married (first) Margaret, daughter of Jonathan

and Sarah (Robinson) Pim, by whom he had six sons; (2nd) Jane daughter of James and Deborah (Bewley) Pim (no issue). In the 74th year of his age he wrote a full retrospective account of his life. The early part contains much of local interest, of marriages into, and visits between other Friends' families, and details of life of the period. There is a full and vivid account of the Rebellion of 1798, with many details of happenings in Rathangan, Mountmellick and Wexford. Mention is made of the precautions taken and help given by Friends in the very wet summer of 1799, when the timely purchase of potato and other seed, resold at a reasonable price, averted distress.

Robert Goodbody did not follow his father's trade of a tanner, but became a flour miller and baker. Following the death of his wife, he moved in 1826 to Clara, in King's Co., having bought a partnership in the Brusna Flour Mills.

Amongst visiting Friends noted in this life are Job Scott, Thomas Scattergood, William Crotch and Hannah Barnard whose preaching, in 1800, was the cause of closing Sycamore Alley Meeting House for a period. The visit of John Wesley to Mountmellick, about 1789, is also noted.

8. 1794. Journal of the visit of JOHN LECKY (1764-1839) to London Yearly Meeting, 1794. A very small, worn notebook (original).

John Lecky was the son of Robert and Margaret (Harvey) Lecky of Youghal. He was often known as "John Lecky the Banker."

This little journal contains much of value to the social and Quaker historian, giving as it does details of prices prevailing at the period, and mentioning names of persons and places. It was published in *Jnl. F.H.S.*, xv (1918) with detailed notes by J. Ernest Grubb.

9. 1807-1818. Journal of ELIZABETH (GRUBB) CLIBBORN (1780-1861) (original and typescript copy). Original in stitched sheets of quarto paper on the first of which is written in the handwriting, probably, of one of her daughters, "Elizabeth Clibborn's Journal, this the earliest found, begins 1807." The typescript has at some recent period been annotated, giving matter relative to the names which occur throughout the Journal.

Elizabeth Clibborn was the daughter of John (1737-1784) and Sarah (Pim) Grubb. Her mother who, at her husband's death, had been left with five small girls, continued to live (against her family's advice) at Anner Mills, Clonmel, and to run the mill there. In 1791 John Clibborn of Moate came to assist Sarah and, in 1800, married her daughter Elizabeth. John Barclay Clibborn and Elizabeth continued to reside at Anner Mills, which was left to them at Sarah Grubb's death in 1832. They had 15 children, three of whom died young.

This Journal is one of the most interesting in the Library. It is

probable that she kept a diary for much longer periods, as one exists, still in private keeping, for the years 1846- and for 1850; this will eventually come to the Library and it is hoped other fragments may be found. (Sheets of quarto paper, some white coarse and some blue smooth, written in a close, neat, angular hand, should be looked for.) They were possibly divided amongst her children or grandchildren when she died.

Meetings, accounts of visits (and most visiting Friends, including Elizabeth Fry, came to Anner Mills), records of national happenings, fluctuations in trade and in prices, all occur here. But family occurrences occupy the greater part of the Journal, and this is not surprising as the Grubbs and Clibborns were related to very nearly every Friends' family in Ireland. A partly suppressed note of anxiety and worry runs through much of it, as baby after baby was born and she and her husband and family occupied only a bedchamber and nursery (with a little closet off for a maid) and had nowhere to sit or entertain their own friends. This was partly remedied later, but we know that Mother Sarah Grubb was a capable domineering woman, who became known as "The Queen of the South."

10. 1772-1826. Diary of MARY (SHACKLETON) LEADBEATER (1758-1826).

Mary Shackleton was the daughter of Richard, master of Ballitore school, and grand-daughter of Abraham Shackleton, its founder. In 1792 she married William Leadbeater an usher at her father's school, who died less than a year after her own death. Mary Leadbeater is best known as the compiler of *The Annals of Ballitore* (the little Kildare village where her life was spent) more usually called *The Leadbeater Papers*. Her diary, kept day by day, was begun when she was 14 and kept to within a few days of her death. It is a most valuable contribution to the sociological history of Ireland. The original is at present deposited for safe keeping in the National Library of Ireland, but a typescript, with few omissions, was made by our Friend Isabel Grubb, formerly curator of the Historical Library at Eustace Street, and is owned by the latter. It is the diary of a keen alert mind, not narrowed by village life or by difficult financial circumstance, but enriched and cultivated by the intercourse and broadmindedness of her father and grandfather. Her friendships included, among many others, that of Edmund Burke, a past pupil of her father, George Crabbe the poet, Melesina St. George, mother, by a later marriage, of Archbishop Chenevix Trench; and through the Shackleton family she was related to most of the prominent Friends' families in Ireland. The diary covers the period of the French Revolution (made vivid by the imprisonment of Mrs. St. George in Paris), of the Irish affairs of the 1790's culminating in the terrible insurrection of 1798, during which the sufferings of Friends and others in Ballitore are minutely told. Visits to Meetings in many parts of Ireland, inter-visiting with Friends' families, an account of the secessions of 1800-1803, when her brother Abraham Shackleton

was among the first to leave the Society, are all narrated with the freshness of reality.

She was the author of a book of poems, of a series of essays known as *Cottage Dialogues* and *Cottage Biographies*, of a translation of Maffeus's Continuation of the *Æneid* and of a volume of Biographies of Irish Friends, but her diary is the true record of an unassuming and selfless mind.

II. 1809-1812. Journal of MARGARET (BOYLE) HARVEY (1786-1832) of a trip to, and sojourn in, Ireland. Two ms. copies, one in small leather notebook copied by Elizabeth H. Theobald in 1906, the other stitched foolscap made by H. L. Harvey from a copy made from the original by Margaret Boyle Harvey II, grand-daughter of the writer of the original. This journal was printed in America in 1915, and extracts from it appeared in *Jnl. F.H.S.*, xxiv (1927) p. 3. The American edition contains a family genealogy, and the extracts printed in the *Journal* are well annotated.

Margaret B. Harvey was the daughter of James and Martha (Williams) Boyle of Pennsylvania. In 1808 she married Edward (1783-1858), son of William and Margaret (Stephens) Harvey of Cork, who had gone to America to further the trade of his uncle Stephens, a maker of beaver hats. In 1809 the couple came back to Ireland, where they lived for three years, and where two sons were born, the first dying at birth.

Cork Friends of the period were a distinct surprise to the young bride and her journal, written purely for the eyes of her sister, expresses her astonishment at the elegance, style and formal etiquette encountered. Constant entertainments tired her out, both in Cork and Dublin, though she was able to appreciate the beautiful scenery of the former and the well-laid-out streets and handsome appointments of the houses in the latter. She had had a simple upbringing, but made the best of all she encountered, though the richness of food rather upset her—"the Banquet, for so I must call it . . . I have read of such but never expected to see anything like it . . . there were about eight courses. The first green Turtle with plenty of soup, which I partook of and talked of, for I was asked a number of questions about our Turtles. I answered with as much Sang Froid as if I had been used to Turtle Feasts all my life."

Many well-known Irish Friends appear throughout the pages of this journal, mostly relatives of the Harvey family, which had a very big connection. She received unstinted kindness from everyone, but was very glad, when the time came, to return home "to our loved ones," when her son Richard was three months old. The journal ends when they had been seven weeks at sea, having a rough passage, but the supplement, added by Margaret Harvey's grand-daughter, completes the account (in the printed edition) with further information concerning the family.

12. 1813. Journal of a trip to England for business purposes and to attend London Yearly Meeting, 1813, by JOSHUA NEWSOM (1789-1833) (original). Paper sheets stitched.

Joshua Newsom was the son of George and Lydia (Wilson) Newsom of Edenderry. He was attached to a grocery business in Waterford. His marriage to Isabell Hill, daughter of James and Hannah (Strangman) Hill of that city, points to the supposition that he may have been connected with the extensive grocery business of the Strangmans. This is a journal of a trip to try to further the butter trade of Waterford with the merchants and traders of the Southern parts of England. It is a record of great importance, as he not only gives the names of all towns and cities visited, but also of the persons whom he visited in each one. He ended up in London and gives an account of Yearly Meeting of that year, as well as of the business acquaintances visited in the City. As the butter trade of Waterford had been a very important part of Ireland's economy in the previous century (*cf.* "The overseas trade of Waterford"; by Louis M. Cullen, in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 88, part 2, 1958) this provides a valuable link with later years.

13. 1824-1852. Extracts from the private memoranda of JANE ABELL (1787-1852). Copy made by her sister Sarah in 1853.

Jane Abell was the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Beale) Abell of Cork. The memoranda consist entirely of a Spiritual Diary, not noting anything but that which had refreshed or helped her on life's way. The third volume speaks of beginning her 9th little book, so that these must be only part of a series. The first shows signs of partial burning, and there is a note expressing a wish that nothing she wrote should ever be published.

14. 1833-1836. Diary of WILLIAM RAYNOR (*c.* 1758-?). Small paper book (original).

William Raynor was the son of Maurice and Elizabeth (Shackleton) Raynor. His mother was the daughter of Abraham Shackleton of Ballitore School. She made a clandestine marriage (see *Annals of Ballitore*, vol. I, p. 27) and, dying in early life, left the child William to be brought up by his grandparents. Ballitore school list gives the entry of Maurice Raynor as 1744. He became an usher. The son William is entered on 13-10-1766.

The diary is a disconnected and sad record of a few incidents in late life, when he was in apparent poverty. Twice there are touching references to the death of his Mother, 67 and 68 years previously. From the time of his strict upbringing at Ballitore to the appearance of this unexpected diary, we have no record of his life save thirteen

letters written when he was living in Waterford between 1778 and 1789 to his aunt Deborah (Shackleton) Chandlee. Through her he kept in touch with his Ballitore friends.

15. 1836. Journal of a visit to France, Italy and Switzerland, by "A member of the Pim family" (original). Leather exercise book.

A well written, instructive and entertaining account of a conventional European tour, travelling largely by Diligence, sometimes post. There are many such journals of this period, but this has a freshness of outlook, an accuracy of observation and a vividness of description which have appeal. Cities, buildings, cathedrals, scenery, river travel, persons encountered, Friends and others, all give a sense of reality. It was written by a woman (possibly one of the daughters of James and Anne (Greenwood) Pim travelling with her brother, Henry, this latter name being the sole clue to identity in the Journal. Henry (1803-1881) is the only Pim of that name to fit the date.

16. 1837-1905. Reminiscences of childhood, by DEBORAH WEBB (1837-1921). With this is a collection of Prose and Verse collected by the author. Among these is a copy of "Recollections" by Lizzie Poole Addey (1818-1886), who was a cousin of the Webb family and who had been Elizabeth Poole, of Growtown, Co. Wexford.

Deborah Webb was the elder daughter of Richard Webb and Hannah (Waring) Webb of Dublin. Her elder brother was Alfred Webb, the compiler of "A Compendium of Irish Biography." The book (a thick quarto notebook, professionally bound in leather) should properly be styled Memorials, collected by Alfred Webb. The reminiscences, however, kept by Deborah, occupy the first 88 pages, and those of Lizzie Addey the following 57 pages. The next 15 consist of an appreciation of Richard Davies Webb, copied from a Boston periodical of about 1872, and these are followed by copies of two letters written to Alfred Webb, at the time of the illness and death of his father.

Deborah Webb's reminiscences are an important and rewarding aid to the study of the life of Irish Friends of the last century. Brought up in a household neither worldly, nor yet too strict, she and her brothers had the advantage of meeting their father's friends in different walks of life, and she recalls her surprise at being, as a small child, kissed by a priest, who later turned out to be Father Matthew, the great Temperance Pioneer.

The reminiscences of Elizabeth (Poole) Addey form a valuable contribution to the history of Friends in Co. Wexford, and her traditional account of the Rebellion of 1798 should be compared with that of Dinah Goff, printed in "Six Generations in Ireland," by J. M. R. (Richardson) (London, *Hicks*, 1893).

17. 1847. Sketch of the visit of R. D. WEBB (1805-1872) to Erris in Co. Mayo (original), paper, stitched.

This essay is marked, at the top of the first or title page, "Appendix lv," its full title being "Sketch of R. D. Webb's visit to the Counties of Mayo and Galway by desire of the Central Relief Committee of Friends." It appears to be one of the notebooks kept while undertaking the work of visiting areas struck most hardly by Famine, and making reports on such for the Committee. It is a vivid but factual account of the horror of the period, giving instances of the scenes witnessed in this (one of the most hardly-stricken) area of the country. It was from such reports that the published account of the work of The Central Committee for Famine Relief was later compiled.

Richard Davis Webb was the son of James and Deborah (Davis) Webb of Dublin, and was a well-known printer and publisher. He was a friend of Father Matthew, the Temperance Pioneer, and was active in Temperance work, in the Anti-Slavery cause and in Peace work. A note on his life appeared in *Jnl. F.H.S.*, xiv (1917) 95.

18. 1847-1868. Diary of JAMES HILL of Limerick (1818-1871). One folio volume; cardboard cover (original).

James Hill was the son of James and Elizabeth (Alexander) Hill and married Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Unthank) Newsom of Cork. He appears to have grown up a Friend, though his father had been disowned in 1821 for debt. He himself resigned his membership in 1853, and his wife in 1855. The diary begins in 1847, just after the death of his father; his mother died the following year. The first 48 pages have been removed, but the verso of the cover shows the rough copy of an application made by him in 1848 for the post of traveller to the Clonmel firm of Thomas Grubb, and an account of his experiences while travelling. The diary is of very minor interest. It gives day by day accounts of the weather, and detailed records of visits paid to London and elsewhere, mainly in search of work (which when obtained he never held any length of time). He visited relatives in America, who tried to employ him, but he came home again. He went to a concert in aid of Irish distress, but never seems to have been aware of the real suffering in the country, only lamenting the high price of potatoes. This diary is worth reading for its picture of a section of Irish people unable to grasp the opportunities of helping the needs of the rest.

19. 1834-1851. Extracts from the diary of PHEBE NEWSOM (1797-1851). Small book bound in thick cardboard (copy).

Phebe Newsom was the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Ridgway of Waterford. In 1824 she married William Newsom of Limerick. This is a deeply spiritual diary, revealing the religious doubts and

uncertainties felt by the writer as to her fitness to contribute vocally and actively in Meeting, and her pleasure as she found that way opened for her to do so. The record is not continuous, there being a gap of three years from 1834, the year in which she became a recorded minister. Following after the end of her memoranda is a long Testimony to her.

20. 1852. Journal of a three months' tour in Italy with W. HARVEY PIM (1811-1885). Quarto notebook covered in cardboard (original).

On the top corner of the first page is pasted a scrap of paper $\frac{3}{4}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches with the words "Dear Thos., I shall be very glad of thy company to London etc. 'on Velvet' after the books for 2nd month are balanced, thy affec. W. H. Pim."

The recipient of the note and writer of the Journal was Thomas, son of Jonathan and Susanna (Todhunter) Pim, and the invitation was from his uncle. They were both members of the firm of Pim Bros. and Co., wholesale and retail Drapers, Manufacturers and Warehousemen of Dublin.

The Journal begins on the 3rd of 3rd month 1852. It is a complete record, day by day, of the trip, describing, with the fresh vividness of youth, routes taken, people encountered, buildings and places of interest visited, and commenting on each with clarity and with the advantage of a well-equipped, well-read mind.

21. 1853-1854. Journal of JOHN ABELL (1791-1861) (copy). Small notebook, of which the verso of cover and first page are Richardson and Sons' Almanac for the year 1856. On the third page is written "Extracts from John Abell's Memoranda, copied as a Birthday present for Jane Abell by her affectionate Aunt Sarah Abell, 2nd month, 1st 1863."

John Abell was the 8th child of Richard and Margaret (Beale) Abell. At the time this Journal was kept, his brother Joshua was lately deceased, and John, with his wife, had undertaken the oversight of Joshua's two children, though their mother was still living. It is a slight, irregularly-kept journal, consisting almost entirely of prayers for the welfare of the two children. It jumps from the year 1857 to 1859 and then back to the year 1847 when he records the weight felt by his being made an overseer. He records apprenticing his nephew to Thomas Thompson of Enniscorthy, and the departure of his niece to Penketh School in 1859.

22. 1855-1899. Recollections of my life for my grandchildren; by JOHN LECKY (1845-1929). Typescript, bound in

stiff paper, small. (Possibly the original made by John Lecky.) Mentions on cover that a copy with appendix was sent to W. J. Lecky, Montreal, August 1928.

John Lecky was a son of Robert John and Mary (Newsom) Lecky of Youghal. In his tenth year his father, who had been a shipbuilder in Cork, took over the management of a slate quarry on Valentia Island. The journal begins with an account of the journey there, travelling on one of the famous Bianconi cars, and for the first time seeing turf burnt. It describes life on the island, the garden, where Arum lilies grew in profusion as well as much else, sailing and other simple pleasures, the designing and building a boat for himself by his father, and all the pleasures of a simple happy life. In 1856 the first cable to America was laid from Valentia, and much space is given to that momentous event. Many came to watch and listen for the first transmitted message, among them a little Russian gentleman who, later turned out to be the once famous Dr. Hamel, employed by Russia to find out all the scientific information he could. As is known, this earliest attempt to lay a submarine cable was a failure and this eye-witness account is of the greatest interest.

His schooldays and entry into the tea business follow, with a note of the welcome given him by Dublin Friends. The journal ends on the suggestion to his grandchildren that his success in life has all been due to hard work.

23. 1868. Diary of EDITH WEBB (1854-1924). Small leather jotter (original).

Edith Webb was the daughter of James and Susanna Webb. This diary was kept by Edith Webb in her fourteenth year. After a retrospective account of some previous weeks, it became a day-to-day account of the happenings in the lives of her and her sisters. It contains an entertaining account of the visit to Dublin of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra. Seen through the eyes of a child, who confesses herself more childish than others of her age, this makes lively reading. Later in the year she and her sister, Gertrude, went to Mountmellick school, and here we find the inward reflections, both on the journey and on arrival, which while common in autobiography, are seldom written at the time. This very small diary could be much appreciated by those who knew Edith Webb in later years, when she took up teaching as a profession, and was for some time Record clerk in Dublin.

The book in which the diary is written was a present to the writer from H. Webb and E. W. Banks on her twelfth birthday (8 Feb. 1866). The first entry begins: "Note. These first few notes are things that I would like to have written down and that happened last year." It is followed by sixteen small pages devoted to events in 1867, before opening the diary of 1868 proper.

24. 1864. Journal of a visit to America, by FREDERIC W. PIM (1839-1924) (original). Two leather-covered note books. At the end of the second one there is transcribed "The transit of Venus," this being evidently a lecture given by Frederic Pim to the Dublin Friends' Institute, in 1876. This of course was a scientific lecture, descriptive of the transit of Venus across the face of the sun, a phenomenon which had occurred two years earlier, on the 9th December, 1874.

Frederic William Pim was the sixth child of Jonathan and Susanna (Todhunter) Pim and was a partner in the firm of Pim Bros. and Co., of Dublin, and at the time of this visit to America was representing the Greenmount Linen spinning company, connected with that business. He gives a full account of the journey and modes of travel and people met with. Though based on New York he made his way through New Jersey, by Philadelphia (where he remarked on the neglect of the memorial to William Penn), by Baltimore and Pittsburgh to the Great Lakes. He visited Montreal and Quebec, travelling sometimes by boat, sometimes by train, observing and noting all he saw. He had a grasp of the troop movements of both Northern and Southern armies and was occasionally asked for credentials. His comments on the economic situation in the United States are of much interest, it being a time when the fluctuations in the price of gold and the endeavours of business firms to obtain credit or furnish themselves with the new paper money, were causing embarrassment and acute difficulty to many.

OLIVE C. GOODBODY