

# 1881 Diary of Sir Horace Curzon Plunkett (1854-1932)

Transcribed, annotated and indexed by Kate Targett. December 2012

## NOTES

*‘There was nothing wrong with my head, but only with my handwriting, which has often caused difficulties.’*

Horace Plunkett, *Irish Homestead*, 30 July 1910

### *Conventions*

In order to reflect the manuscript as completely and accurately as possible and to retain its original ‘flavour’, Plunkett’s spelling, punctuation, capitalisation and amendments have been reproduced unless otherwise indicated. The conventions adopted for transcription are outlined below.

1) Common titles (usually with an underscored superscript in the original) have been standardised with full stops: Archbp. (Archbishop), Bp. (Bishop), Capt./Capt’n., Col., Fr. (Father), Gen./Gen’l, Gov./Gov’r (Governor), Hon. (Honourable), Jr., Ld., Mr., Mrs., Mgr. (Monsignor), Dr., Prof./Prof’r., Rev’d.

2) Unclear words for which there is a ‘best guess’ are preceded by a query (e.g. ?battle) in transcription; alternative transcriptions are expressed as ?bond/band.

3) Illegible letters are represented, as nearly as possible, by hyphens (e.g. b----t)

4) Any query (?) that does not *immediately* precede a word appears in the original manuscript unless otherwise indicated.

5) Punctuation (or lack of)

- Commas have been inserted only to reduce ambiguity. ‘Best guess’ additions appear as [,].
- Apostrophes have been inserted in:
  - surnames beginning with O (e.g. O’Hara)
  - negative contractions (e.g. can’t, don’t, won’t, didn’t)
  - possessives, to clarify context (e.g. Adams’ house; Adam’s house). However, Plunkett commonly indicates the plural of surnames ending in ‘s’ by an apostrophe (e.g. Yeats’).
- Initials preceding names reflect the original as nearly as possible (e.g. TP Gill, T.P. Gill, T P Gill, T. P. Gill).
- Plunkett’s symbols for ‘about’, ‘therefore’ and the ‘long (double) s’ have been expanded.

6) Text in parentheses ( ) is Plunkett’s; text in brackets [ ] is editorial.

7) Capitalisation, particularly of the letter C and common nouns, is inconsistent and has been retained if unambiguous.

8) Words crossed out in the original are usually reproduced in the transcript, as their frequency or content may indicate Plunkett’s thinking at the time.

9) Cd (could), wd (would), wh: (which) and Plunkett’s symbol for ‘about’ and ‘therefore’ have been expanded; the ‘long f’ (J) has been expanded to ‘ss’.

10) Approximate monetary equivalents were derived and adapted from Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, “Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a UK Pound Amount, 1830 to Present”, and Samuel H. Williamson, “Seven Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a U.S. Dollar Amount, 1774 to Present”, [www.measuringworth.com](http://www.measuringworth.com), 2011. The index used was the Gross Domestic Product Deflator, a measure of average prices covering a ‘bundle’ of all goods and services produced in an economy (making it broader than just the consumer goods in the Retail Price Index). Figures

rounded to the nearest £ or \$. See website for alternative and more detailed measures of relative worth.

Although great care has been taken to ensure accuracy, some misinterpretations will inevitably have occurred in transcription. For clarification, readers are advised to consult microfilm copies of the diaries available in several libraries.

## ***Correspondence***

The diaries are associated with, and cross-referenced to, an alphabetical indexed collection of nearly 4000 items of correspondence donated to the Plunkett Foundation in the years following Sir Horace's death.

- Letters with an identifiable date are noted beside the diary entry for the corresponding day. Letters attributable to only a particular year or month are indicated at the beginning of the relevant section.
- Letters sent by Plunkett appear in Roman type, alphabetically by addressee (e.g. To Balfour, Arthur); letters received by Plunkett appear in italics, alphabetically by sender (e.g. *Fr Balfour, Arthur*).
- Letters between correspondents other than Plunkett appear in parenthesis and are filed with the letters of the first-named correspondent: (*Fr Balfour, Arthur to House, E.M.*).
- If, for some reason, a letter between two correspondents is filed with neither recipient nor sender, the file location is indicated: (*Fr Anderson, R.A. [BAL]*).

For additional holdings, see <http://www.nra.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/searches/> (National Register of Archives) and Archives in 'Plunkett, Sir Horace Curzon (1854–1932)', Bull, P., *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press) 2006.

## ***Abbreviations***

1) Frequently occurring abbreviations and contractions:

### **Names**

Æ	George William Russell	JGB	John George Butcher
AJB	Arthur James Balfour	KW	Karl Walter
EVL	Ernest V. Longworth	Lady B	Lady Elizabeth (Betty) Balfour
F / Fs	Fingall / Fingalls	LI.G.	David Lloyd George
GBS	George Bernard Shaw	RAA	Robert Andrew Anderson
GH	Gerald Heard	SHB	Samuel Henry Butcher
GWB	Gerald William Balfour		

### **Organisations**

AAOS	American Agricultural Organisation Society	IH	<i>Irish Homestead</i>
AOS	Agricultural Organisation Society	IS	<i>Irish Statesman</i>
AOS & SHL	Allotments Organisations Society and Small Holders Ltd.	IIA	Irish Industries Association
BB Co	Berthon Boat Company	IRA	Irish Reconstruction Ass'n./ Irish Republican Army (depending on context)
CDB	Congested Districts Board	IUA	Irish Unionist Alliance
CWS	Co-operative Wholesale Society	K St Club/K.S.C.	Kildare Street Club
DATI	Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	NAOS	National Agricultural Organization Society
FO	Foreign Office	NFU	National Farmers Union
H of C	House of Commons	RDS	Royal Dublin Society
HPF	Horace Plunkett Foundation	RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
IAOS	Irish Agricultural Organisation Society	TCD	Trinity College, Dublin
IAWS	Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society	UAOS	Ulster Agricultural Organisation Society
ICAS	Irish Co-operative Agency Society	UI	United Irishwomen
IDL	Irish Dominion League	UP	Union Pacific
		Wyo Dev Co	Wyoming Development
		WO	War Office

## General

&c	etcetera (etc.)	Gt	Great
a/c a/cs	account/s	HR	Home Rule
ADC	aide-de-camp	Inst/Inst:/Inst'n	Instruction
agricl / agric'l	agricultural	I.Q.	Irish Question
ag / agric're	agriculture	legisl'n	legislation
Amer'n	American	Ltd.	Limited
ass'n / assoc'n	association	moted	motored
ass't	assistant	MP	Member of Parliament
betw'n	between	Mov't	movement
bd	board	Nat / Nat'l	National
CC (by context)	Catholic curate	Nat's	Nationalists
	Cricket Club	o'c	o'clock
	County Councillor	Parl / Parl't	Parliament
Ch: Sec	Chief Secretary	parl'y	parliamentary
coll / coll:	college	PP	parish priest
co / co.	company or county	Powder R	Powder River
com'n/comm'n	commission	Pres't	President
Conv'n/Conv'tn	Convention	Prot	Protestant
coop/coop:	co-operative	Qn	Question
coop'n	co-operation	RC	Roman Catholic
ct'e/c'tee/c'tte/ com'tee	committee	Rel'n / Rel'ns	Relation/s
DD	Doctor of Divinity	RR	Railroad
dep't	department	R'y	Railway
Do / do	ditto	Sec / Sec'y	Secretary
ed'n / educ'n	education	Soc'y	Society
Eng'd	England	SS	steamship
Ex / Exs	Excellency/ Excellencies (usu. Lord Lieutenant)	TD	Teachtaí Delai (representatives in lower house of Dail)
exhib'n	exhibition	Tech/Tech:/Tec'l	technical
gen'l	general		
gov't	government		

N.B. The apostrophe in a contraction usually indicates that in Plunkett's handwriting the word ended with underscored superscript letters (e.g. Parl<sup>x</sup> is transcribed as Parl'y).

2) Less frequent or ambiguous contractions are expanded in brackets for clarity and easier reading (e.g. rec[eive]d, originally handwritten "rec<sup>d</sup>"). If the same usage occurs in close proximity, the expanded version is generally not repeated.

## 1881

### Events:

Third year of Land War

26 Jan – Origin of Ladies Irish National Land League

Mar – Protection of Person and Property Act and Peace Preservation Act legalise special coercive powers

25 Mar – Land League of Great Britain founded

13 Aug – First issue of *United Ireland*, weekly Parnellite organ, editor William O'Brien

22 Aug – Gladstone's second Land Act legalises "3 Fs" (fair rent, fixity of tenure, free sale) and establishes new land courts

13 Oct – Arrest of Parnell and other Land League leaders

18 Oct – No-Rent Manifesto (call for general strike against payment of rents)

### Government:

*Prime Minister:* William Gladstone (Liberal)

*Chief Secretary:* William Edward Forster

*Lord Lieutenant:* F.T. de Grey (Earl Cowper)

Approximate monetary equivalents (2010): £1= £105 ; \$1 = \$21

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
	1 Jan, Sat	Opened the New Year with a Staghunt at Kilrue. Had very fair sport. In evening the Murphys, Coleridge, Killeen & Leonard dined with me.
	2 Jan, Sun	Dined with Mrs. Johnson.
	3 Jan, Mon	Spent day doing business in Trim & R[ock] Lodge. There is quite a change of feeling (for the worse) among the tenants who are all imbued with the spirit of the League and expect a transference to themselves of the Land.  Dined and slept Bellinter.
	4 Jan, Tue	Hunted The Officer at Walterstown. Fair sport. The little horse is at his best and it is a great pleasure to ride him.  I got today a letter from one John Sweetman asking me to join him in a huge land scheme in Minnesota. Unfortunately I am tied to Alexis Roche and Co. But I offered to become a director if I saw my way at a meeting which I am to attend.
	5 Jan, Wed	Wards at Dunshaughlin. Mounted on a pony of Tom Leonard's which was not up to my weight. In it for a bit and then went home. Dined at Bellinter where I went to have a talk with John Preston about Gussy's insane determination to elope with Amy Smith whose father objects until GVB's settlements are satisfactorily arranged. I think my talk with John Preston on the subject was most fortunate. He told me all his affairs and that he could not do anything for Gussy yet. I then I think dissuaded Gussy from his folly.
	6 Jan, Thu	Went to Rahinston.  Parl't meets today.
[HP consistently uses this traditional spelling, especially referring to a Suffolk Punch horse.]	7 Jan, Fri	Hunted Ch[esnut] horse "Criterion" and liked him very much. Had splendid hunting run from Trotter's Gorse and was well carried.  Got letter from John Preston saying that Gussy had consented not to marry till he J.G.P. wished it.  Queen's speech admits state of Ireland, advocates coercive

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		measures. Gladstone wants land reforms “Free Sale” being the chief point and the worst of the three Fs.
	8 Jan, Sat	Returned Dunsany and did business. Farm, co-operative, etc.
	9 Jan, Sun	Went to Swainstown and saw N. Preston. He was looking pretty ill. But he is on the mend. Went on to Randlestown and found Douglas Rowley. Hercules R’s son.
	10 Jan, Mon	Aim at Randlestown to hunt. But the frost has set in in good earnest and looks like lasting.
	11 Jan, Tue	Heavy frost. Went to Dublin and met Walter Bulwer who wants his son to come out to the West. I gave him all the information I could. W.B. dined at Club with me.
[Dungannon – seat of Ld. Ranfurly]	12 Jan, Wed	Went up to Dungannon on a general invit[atio]n. I went to see the new Lady R. She is very good looking in face – a little wanting in expression, but has a bad figure. She was nice and hospitable. Not clever. Met the 2 Miss Handcocks, Freddy Lawless, Hardcastle a Cambridge friend of Johnny’s and Lady Castlemaine mother to Misses Handcock.
[ulster – heavy, double-breasted overcoat; covert – suiting fabric; cloke – archaic spelling]	13 Jan, Thu	Skated. The house is greatly improved by her Ladyship’s ménage and is now comfortable as well as vast. It is ugly in its building but very well furnished and they keep up princely feeding. A guest, one Reynard 15th R[e]g[imen]t left and took my ulster and covert coat. The bounds of Xian toleration were here transgressed by the abduction of my coat and my cloke also.
[Steinitz – world chess champion 1886-1894.]	14 Jan, Fri	Dublin by the 7-7 A.M. train. Played against Steinitz as one of the 16 opponents at simultaneous play. I won my game after 4 hours’ fight. The only win. Dined with Mayo and went to Pantomime which was very poor. Mayo promises to visit us in Wyoming.
	15 Jan, Sat	Went by appointment to have a talk with one Smithson, 25 Eden Quay, supposed to be a very good man of business on American Land Schemes. He I thought might someday be useful if I ever went in for a Land Company. Our ideas on American Land coincided. But we talked of no schemes.  Lady Power asked me down to her place for Chicken Hartopp’s ball in Kilkenny on Monday. Returned Dunsany.  Dick Frewen came D[unsan]y from Rockfield.
	16 Jan, Sun	Dick and I walked over to Killeen to see the place. The ladies where [ <i>sic</i> ] away skating. He liked the old Castle but thought it had fallen to the wrong person in Killeen.  Coleridge, G. Murphy, Killeen & G. Briscoe dined with us.
	17 Jan, Mon	Station by early train through deep snow. Dick and I compared the winter to Wyoming. But how thankful I am that I have a comfortable house to live in. In Dublin Dick and I parted. I went to Oldtown to see how the little woman [Emily de Burgh] was looking. She is still beautiful. But a little more bound up in her babies and less warm to admirers.
	18 Jan, Tue	Drove over to Gowran Grange with E[mily] de B[urgh]. The snow was drifting before a hurricane as it did in Wyoming in that fearful Cañon in November. I had determined over night to go and see out the worst of the weather with Pater in London. So went up to Dublin for the night mail and I certainly <u>had</u> a passage.

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
		It was a fearful storm. I was thrown virtually out of my berth and was violently sick – after crossing the Atlantic in a storm without an hour's sickness.
[12 shillings, 6 pence]	19 Jan, Wed	12.30 am. I was very wisely taking possession of a sleeping berth in the train. The storm of Tuesday will be historical. I thought we should be snowed up. But we did get to London 5.30 PM after wandering round by Birmingham and being 9 hours between Rugby and London. We had nothing to eat all the way and the train was full of schoolboys. In London 12/6 secured a cab and I got to No. 7 having travelled in a storm which our generation won't forget.
	20 Jan, Thu	Dunvilles asked me to dine and sleep.  I found one Captain Raymond Parr attending upon Conny. Who is Parr – not the man who advertises Long Life Pills. But the younger son of a Warrington banker whose elder sons are squires with wealth and position in Cheshire.
	21 Jan, Fri	Randal came to town. He looks fairly well. But he is nervous about himself. He thinks he is in for a nervous break up. I hope not poor fellow. He has had great shocks to his constitution which I fear tell severely on him still.
	22 Jan, Sat	Parr proposed to Conny and was accepted providing Pater agreed. He is a gentleman at first sight. Beyond this I know little and have seen little of him. He was brought in by the James' and the whole match seems to have been personally conducted by Mr. and Mrs. James. I wish poor little Conny joy of her marriage. She is right to marry rather than risk old maidism.  Emily Hawkesley came.
	23 Jan, Sun	Went down to Dunstall. Johnny is engrossed in the place – Ernle in the children. So they are happier now. Johnny was too strong for her and she has learnt to submit. I pity her, poor thing. But I fancy she is much happier now than she was.
[Johannes Zukertort – winner of 1893 London International Chess Tournament; runner-up, 1886 world championships.]	24 Jan, Mon	Returned late to No. 7 [Grosvenor Place].  Called on Close Brothers with Nat Massey. Found Benson & talked a good deal with him on N.W. Iowa and the chances of cornfeeding in connexion with the Western business.  Zukertort dined with us, the party being Havelocks & Burkes, Emily Hawkesley & Parr.
	25 Jan, Tue	[No entry]
	26 Jan, Wed	“Mr Boughton” and I dined together at the Criterion & went to Maskelyne & Cook's performance. It was poor to what it used to be.  In the morning Boughton, Alexis and I held a conclave at 69 Onslow Gardens on our Western affairs. Alexis acknowledged that he had made a fearful mess of the new cattle buy and we agreed that the command of more capital was necessary. So we decided that we would take in no more partners at once but would invite likely partners to come out to us and if we approved of them and vice versa we would extend the partnership.  Thaw set in after the severest frost of living memory.

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
	27 Jan, Thu	Saw Reggy Levinge first time since his return. Parr & Conny, Reggy, Emily James and “Solomon” and Emily Hawkesley & I went to Pantomime at Gaiety. Poor. But songs good.
	28 Jan, Fri	[No entry]
	29 Jan, Sat	[No entry]
	30 Jan, Sun	Saw Ella, Aunt Isabella and Jack Simeon.  Told Nat Massey we might possibly be able to start him in a farm. But made no promises.  Left London with Alexis and his sisters Eleanor & Caroline for Ireland.
	31 Jan, Mon	Breakfasted Maretimo where I found Lizzie, Emily and Reggy Levinge – Lady Cloncurry not up before I left – Saw young Bulwer at Club and told him he might come out with us and look at our business.
	1 Feb, Tue	Hunted at Bellinter. It has thawed ever since Wednesday as fast as it could. But the country is still utterly unfit for riding. The ditches are full of snow.  Called in evening on the Killeen people and I settled with Lady Mary that I would give a dance on Wednesday 16th.
	2 Feb, Wed	[No entry]
	3 Feb, Thu	Went to Dublin to attend meeting of directors of Sweetman’s North American Land Co. Found men of note, no ability & no knowledge of the subject on the Board. So I declined to join and indeed I spoke so strongly of the danger of working in ignorance of the subject that I believe all declined except one. I saw Vesey Dawson an old Eton friend.
	4 Feb, Fri	Hunted the Officer Dunboyne. The Chesnut is laid up and today I laid up the Officer – neither badly I hope. Had a splendid run which I saw well and thoroughly enjoyed.
	5 Feb, Sat	Killeen mounted me with Preston’s harriers on a very hard pulling mare. But I enjoyed the ride though we hadn’t much hunting.
	6 Feb, Sun	Lunched and dined at Killeen. In afternoon Coleridge and I and the Killeen party all walked over to Swainstown & saw Nat Preston who is very satisfactorily convalescent.
	7 Feb, Mon	Spent day with surveyor making estate map. Fearful thunderstorm. I never saw such rain and wind & I don’t think thunderstorms are usual at this time of year.
	8 Feb, Tue	Went to hunt at Dunshaughlin on R’s filly – But never found the hounds at all. Was late for meet I never caught them up.  Heard GV Briscoe was very ill. Went over to him & he was all right. But had had a sudden spasm in the chest and therewith a good fright & warning to live carefully for the future.  Dined with the [Sir John F.] Dillons and the Brightons and Fowlers.
	9 Feb, Wed	Coop meeting. Rankin, Curry, John [F.] Dillon, Fowler, Barton John Wilkinson & self present. Did some good business. Coop

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		going on most satisfactorily and will I think ?console Whiteside. Rode over to Bellinter to see Gussy Briscoe who had been very unwell with a sudden attack on the heart on Sunday night.
	10 Feb, Thu	Went up to Dublin to shop for my dance on the 16th. Mrs. Leonard as before is my mainstay in Dublin.
	11 Feb, Fri	Meath Hounds Summerhill. I rode Gussy Briscoe's horse "Kilsale" and had very good sport. Gave several invitations for my dance verbatim. Rode to Bellinter where I dined and slept.
	12 Feb, Sat	Rode the Officer with Wards at Rathbeggan & had capital gallop. Have not yet had a fall!  In evening first instalment of the "house party" arrived – Emily de Burgh & Gerty de Robeck. Of course I began to be foolishly – imprudently – happy.
	13 Feb, Sun	Church in morning. In afternoon we three walked to Killeen where besides the family Mrs. & Miss Herbert of Llanarth had arrived. In evening Killeen, Lady Mary and the Herberts & George Murphy dined with us, and we laid out our course for the week's enjoyment.
	14 Feb, Mon	Today serious work begins. I find Emily and Gerty & Rose Lawless, who arrived by midday train, admirable at the necessary work. Already the house begins to transform. Carpets, curtains, ornaments &c &c appear from their hiding places. It is cheery to hear Gerty with her loud hearty laugh struggling on the staircase with a load that a "pack" animal couldn't carry – of things she has routed out from the lumber which I had almost forgotten, but which are soon full of memories. Tom de B. and W. Steward arrived by evening train.
	15 Feb, Tue	Hunt at Killeen. Gertie on T. Leonard's pony, Rose and Emily in the trap galloping the Massareene across country. In evening we all dined at Killeen where we sat down about 20. Then we all drove over to Dunsany to the Harvest Home. We (the men) had Meath hunt coats on and the ladies were well dressed too. I think the people all liked our coming and I never saw a Harvest Home go off so well.
	16 Feb, Wed	Tom, Steward and I (foolishly) hunted with Wards. We had a regular steeple chase at the start for 25 minutes. Then the deer went on for 30 miles. Tom who was not well in at the race part went on for endless miles and made us all very nervous by not turning up till 8 o'clock. All preparations finished except the floor at dark. We had telegraphed for French chalk. But the wise Holmes must needs put on a thick coating of common chalk! Thanks to Steward's energies we removed this and got a very good floor to dance on. At 7.30 --- Briscoe arrived. About 10.15 the rest poured in. The co-op boy was dressed in an old suit of yellow satin I found upstairs and gave great amusement as he received the guests. The rooms were all well lighted and beautifully decorated by the ladies. The supper was excellent and the dance was kept in <u>full swing</u> till 4.30. List of guests enclosed. I was well satisfied. All that went wrong was 1. Cost too great 2. Ladies in house and self too tired 3. All the soldiers from Dublin refused, the day being badly chosen.
	17 Feb, Thu	Killeen men and our men had a pigeon sweep which G Murphy



Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		and I divided. Then all our house party left and I was alone! How I felt it.
	18 Feb, Fri	Harry Bourke had a grand Hunt Dinner last night at the Shelbourne to which he very kindly asked me. But I was altogether too much done up to accept.  Trivy mounted me today with the Meaths at Dunboyne where an enormous field turned out to enjoy – a blank day!
	19 Feb, Sat	Last night I had the worst nightmare, I think, I ever had. I dreamt of murder and sudden death to a degree unknown to my peaceful nature. I fear the natural effects of the week's enjoyment had something to do with it.  Did the place with Barton.
	20 Feb, Sun	Church. Walked and dined with the Killeen people. We all called on Mrs. Johnson. She was "not at home" That means I fear "very unwell".  [newspaper item pasted in]: Tiverton in 'Field' Feb. 26: If the aureole of golden sport crowned this most rubrical Wednesday, Mr. Horace Plunkett made it right festive in Meath by lighting up the old halls and corridors of Dunsany Castle, and giving all his neighbourhood (and neighbourhood is a far-reaching term in Meath) an opportunity of waltzing, polking, and schottischesing <i>à discrétion</i> till morning. (The evening before had been devoted to entertaining the rural population, who enjoyed themselves greatly; and I mention the circumstance to show readers of <i>The Field</i> that, though the policy of exasperation has borne fruit, it has not severed all ties of confidence and affection between the different classes in Ireland.
	21 Feb, Mon	Hunted Criterion with Wards. Poor hunt. But I liked my mount. Dined and slept Bellinter.
	22 Feb, Tue	Stayed at Dunsany all day doing business of sorts. The Meath Hounds had a splendid day. So much for my calculation that I was saving by not going out today. I had a bad day yesterday.
	23 Feb, Wed	Hunted the Officer with Wards at Culmullin. Rode through Killeen and Dunsany into Swainstown. I was very well carried. Drove in evening to Sion House and dined and slept with Dunville and wife. He is the whiskey king. 2 Miss Knoxes and Richard Harrison made the party.
	24 Feb, Thu	Mounted Gussy B's pony with Meaths and dined and slept night with Dunvilles. Fitzherberts & Dillon dined – so everyone was dull. The hunting was good. But of course I wasn't much in it.
	25 Feb, Fri	Hunted Ch[esnut] horse at Drumree, had day with Meaths. Coleridge dined here.
	26 Feb, Sat	Hunted with Wards at Norman's Grove. Rode the Officer. This is my fifth day this week. I never did more, and out of 2 half lame horses!  Had a splendid galop today. The little horse was at his best and carried me to the front all day. Drove to Dublin with Leonard with whose party dined in the evening.
	27 Feb, Sun	Spent a lazy day in Dublin & at Maretimo where I found Rose, Lizzy & Lady Cloncurry.
	28 Feb, Mon	Rose and I went to Oldtown and had a charming dance at Gowran Grange in the evening. I made the acquaintance of and rather liked Lady Adelaide Taylour. Nora Gough an old friend is staying

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		at Oldtown.
	1 Mar, Tue	We were to have hunted at 18th milestone near Naas but the country is covered with snow.
	2 Mar, Wed	I went and played chess against Archdeacon de Burgh at Naas. I beat him blindfold.
[fag – young boarding school boy who performs menial tasks for an older pupil]	3 Mar, Thu	Went over to Jo[h]nstown–Kennedy and saw my old fag and the new Lady Kennedy. Johnny K, now “Sir John”, was glad to see me and we had lots of talk about old times. Went in evening to Palmerston where I found in the house Gen’l. Fraser, Miss de Moleyns. Hon. Geo. Gore, I and one Sinclair. Dance in evening which I enjoyed
	4 Mar, Fri	Left Palmerston in time to get to Drumree by Ward special. On arrival I found my poor little horse with one of his knees frightfully cut into by an accident on the road. Had to come home & doctor him. But it looks a hopeless case. If anything happens to end his hunting days it will be a great loss to me. I never had a real friend in the animal kingdom before and never shall again. He is so generous. I never ride him with whip or spur and if he could only galop he would never be out of it.
	5 Mar, Sat	I mounted Tom de Burgh who is staying at Rahinston on my Chesnut and Killeen mounted me on his grey mare. Blank day till evening when we had a splendid run from Trimleston to Rathnally. Both of us were in it and thoroughly enjoyed it. I went in the evening with T. deB. to Rahinston. Found Emmy there and so was happy.
	6 Mar, Sun	Church at Agher and walks about place.
	7 Mar, Mon	Came back to Dunsany and found Officer worse. Went up to Dublin to meet Johnny who had come over with the corpse of Johnny Geohegan [ <i>sic</i> ] who had died in his service.  In train going up I had a talk with Sweetman who told me he had a mare to sell for £15. Said I would buy.
	8 Mar, Tue	Johnny and I came down by morning train. Johnny Geohegan [ <i>sic</i> ] was buried at 2 o’c and Johnny was very anxious to make a funeral oration. I was much against and Barton d[itt]o. We prevailed. Allen saw my horses and decided that the Officer would recover. R’s colt is to be a carriage horse.
	9 Mar, Wed	I hunted with Wards and didn’t get on very well. Was riding Chesnut horse but he wasn’t very fit.  The £15 mare arrived not looking too bad at all for the money. News from America says 1,000,000 cattle have perished in Colorado and Wyoming.
	10 Mar, Thu	Business at Dunsany all day. I am getting more than ever attached to the place & regret the field of my chief work being on the other side of the Atlantic. I really have not the physical pluck for the work. Here I have the great help of home & friends to encourage any labour. Out there I have no friends or (other than business) interests.
	11 Mar, Fri	Meet of Meaths at Bective and I find myself on Killeen’s mount again, good soul that he is. Fair hunt. Went up to Dublin to Mrs.

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		Blacker Douglas' Ball. Met Gerty de Robeck, Rose Lawless, Miss Fowler, the Misses ?Mundloch and many others. Johnny went today to Olivers to lunch and to Bellinter to dine and sleep.
	12 Mar, Sat	Drove to 9th milestone with Tom Leonard and hunted chestnut horse & rode home. Johnny had returned being quite muddled with "the squire's" wine. We dined with the Murphys at the Grange. Gussy B. who slept here came with us.
	13 Mar, Sun	Johnny, Gussy and I spent the day and dined at Killeen. We drove over to Corbalton. I never was in the house before. It is tenanted by old Mrs. Corbal[ly] who is in her second childhood. The Misses Preston of Silverstream received us. George Murphy made tremendous running with the elder, Miss Caroline. I hope he will marry her.
	14 Mar, Mon	Gussy left early and Johnny left by last train. I am afraid he is taking to nipping in wine as he does in medicines. Between the two he won't last long. Poor Johnny. One could show him the folly of it in any other man. But he makes out a case for himself out of his natural cleverness.  Czar of Russia assassinated yesterday!
	15 Mar, Tue	Business in place all day and cooperative business in the evening. Fearful accounts of the winter in Wyoming. Also attended the Board of Guardians and had a not very encouraging experience of the business capacity of our future lords and masters under Local Government changes promised by the Liberals.
	16 Mar, Wed	Long hunting run with Wards. Geo Murphy mounted me on a first class hunter – one of his best sort and I enjoyed the day thoroughly. Got telegram from R Frewen that he could not pay me a projected visit. Could I meet him in Dublin. Went up by last train.
	17 Mar, Thu	Saw Dick Frewen and Bulwer father and son. Agreed that Bulwer should go out with Boughton and Alexis on 24th prox. Dick told me that his eldest brother could not raise the £10000 he had undertaken to pay for cattle he had bought last August when at Big Horn, & that he might have to sell the cattle. That confirmed my wish to take in Bulwer as a partner. He will have about £3000. Returned D[unsan]ly by midday train.
[screw – obsolete term for an old horse]	18 Mar, Fri	Hunted Meaths Doug--- Gate on my £15 screw. She is a trump but awfully shaky in front. Had a nice run from Kilcarty into Corbalton. I was well in up to Clusagh when I thought they were going to Killeen and got out of it riding too knowingly through Clushagh. A "little knowledge" ruined me – still I saw the best part of the run which was very good.
	19 Mar, Sat	Hunted Chesnut long run with Wards. Bulwer, who contemplates joining us (if all parties agree) in Wyoming came by evening train and I had the Murphys to meet him at dinner. B. seems a good sort – not brilliant. But I should say he had good stuff in him for our company.  Baron de Robeck asked me for April 8. Accepted wedding now of --an--.
	20 Mar, Sun	Bulwer and I walked with the Killeen people to Mrs. Johnson's. She is very bad and cannot I fear see /82 if indeed the autumn of

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		/81. Coleridge, Killeen & GV Briscoe dined. The latter had a spasm in the chest and gave us much alarm. Bulwer left by late train. Gussy slept here. Declined Lady Fermoy's invitation to Trabolgan for 23rd.
	21 Mar, Mon	Business about the place. John Preston drove over in tow of Mrs. Briscoe and promised to buy "Criterion" for £120 at end of season.
	22 Mar, Tue	Hunted with Meaths at Philpotstown on Tripod my £15 mare. Long cold day poor sport, & had to ride home from close to Athboy. Dined and slept with the Dunvilles who had the Somervilles staying with them.
	23 Mar, Wed	Hunted Chesnut with Wards and had very good run. Well carried. "Criterion" passed the vet and so is to be mine no more after this season. Went up to Dublin and dined with Bulwer father and son & Boughton who had come up en route for Wyoming.
	24 Mar, Thu	Boughton and I came down to Dunsany and had a good talk over Ranche business. We rode out. But the weather was too detestably March-like to be endurable. We agreed that B. should telegraph from Wyoming to me when I ought to be out. Mrs Johnson of Warrenstown our nearest neighbour – an old friend – a good & clever owner of a property, cheerful and good natured, a good Catholic and a charitable soul died at 7 P.M. I am very sorry for her death. But she had lived to a goodish age, 65.
	25 Mar, Fri	Business all the morning. Got invit[atio]n from Lady Mayo by second post from Saturday to Tuesday. So off goes my horse to Hazelhatch. Tomorrow's Kildare meet and myself to Dublin en route for same place.
	26 Mar, Sat	Went by early train to Celbridge. Hunted Chestnut to Kilcock – good sport and well carried – drove to Palmerston. Found Bourkes female including Lady ?Margery and Colonel Crichton. Rather liked the Bourke girls.
	27 Mar, Sun	Church at Naas where I heard Canon de Burgh preach a good sermon which in the country was refreshing. He tried to reconcile the "easy gate" passages with the "straight gate" ones and showed some power of argument. He read the chap in Genesis on Jacob's fears about his son Benjamin most pathetically. I had to leave Palmerston today to get to Mrs. Johnson's funeral next morning. So I went for an afternoon train which I purposely missed and then dined at Oldtown and went by train in ev[enin]g to Dublin.
[congé – farewell]	28 Mar, Mon	Attended Mrs. Johnson's funeral with carriage & pair. There was half a mile of procession mournful and decent for an Irish R.C.'s congé. Certainly the muttered and mumbled dog Latin compares poorly with the impressive burial service of our Church.
	29 Mar, Tue	Went to Dunshaughlin on grey mare and met hounds about 1.30 from Dunboyne. Had long hunting run into Carton & the night nearly.

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
	30 Mar, Wed	Coop meeting. Did lots of business tho only Barton, Rankin and Fitzsimons appeared. Hunted Chestnut very foolishly long run with Wards from Dunshaughlin to Somerville. No accident luckily deprived me of the £120 I am to get for him at the end of the season.  Went to Bellinter to make arrangements about a partnership in some Bellinter lands betw'n Gussy and Oliver Shannon a farmer.
	31 Mar, Thu	Met James Cullen in Bellinter and arranged Gussy's business. Then had a talk on Dunsany affairs. He acknowledged that the cattle is the only source of profit – had been horribly mismanaged and he ascribed it to Barton's views on the subject being different from his own. But why did he not say so before? Hundreds and thousands have been wasted at Dunsany and now the reasons are coming out. Did business in Trim and R[ock] Lodge & returned to dine & sleep Bellinter.
	1 Apr, Fri	Hunted Tripod at Bellinter. No sport but lots of people out and so enjoyable. Dined and slept Randlestown.
	2 Apr, Sat	Returned Dunsany. Hunted Chesnut with Harriers. Will send him to John Preston on Monday to avoid chance of accidents. Wards & Harriers met at Kilcarty. Last Wednesday they met at Rathfeigh, the meets in both cases being wide apart. Strange coincidence. Misses Preston, Killeen & Mary Plunkett, George & James Murphy, Oliver Brighton and Gussy Briscoe dined here.
	3 Apr, Sun	Kilmessan & business! But I am leaving tomorrow for London to do Conny's wedding and so must prepare.
	4 Apr, Mon	Business in Dublin and off via Northwall for London.
[Chum – Chambré Brabazon Ponsonby, HP's brother-in-law; Polly, HP's sister Mary]	5 Apr, Tue	Arrived No. 7 for breakfast to find a good old family party – possibly the last! Conny happy but horribly overworked by invitations, thanksgivings, trying on trousseau &c. Chum & Polly, Randal gathered together. Ernle & Johnny tomorrow.
	6 Apr, Wed	Conny's presents are many and good – the Parrs dined and Johnny and Ernle having come to town we had a both-family gathering before the event. I thought the Parrs rather a seedy lot. But this was only a first impression.  I am busy outfitting for my third transatlantic trip.
	7 Apr, Thu	Another wedding in the family! Bridesmaids – Rose Lawless, Blanche Ponsonby, Miss Butler, Clementina Nicholson – Gerty Levinge, Elsie Havelock. Best man I didn't know. Large gathering of whom I knew not one tithe. Conny did her part bravely. Was melancholy at the drive off of course. But this little thorn sweetens the roses of the honeymoon. God bless her, good little soul. She will be happy. It is a break down of the family ambition backed as it was by thousands of pounds. But a realisation of it might have been the very gall & bitterness in after life. What is is best!
	8 Apr, Fri	We are going off by degrees so as not to give a shock to Pater. Johnny and Ernle today departed. I shall not see them again till after my next America campaign.
	9 Apr, Sat	Shopping and business with Pater. Invited to Baron de Robeck's

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		& Palmerston for party but could not go.
	10 Apr, Sun	Walking and talking with Pater.
	11 Apr, Mon	Chum and I left Euston 5.15 and got to Dublin via N[orth]wall at 7 A.M.
	12 Apr, Tue	Ran down a tug in Liffey this morning. Crew saved. Never saw such a smash. Our boat went clean through the tug in front of the engines and she went down in about 10 seconds.  R & I hunted with Meaths. I rode Tripod & he rode his colt. No foxes.
	13 Apr, Wed	Hunted G. Murphy's mount with Wards. Had very moderate sport.
	14 Apr, Thu	Stock taking at stores. I have been much annoyed by a letter in Irish Times of April 6th signed An Englishman and insinuating that my father started the stores out of the small savings of his servants to get his own goods cheap. I decided to take no notice of it however.
	15 Apr, Fri	Kilmessan. Then road [ <i>sic</i> ] about the place with Randal. Then O'Donnell Murphy called and talked for an hour which made a crowning penance.
	16 Apr, Sat	Went to Dublin by early train and spent day shopping, &c. In evening Chum and Polly, Rose Lawless and Mary Blacker came down to Dunsany. Jolly party we are now.
	17 Apr, Sun	Church at Kilmessan and then we all walked over to Killeen & got the Killeen people to come over here. We had tea together. The last tea we had together was on my mind. We were all children then. Not happier I think most of us, but certainly less apprehensive of future sorrow.
	18 Apr, Mon	Chum the father of our party took the ribbons in the Dunsany and Killeen 4-in-hand and drove us and the Killeens to Fairyhouse. Large gathering, great fun. No upset. Killeen dined with us. I am glad Polly and Chum like the Killeen people so much.
	19 Apr, Tue	Went up to Dublin with Mary Blacker and Rose Lawless, who left our party today and came back by Ward special. I went to see Hugh Cullen about land speculation in America. But I did not find him. I left word for him to come down here. He came by the 5.15. I rode Killeen's Nigger giving Henrietta Tripod in exchange. Had a couple of ?daring runs after two bucks. Both were too fast for me.
	20 Apr, Wed	Lawn tennis with Randal. Miss Fowler called and we sent over for her luggage and kept her to take on to a dance at Mrs. Jameson's in Navan. We went with the Killeen girls and Miss Hussey, Mary being chaperone. We had a good dance under the Great Liddell & all enjoyed ourselves.  Lady Fanny Lambart asked me to Beuparc for their dance.
	21 Apr, Thu	6.0 AM went to bed. 7 AM got up 8 AM to 12 M[idday] collected rents at Dunsany. 9 AM got a threatening letter evidently from a Trim tenant. These epistles now too common to take notice of.  1 PM Collected rents at Trim.  4 PM collected rents at R[ock]. Lodge. Pater had given reduction

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		of 25 p.c. & so job was tolerably easy. The Barnie Fitzpatricks asked me to Granston for the "Sunday before Puncchestown".
	22 Apr, Fri	Ld. Fingall very ill and not expected to recover. The Killeen girls came over to tea with Polly & me and looked rather unhappy. Polly and I saw and said goodbye to Henrietta and Lizzy of Warrenstown. It isn't quite settled yet just who gets that place, Capt'n. Lynch being entirely kept out of it by the idea that a landlord is shot at every day and often fatally. I hope the Leonards will be planted there.
	23 Apr, Sat	Business all day with Ld. Fingall's illness much on my mind. I sent all over the country suddenly for gin ordered for him. But I met the priest who said the case was hopeless.  Coop meeting poorly attended in evening at school house. About 35 present. Whiteside spoke at length on a visionary tho good intentioned scheme for con[su]me[r] cooperation. Murphy and Gussy B. stayed for dinner and we had whist.
	24 Apr, Sun	Poor Ld. Fingall died. This is the happiest day he has had for years, having been a martyr to a horrible disease of the nerves. It always made one ill to hear him crying for mercy to his God when the spasms came on. He told me his sufferings by day were nothing to the agony of the nights. So we regret him for his family's sake not his own.  I spent the whole day packing.
[ <i>genii loci</i> - guardian spirits of a place]	25 Apr, Mon	Off by the early train to Dublin after a few goodbyes to the <i>genii loci</i> Barton, Reid & c. Then Dublin where I did a day's shopping and met Bulwer to have a talk about his son. I told him we made no kind of promise to make his son a partner. He quite understood this. He said his son could have on applic[at]io[n] £2000 or £3000 – the former preferred. Went to Tommy Peacocke who had a house close to Curragh. Party Surtees' (man & wife) Capt'n. Foster R.N., Stephen Frewen, Capt'n. Bellasis.
	26 Apr, Tue	First day of Puncchestown. Every one there. Good racing and lovely day. Polly, Chum from Maretimo. R. came with Valentine. Too many goodbyes to say. But still very enjoyable. Emily de Burgh not there, being engaged with the next generation, a large portion of which seem likely to ---- the light through her.
	27 Apr, Wed	Left Tommy Peacocke early and went to Queenstown from Kildare by mail. Embarked on board "Celtic". Never saw such an awful lot of passengers. The skipper says they are all dry-goods people. There does not seem to be a gentleman – no not one.  Letter from Pater with parting injunction to sell out of Wyoming.
	28 Apr, Thu	Weather rough enough to make one feel head achy and uncomfortable. Having no possible companion out of some 50 saloon passengers aggravates the evil.  250 from Queenstown which we left 4.45 PM.
	29 Apr, Fri	Pitching and rolling most uncomfortably. On deck it is too cold to be pleasant and below it is stuffy and disagreeable.  295 knots. Strong wind west.

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
	30 Apr, Sat	282. Strong wind west. High head sea. Result – we were kept below all day and felt stuffy and seedy. This is truly weary trip. In the evening they tried to get up singing. But there is not even a singer on board. They are low-classed and uninteresting.
	1 May, Sun	265
	2 May, Mon	299
	3 May, Tue	300
	4 May, Wed	302
	5 May, Thu	332
	6 May, Fri	333 Wrote <del>Killeen</del> Fingall a letter of friendly advice. Socially I advised him “Beware of Toadies.” Politically “Take your seat and sit out Land Debate” &c &c. This dreary voyage is coming towards a close.
	7 May, Sat	Landed 6 A.M. at N.Y. Three hours with customs people during which time as I wouldn’t bribe them they did me out of \$20.00.  Called on Jeromes (25 Madison Square) to look for Moreton Frewen. Not there. Did not see the future Mrs. Moreton but am to call tomorrow.  On landing and getting into quiet place I find the singing [ <i>sic</i> ] in my ears still going on. Don’t know how to stop it! I suppose faultless diet is the only chance – and that in America!
	8 May, Sun	Breakfast about midday. Then called on Clara Jerome. Handsome, cheery, healthy, amicable and true. Such are my impressions. She made a friend of me at once. We had a long talk about mutual Irish friends, Wyoming life &c &c. We are to have a walk tomorrow together. Such is NY etiquette. I am proficient in it now. viz. Called on Charles Gould – lawyer – and his wife at 9.30 P.M.
	9 May, Mon	In morning took my contract with Searight and other papers down to Gould in Wall St. He gave much advice upon the case. He says our case is impregnable if we get justice. I may be congratulated on my amateur attorney’s work.  At 4 P.M. walked and talked with Clara J. We called together on Miss Beckwith, a great N.Y. beauty. She was charming. I must see her again. I liked C.J. very much and look forward to knowing her well. Slept for health’s sake (this is not hypocrisy for I hate the sight of the whores) with a mistress.
	10 May, Tue	Wrote Reynolds Moreton I should probably be at Le Mars about 15th or 16th. Packing most of the day and then left by Pennsylvania RR for Chicago. Summer coming in rapidly and heat very oppressive. In Pullman car intolerable.
	11 May, Wed	90° in shade and goodness knows what in Pullman car.  The Pennsylvania RR has a very even track and is most satisfactory. I think they bring railway travelling very nearly to perfection.
	12 May, Thu	Wrote S. M. Crooks, Co in Iowa to wire Withnell Hotel, Omaha Neb. if he could meet me any time Wednesday 18th afternoon or



Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		Thursday morning. Arrived Chicago. Business. Very hot up till 11 AM. Then bitterly cold. Curious climate!
	13 May, Fri	Stock yards in morning and various shopping &c in afternoon. Tried to see Shannon who came out from Spring Valley Summerhill to make some money and has I fear failed. Should like to get him some opening but shall not see him now.
[Chicago Burlington & Quincy]	14 May, Sat	Left Chicago by CB&Q.
	15 May, Sun	Arrived Omaha where I had introd[uctio]n to Dr. O'Connor, R.C. Bp. in these parts. Hotel (Withnell House) cram full of bagmen who are most unpleasant company. I stop here with the object of making enquiries into <u>land</u> in general for two reasons: 1. I may speculate in it, 2. I want to learn all I can about prospects of emigrants. Called on Dr. O'C. Not at home or likely to be for a week. So I make acquaintance of his coadjutors.  Attended Unitarian service. Sermon a wild lecture against inspiration of Bible. Style bad & facts good.
	16 May, Mon	Having booked at Hotel as "HC Plunkett, Ireland" the Omaha "Bee" interviewed me – this was a nuisance. But it doesn't pay to make enemies, so I did my best for him. Went around with "Father Corondri" and saw several of the Princes of Omaha. The leading capitalist – a millionaire – crossed the Missouri in /57 with \$53. He worked a farm, got up a herd, bought a plot of land &c &c. I noticed he was not of the dashing go ahead kind in speculation, but extremely cautious. Got to Le Mars by night where Close Brothers put me up for the night.
	17 May, Tue	Off early with Moreton to his farm. He is doing splendidly. His farm of 950 acres was bought at about £3.10 per acre. It is close to Le Mars, a small but I think a very rising town. The land which I saw turning up does me good to watch. Deep black loam – 2 ft deep. Grows anything and everything. I learnt a good deal about the system of farming. R.M. has 16 pupils who pay him £120 per annum and work his farm. Lord Hobart, heir to the Earldom (but not the money) of Buckinghamshire might be seen in bear [ <i>sic</i> ] feet following the patriarchal plough. True I never saw anyone more like a ploughboy and less like an Earl. But the blood is there and such are the times in which we live. I am tempted to buy land out here. It will rise in value fast.
[Julia Ducie – RM's sister-in-law; wife of 3rd Earl Ducie] ['Pups' – pupils; paying apprentices]	18 May, Wed	I wished I had speculated at Le Mars instead of Powder R at first. But then there is no romance except ploughing &c and it is not as healthy. ----ance & ague at times and water alkali. It is however with the rising land a better spec.  Long talk with Moreton made me like him so much. He by the way thinks Julia Ducie hollow and cold. Ducie rough on principle but not really hard-hearted. I agree with him about the former – of the latter I have had no means of judging. Reynolds is manly, religious and altogether a fine fellow. He manages his "pups" who are past the difficult age having full strength and not full discretion, admirably. Left Le Mars & slept Sioux City in an abominable little inn. The Sioux have a reservation there. I wanted to see the civilised Indians. I hear they are chiefly

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		beggars.
["A Son of Lord Dunsany on His Way to the West", <i>Omaha Daily Bee</i> , 18 May]	19 May, Thu	Omaha 9.30. Saw account of my interview with reporter of "Omaha Bee". How it was distorted and turned upside down. It was made into a glorification of the Land League. Left Omaha by westbound train, got out at Grand Island having been told I could get up to an Irish colony – Greeley Co. Neb. and back in time to catch train west tomorrow. Found it was impossible so went on.
	20 May, Fri	Cheyenne again. Went to the new Club which was very well got up, comfortable and well managed. Met Searight & what a look he gave me. I fear from what I hear the jury here will go against the alien.
	21 May, Sat	The Laws delay! Did Hamlet foresee Roche & Plunkett versus Searight[?] Our attorneys have made a mess of the primary petition. Team comes on on Monday and they have not the case fully at issue. I shall be at it again till late in November!  Everyone admits that the case is fairly in our favor. But all agree that West influence will carry anything against a stranger.  Buying and being robbed all day.  Last night I went to Chase's Theatre. When I was in it before it was the most disreputable place I ever saw. But there was a Comedy Co. in it now and the performance was at least decent. There was one who <u>acted</u> . The rest were dummies. The effect was much like Salvini playing in Italian and the rest of the cast in English.
	22 May, Sun	A man named Campbell, an adventurer from Canada came to the Club last night from his ranche near Antelope Springs. He and I got very thick. He seems to me to be honest and open and I took a liking to him. He and I compared notes on the cattle business and I learnt much. He too had found the pressure of the feeling against aliens intolerable.
	23 May, Mon	Wrote Pater that I wanted to buy at once a farm of Reynolds Moreton's for about £1200. Told him if he consented to advance money by paying me whole of my fortune <del>to telegraph R. Moreton</del> "Yes Dunsany" and that then R.M. would tell him exact amount to telegraph R. Moreton on receipt of R.M.'s letter stating amount exactly and name of his Banker. Advised Reynolds Moreton of same. Motion to strike out from our petition grounds of special damage allowed. Arguments had been heard previously.
	24 May, Tue	Business of sorts.
	25 May, Wed	Had an interview with Brown & Potter. First time I had seen Brown. He is not a fool and he and I understood each other. We laid out our plan of campaign v Searight and I have now some hopes of a good verdict at some future time.  Saw N.R. Davis and had a talk with him on cattle business. He thinks in a few years the overcrowding will bring a catastrophe in the winter. I think so too. The precaution will be to get an outlet for cattle other than beef steers.
	26 May, Thu	Left Cheyenne after starting our freight off.
	27 May, Fri	Left Rock Creek 4 AM.

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
	28 May, Sat	Powder R. 5 P.M. 37 hours staging. The jolting of that drive has a very serious effect on my nerves, and I shall avoid it when ever I can.
	29 May, Sun	Dick Frewen for dinner and then met by Bulwer in our buggy. When we arrived at New Ranche horses got away by themselves & smashed buggy in washout. Found Boughton & 2 Roches happy and well – not quarrelling & things generally satisfactory.
[Donahue]	30 May, Mon	Rode to round-up with Alexis and Boughton. Jack Donaghue [ <i>sic</i> ] was in his element and I was very well satisfied with him. I think he is the best foreman in these parts.  Our new house is nicely situated and will be comfortable. At present there is no furniture except a few three legged semi bottomed chairs.
	31 May, Tue	Resting over a/cs. Nerves out of order and rest indicated.  Climate really enjoyable just now. Sometimes hot in daytime but always cool at night.
	1 Jun, Wed	[No entry]
	2 Jun, Thu	Went over to Dick's. Found one Morgan whom Moreton F. had picked up on the Railroad and & sent to Powder River for his but not our good. Mrs. Peters I saw for first time & liked. She is clever.  Got letter from Bp. O'Connor advising me to buy from Geo. P. Bemis some town lots in Omaha which I had seen about for Hugh Cullen. Wrote H.C. to telegraph Geo P. Bemis if he wanted them and advised Geo P. Bemis & Bp. O'Connor.
[Chicago & North Western Railroad]	3 Jun, Fri/ 4 Jun, Sat	Returned Ranche. Alexis and I had a talk in which I propounded a corn-feeding scheme. My proposal was that we should set up a farm along the line of the Chicago & N.W. R.R which already comes to Pierre, a point about 150 miles E. of Deadwood and in Dakota. From this point we can ship our cattle. As far as I can prophecy the time will come when the fruits of overcrowding will be heavy winter losses and only those who can lower the numbers of their herds will have the necessary safety valve. What I should like to do would be to get a large farming acquaintance in the corn states so as to be able to sell mixed cattle on commission and sell our own stock cattle too when an outlet becomes necessary. We can also cornfeed on a large scale. One reason for this is that I could manage this business now and the Roches could be very useful on a farm. An occasional visit from Alexis is all I should want here.
	5 Jun, Sun	In Ranche life it is hard to get up the Sunday feel which clean clothes, cold dinner, abolition of toys and the physical dissolution of long service perpetuates in the man at home. Our one "hand" didn't work today, but only because he has worked 6 days since he has last "lay around" for a day.
	6 Jun, Mon	Went to Cow Ranche, Dick having sent word that he wanted to see me. The business was to pour out some of his griefs. His foreman had just left him in the middle of gathering beef; he had failed to sell out of his store; he had lost horses and was a second Job. Things never will go right with the Frewens I fear. They have

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
		lots of ability but no ballast. They don't understand and never will the feeling of the country. Hence they are unpopular and they and theirs are roughly handled.
	7 Jun, Tue	Went to Dick's. One Morgan a most objectionable Britisher whom Moreton Frewen sends up to our colony, having met him at a Chicago hotel, went to our Ranche. I asked him to take him off Dick's hands.
	8 Jun, Wed	Captain Shearburn – IX Lancers who has been prospecting round here for some months accompanied me back to our Ranche.  He was in an affair which eclipsed Balaclava in the Afghan war, having charged with 120 men 17 times against 10,000 men. His horse was shot under him and he had extraordinary escapes, his clothes being riddled. Out of the 120 only 42 survived. On another occasion he rode 170 miles in enemy's country in a day. Fired on all the way.
	9 Jun, Thu	To continue about Shearburn. He lost all his money gambling and had to leave the army. He came out here in Feb. Got a bad fall from a horse and was in McKinney hospital for some weeks. Is well again now and hopes to go into cattle business. Talked of buying out a neighbour's herd. We talked of going in with him. But on the whole it will hardly come off as the feeling of the Firm is against authoritative inexperience.
	10 Jun, Fri	Made 8 lbs. butter. It was good too, which is satisfactory for first attempt. Spent day doing menial work about the Ranche.
	11 Jun, Sat	Went up to hay camp and worked a bit at the hay. I am not strong enough to be much good at physical labour and so I leave most of it to the Roches and Boughton.
	12 Jun, Sun	At 7 A.M. we hear that our freight had come to Powder R. Went down to Dick Frewen's and found it was only the stove windows and doors which had been sent from Cheyenne last September! Had sent word up to the hay camp that freight was there and so had to ride up there to stop their leaving the hay and coming down. Had a ride up the N. Fork inside the Horn through thick bush over rough ground after night fall. Such is business 40 miles from the road to civilisation. Dick's telephone saved me half my journey.
	13 Jun, Mon	Last night I had no bed. Had to get into Alexis' & so had no sleep. Don't feel very well today in consequence.
	14 Jun, Tue	[No entry]
	15 Jun, Wed	Edmund Roche left the ranche for the hay and so I took his place as cook. The work of cooking & looking after the place generally is pretty heavy – 4 cows to milk, chickens to attend to, butter to make, a foal and 2 young elk (new pets) to feed on milk. Cooking, cleaning up, chopping wood, watering garden and churning.
	16 Jun, Thu	[No entry]
	17 Jun, Fri	Our freight arrived. I rode down to the store and took it over.
	18 Jun, Sat	Undertook to drive up Dick's buggy (just arrived from Cheyenne after repairs) up to his Ranche. Took our neighbour Nichols with me. After going 2 miles one of the horses kicked the gearing to pieces & then bolted, taking the other horse with her. Nichols and

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		I were violently overturned at full gallop. I fell on my back and was much shaken but nothing broken. Rode from Dick's to Home Ranche in some misery.
	19 Jun, Sun	Felt much better than I expected: but my weak nerves are much shaken by the fall of yesterday.
	20 Jun, Mon	Alexis and I drove the buggy as far as Chapin's Ranche on our way to McKinney where stock-owners are to meet tomorrow to form a Stock Association.  Our host tonight is a small haygrower. By the custom of the country we go in and share his food & shelter & pay nothing. We should only insult him by offering money. We should, of course, do the same for him. But one would like to do more.  These small hay men will, I fear, sell out eventually to sheep men. Then good bye Wyo.
	21 Jun, Tue	Got early to McKinney. Yesterday we got a fearful drenching from a thunder & hail storm. I felt none the better for it.  The meeting of stock-owners brought a great diversity of men together. But the diversity of genius was not satisfactory in results. Nothing having been arranged beforehand, organisation was impossible and nothing was done. We came 60 miles over rough country & many came further. We slept at another hay ranche. 7° frost at night! Strange climate.
[HMS s– Her Majesty's Ships]	22 Jun, Wed	Started early and drove up the canon of Crazy Woman where two years ago Gussy Briscoe and I went up into the mountains. Scenery as beautiful as ever. But we were here on business. There among the crags and gulches some vulgar pursuer of lucre had introduced a saw mill. How he got it there goodness knows. We found it hard enough to get our buggy along his tracks. Then off to our Ranche. Short cut resulted in overturning the buggy. But I was out of it in time to save another shake. Carriages upset in this rough country as regularly as H.M.S.s in English waters.
	23 Jun, Thu	What a country for business. Bulwer gone down to Frewen's on some business for us. 40 miles. He forgets his errand & I must go tomorrow. That is 80 miles.
	24 Jun, Fri	Alexis and I determined to go East to enquire into cattle freights, get bulls & study the cattle question generally with a view to utilising our control of western cattle and participating in intermediate profits. I rather dread the dog days in the states. But with great care in diet &c. I daresay I may be able to stand it. Went to Dick F's on business.
	25 Jun, Sat	Returned Ranche having made contract for delivery of 20 bulls each to R.F. & Willy Peters. The Peters are to make use of our house now as they want to get out of the way of the honeymooners Moreton and his wife.
	26 Jun, Sun	Preparing all day to leave the ranche for a month or so. Boughton is not a genius but I suppose he can't make any mistakes in our absence beyond forgetting to feed the chickens, milk the cows and such trifles.
	27 Jun, Mon	Wrote J S King to send \$4500 to Stebbins Post & Co. when my £1,000 was sent out. Alexis & I started and got to the Post. On the way we found Mrs. Moreton & Moreton arrived having driven

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		<p>Sunday from Antelope. She looked tired and could hardly keep awake.</p> <p>At the Post we found Dick, who had ever since regretted the 20 bulls he had contracted for. We let him off and so now he will probably regret that he isn't going to get them.</p>
	28 Jun, Tue	<p>An early get up. But the horses have prophetically disappeared! However we make a late start &amp; get to Antelope.</p> <p>Saw Hi Kelly at 17 Mile Ranche who told us that he would not last year have sold less than the whole bunch of cattle he had driven. This was more than we could have bought, which disposes of one market which Searight contends was open to us at the time.</p>
	29 Jun, Wed	<p>Got into camp after dark last night &amp; consequently could not find good feed for horses. Hence they are not very fit in the morning. But by 10 we are at Brown Springs 60 miles from Powder R. P.O. In evening we get to Ft. Fetterman 88 miles.</p>
	30 Jun, Thu	<p>4 AM we start &amp; get about 6 miles on our way. Here we stop at a Ranche for breakfast &amp; then make 16 miles &amp; camp. In evening we drive to Mountain Home having done 45 miles over mountain country. 133 miles in 3 days – not bad with 1 pair of horses both young and 3 in a buggy behind with 200 lbs of sundry goods as well. Eaten by mosquitos all night.</p>
	1 Jul, Fri	Reached Rock Creek.
	2 Jul, Sat	<p>Came to Cheyenne. Saw Brown at Laramie on the way. Lawsuit muddled and I fear the enemy has the power of indefinite postponement. I am in low spirits about it I confess. Our case is perfectly clear but Brown has been ill &amp; Potter is an ass. Hence the better arguments are made to appear the worse. At Cheyenne Alexis and I did some business but did not finish it. However Sunday is a business day here.</p> <p>Garfield shot 9.30. In about 30 minutes the news was over the whole West.</p>
	3 Jul, Sun	<p>Talking to all the cattlemen we could find and picked up some information.</p> <p>Took Eastbound train. High wind from south made traveling pleasant enough which is more than one can expect in July.</p>
	4 Jul, Mon	<p>Got to Omaha but did not find Bp. O'Connor, which was a great disappointment. Heat pretty bad but endurable as there is a wind.</p> <p>The celebrations of the "Glorious 4th" are damped by the President's attempted assassination. Still there was a pest of crackers all day and all night.</p>
[Chicago Burlington & Quincy railroad]	5 Jul, Tue	<p>Saw Creighton &amp; had a talk with him &amp; some others. Got little information. Started off for Abingdon to buy bulls. In CB&amp;Q I heard a man say "If the ranges were like this . . ." I went to him and said "Are you stock raising on the Plains?" "Yes, on the Sweetwater" Wyo. "Name?" "Stewart". He was the very man we wanted. He has a range and feeds extensively. We got off where he got off at Villisca and next day journeyed at 3 AM in a buggy to a farm 20 miles off. Saw lots of feeding, farming &amp;c. and</p>

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		entered in "Notes" on the trip.
	6 Jul, Wed	I anticipated today under yesterday's heading. I may add that last night we were eaten with bed bugs in a small hotel & slept not. So we had a tiring day today. The result of our enquiry was to decide in favor of Iowa – this end of it – and to do all we can to get a good cattle connection by owning a pasture & exhibiting western cattle on it. See business diary. Left for Abingdon by night.
	7 Jul, Thu	Reached Latimer's farm. He is "well fixed" and from his trade past & present undoubtedly rich. They all seem to make a poor mouth and no wealth induces them to exceed one female servant, and that is often dispensed with. Of course the equal division betw'n the sons prevents the possibility of an elder son with less domestic tastes leaving the farm with the fortune of the father. Still there is no class that I know who show their wealth less than the American farmers. From what we have seen they must be rich. They live at Cedar Farm on ice cream and fruit.
	8 Jul, Fri	In the course of our visit we chose 70 odd bulls and picked J. S. Latimer's brains all we knew. He had handled all kinds of stock but was actually shrewd as well. The result of our enquiries appears in business diary of trip. The chief result of the exped[iti]o[n] is that we have learnt what will be done with our cattle in the future & that we want no Commission agent to come in betw'n us and the farmer. There are going to be thousands of acres of heath grass all over Illinois, Iowa and other neighbouring states.
	9 Jul, Sat	Heard we could borrow in Abingdon (Union Bank) at 8 P.C. Wrote & asked on what terms they would lend. That is better than the modest rate of 18 P.C. charged in Cheyenne.  Left Abingdon for Galesburg & Galesburg for Red Oak, I[ow]a where we are to prospect a new country.
	10 Jul, Sun	No trains from Red Oak. I <u>was</u> glad. My day of rest, however, is broken by letters innumerable, notes on trip, &c &c. Still it is better than being ever on the move. Every mile of R'y traveling tells on me.
	11 Jul, Mon	In letter dated 11th to Hugh Cullen said "I think of becoming a land agent out here charging 5 P.C. on purchase money and 10 P.C. on excess of sales over purchases. I should have to charge some such commission &c. &c."  Got to Atlantic & looked at farms. Land agents are a great obstacle in the way of buying. They work so hard for their commission that they are more misleading than finding. Of course, however, when one is pressed for time one is more or less at their mercy.
[Alexis Charles Roche]	12 Jul, Tue	I Returned Council Bluffs. A.C.R. went to Griswold on a land hunt.  I got letters at Omaha – one from Coleridge saying he despaired of ever getting out west on account of his brother's death. His brother's widow and children (2) are left helpless on his hands. I wrote then telling him that I had a scheme for land agency out here for people in the old country and would give him a share of it if he wished. This would enable him to get home when he wanted.

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
[Chicago & North Western]	13 Jul, Wed	A.C.R. went to a farm I had heard of near Clarinda & I went along the C&N.W. to Logan & Woodbine. We both did a lot of land hunting & cattle enquiry.
	14 Jul, Thu	Spent the day driving & riding over the country around Woodbine where I shared a bed last night with a thousand bugs. In evening A.C.R. & I met at C[ouncil] Bluffs. We decided to go on the morrow to the farm he had seen, it being largely in tame grass & apparently much what we want. In buying property in America one can always find out the mortgages on it for oneself. They are publicly registered.
[Naboth's vineyard – Old Testament story (1 Kings 21-2) in which Naboth is stoned to death for refusing to sell his desirable vineyard to King Ahab.]	15 Jul, Fri	Alexis and I saw a Naboth's Vineyard at Crook's near Clarinda Iowa. But \$25 an acre and no chance of killing Naboth! We saw and learnt a lot in the day and got to Villisca in evening.
	16 Jul, Sat	Back to C Bluffs and off to Schuyler. In C.B. we met an Irish priest of Alexis' acquaintance & they had a talk which gave me that abdominal sensation which arises from mention of old times in the old country.  At Schuyler Wells put us up in a Hotel at his expense – and was most hospitable, even to Champagne for which the will & not the deed must be taken. It was a deadly deed.
	17 Jul, Sun	On Sunday we could do little but we talked a lot. Everyone in this country is worth talking to. In the evening the fair ladies of Schuyler dressed themselves and we were taken to call. They seemed to look upon us as on an army of relief to their city beleaguered with dullness & monotony. They were pleasant if their manners were a little constrained with shoppiness. Alexis' flow of spirits, memory for anecdotes & ready if rude wit answers everywhere out here.  How methodically business is done in America. We saw a publication today giving the character and credit of every established business firm in America. Even the Frewens on Powder River are put down as moderately safe. We shall figure when we begin to sell as well as buy.
	18 Jul, Mon	More land inspecting. Of course everyone wants to sell us land which is fortunate as every one's horses and carriages are ready to give us a view of the milk & honey spots.  How much there is in learning to winnow voluble but interested talk. There is so much chaff that one really finds a good deal of wheat. If a man praises his cow and abuses his neighbour's which is much better, you may sift out some general stock knowledge. A lot of general wisdom is always brought like Satan's scripture to prove a false particular.
	19 Jul, Tue	At Grand Island Station yesterday I saw a priest loafing. Got into conversation with him. He hailed from Kilkenny. I worked on to Chum – at whose name the priest brightened up and seized my hand – made me promise to visit him &c. &c.  Reached Ogal-alla this morning 4 A.M.
	20 Jul, Wed	Left Ogalalla 4 A.M. Was glad to get out of it. I was pretty bad



Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		with diarrhoea. At best of times it is a poor place. Just country accommodation and nothing more. Bad water & poor food. In the middle of the plains – treeless & barren. Over half a million cattle changed hands there 3 years ago. I suppose nowhere is such business done in such a miserable place. It is the scene of countless murders. But the glory of Ogalalla has departed. The Texas drive is getting played out and there is not the crowd there used to be. I left Alexis to buy horses and came to Cheyenne on general train.
	21 Jul, Thu	I pursue cattle enquiries among cattle men.  Living at a Club where one is supposed to have certain social relations with fellow members one feels one's position among the people of the country. They don't like us naturally & on the whole I don't like them. They are to a certain amount clannish & feel our intrusion. The exact feeling they would express thus – "You have a social position. We have hardly any. You compare us with your 'society'. We don't compare favorably perhaps. But we are members of a greater nation than yours & just as good as you tho you don't know it".
	22 Jul, Fri	Tho I am off & on all day in the Club I have to sleep & meal at the Hotel. The feeding is dirty & I can't get over my diarrhoea. So I am not comfortable.  The firemen of Cheyenne and surrounding towns have a fete day today. Water is not the only excitement in their -----s.
	23 Jul, Sat	Got into Club to board & lodge today.
	24 Jul, Sun	Left Cheyenne for Rock Creek.
	25 Jul, Mon	Stage to Point o' Rocks where I slept. Pretty comfortably put up.
	26 Jul, Tue	Stage to Fetterman where I met Conny Sheehan with buggy & some letters, 2 from Pater, 2 from Polly, 1 from Chum, one from a Priest near Dunsany. Whiteside writes to say he is leaving the Store. That is a great blow. If I were there I could of course get another man. But I am awfully anxious about the Directors' choice of a successor. Camped out at Brown Springs.
	27 Jul, Wed	Made 17 Mile Ranche.
	28 Jul, Thu	Made Powder River Store early. Wrote from there asking Pater to give Whiteside loan of £50 on my a/c & sent him letter asking R. Bonveni & Co. to transfer amount to his a/c.  Found letter from Hugh Cullen saying he had asked Bp. O'Connor to buy £2000 worth of the Omaha town lots, & offering me remuneration for suggestion of spec[ulatio]n. This I wrote dating 29th declining, but said if he would like to invest in lands hereafter I would be his agent for some such terms as those mentioned in my letter of 11th (see entry that date).  Stayed night with Frewens. The Moreton F's neither of them well. But both happy. M & Dick don't seem to be hitting it off. Dick is crotchety in business and Moreton regardless of value of money. Hence business goes wrong, & each sees the mote in his brother's eye.
	29 Jul, Fri	Got to Ranche. Found Boughton and Edmund & Bulwer. The Peters had left. I was still bad with Diarrhoea & was glad to be at

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
		rest again.
	30 Jul, Sat	Plenty of accounts to keep me going. Boughton had a few transactions to record while I was away. His ideas of double entry make quite a day's work to unravel.
	31 Jul, Sun	Trying all day to find a perfect system for Ranche accounts. Failed. The nature of the transactions makes it impossible. For instance – Foreman swaps a firm horse for one of the cowboys' private horses, gives \$5 & 2 plugs tobacco to boot. The cowboy can be only credited & debited with the transaction. But the store account – stores being often lost or sold it is impossible to keep straight. Besides there is no satisfaction in accuracy of system (tho of course I am accurate in cash &c) – because stock (cattle) can never be accurately valued.
	1 Aug, Mon	Diarrhoea stopped today but I am very weak.
(16 Aug: To Frewen, Moreton (extract copied by Shane Leslie to M. Digby; LES.78)	2 Aug, Tue – 25 Aug, Thu	[No entry]
	26 Aug, Fri	My biggest gap of all in my diaries! Well my life has been confined to the Ranche. I got over my diarrhoea & have been in fair health ever since.  I spent days & days over a/cs and at last got them into such shape that I could account for every cent from Oct. 15, 1879 to the present day. I have learnt the system of double entry which certainly is excellent tho puzzling at first. I learnt it out of a little hand book on the subject published by the Clarendon Press, the only book on a/cs I ever found intelligible.
	27 Aug, Sat	Late in the month Mayo & one Porter came out. M. was difficult to manage & was in constant danger of falling foul of Western independence. But we outfitted them & sent them up into the mountains.  The hot weather completely broke up after August 1st.
	28 Aug, Sun	Our beef herd started yesterday. It was a poor gather: out of 540 steers (at the least) we only gathered 335.
	29 Aug, Mon	Received McCormick's cattle. They were not the cattle contracted for & the contract being loose we could not dispute the classing which went much against us. We received a herd of strays. But in spite of all we are more lucky than we might have been. At any rate the anxiety it has caused me is at an end.
	30 Aug, Tue	Branding again. "Hair, Dust & Corruption" as a cowboy described it. But the weather is heavenly.
	31 Aug, Wed	Branding. The cattle look a deal better every day they rest.
	1 Sep, Thu/ 2 Sep, Fri	Partnership difficulties arise. Boughton is useless but doesn't like not being used. I could get on well enough with Alexis & could do business well with him because he can "rustle" and I can think. Though I don't altogether approve of Alexis' character we get on as both see the necessity of the other. Between us we make a pretty good team. But Boughton helps neither of us. He is a most

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		estimable character. But having always lived with old people he imagines he has all their wisdom at 23. He actually said in my presence one day "I learnt more in two weeks than Horace & Alexis learnt in two years about the cattle business". This conceit makes improvement impossible.
	3 Sep, Sat	Finished branding. Things look better as to the buy. I think we shall make a good thing out of the cattle business if we only have a little luck, or cessation of ill-luck.
	4 Sep, Sun	I have to travel again and repeated travelling in this country is a hardship. I have to go to Chicago to sell the cattle and to look after other affairs. Hope to be back in a month or less then rest before the lawsuit & homeward journey. I shall be glad to get home & have a rest. These long journeys are a strain on men of my strength.
	5 Sep, Mon	When morning came a thick mist obscured even the mountains at the back of the Ranche. Rain was falling not heavy but very wetting. Bulwer and I made for the post getting twice wet through on the way. There was a high wind & every appearance of an early winter not far off.
	6 Sep, Tue	<p>Woke to find the ground covered with snow before the leaves are even mellowed on the trees. In a cold snowstorm we staged down the road. The coach was full &amp; a miserable time we had. But I never complain now after my journey in the buckboard last November.</p> <p>Met Gillie Leigh at Dry Cheyenne, where we slept ten in a room in dirt &amp; discomfort.</p> <p>During day passed 2 Ashworths. Englishmen in worse plight than G. Briscoe &amp; I on a sporting tour. Their horses, saddles &amp; guns had been stolen by a guide much like ours and they were turning back disgusted.</p>
	7 Sep, Wed	Passed our beef herd which had been delayed some days. I find I am a week too soon. But I decide not to go back – passed Lord Manners on his way to our Ranche. Disappointed not to meet these people at the Ranche. Unfortunate that they all come out at the busy time. Slept at Point of Rocks, which was redolent of skunk. That intruder came in through the window and the cook got up and fired off a shotgun in the little room we slept in. It is curious that I slept so sound after my fatiguing drive that I never woke but only dreamt of an engagement.
	8 Sep, Thu	Arrived Rock Creek. Met Dick Frewen who was full of a scheme in which he wanted me to join him. He proposes to open up the Yellow Stone Park with a stage line from the Utah Northern, set up hotels, carriages, boats &c. &c. and generally accommodate the tourist. The Government are to be asked for a monopoly in the Park and the R.R. co's are to help also. I am to think it over.
	9 Sep, Fri	Arrived Cheyenne. Thinking over Dick F's scheme I come to the following conclusions – there is a lot of money in it. The Park is one of the New World's shows. So far it has been almost inaccessible. Surely it must attract tourists. Tourists will pay. The undertaking is enormous. Dick is the worst man of business I know except Moreton, who would be my other partner. I would join if the difficulties seemed 'superable'. But my agreement with

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		my partners would have to be very stringent.
[Clark]	10 Sep, Sat	Saw <del>S.H.H.</del> J.T. Clarke [ <i>sic</i> ], Gen'l superintendent U.P.R.R. and had a talk over Dick F's scheme. He seemed to think the idea a good one and said the U.P. would take it up.
	11 Sep, Sun	Donoughmore, Ld. George Montagu & B. Fitzpatrick arrived. Great pleasure to me to have some old country friends round me again & gladly I entertained them at the Club. Donoughmore & Bernie had in the two houses moved the most important amendment of the Land Bill & they were therefore full of it & interesting accordingly.
	12 Sep, Mon	Outfitting all day for Montagu & the other two. They go to Powder R – But M. starts from here. We all went out to Kingman's & bought 8 horses for M. I hired guide and man and got necessaries.
	13 Sep, Tue	Had a talk with Post & Gov'r. Hoyt about the Yellowstone scheme. The former encouraging, the latter reserved himself until he meets Dick F. on Powder R. Post drove Montagu & J. C. Potter (at Eton & Oxford with me) who has joined him, to his Ranche on Pole Creek. I am to start outfit tomorrow.
[Hayford]	14 Sep, Wed	Visited Dr. J.H. Maynard [ <i>sic</i> ], a man not of genius but of great pains. I told him my case exactly – the nervous weakness & excitability wh[ich] led to uneven temperament & inconsistency of character & the fear of hysterical children in case of marriage & general effects of weakness on character. He prescribed the usual "don't think about it" which is no doubt right and the mild use of phosphoric acid diluted.
	15 Sep, Thu	In evening had a symposium of cattlemen & discussed religion. Keen intellectual fight it was to my thinking. Imagine a discussion in Cheyenne dividing the laurels between agnosticism & Roman Catholicism.
	16 Sep, Fri	The Yellowstone Scheme seems to me profitable if the primary concessions can be got. We seek a monopoly & in exchange offer to behave towards the Park in a gentlemanly way. That is not to vulgarise it.
	17 Sep, Sat	The two Ashworths mentioned as having been left afoot by their guide want to form a company with me as managing director to run cattle on the plains in Wyoming. It is a good offer & if the Yellowstone scheme fails I think of undertaking it.
	18 Sep, Sun	John Adair & wife went through on way to Yellowstone Park & then to Texas. It was pleasant to meet them. He introduced me to W. Cunard with whom I had a pleasant talk on the cattle business. He sent back a letter from Denver whither he was traveling in a splendid Directors Car asking me if I was going East in about three weeks to accompany him to New York and if I could not do that I call on him in London to talk over Ranche affairs. I wrote him my ideas of the prospects of the business.
	19 Sep, Mon	My business future now includes two good possibilities – the Yellowstone scheme and the Cattle Company. Those with my interest in Plunkett, Roche & Co. would make a nice income, more than I ever dreamed of if successful. It is a fair matter of self congratulation that one inspires some people with confidence in one's ability.

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
	20 Sep, Tue	Met R[igh]t Rev'd. James O'Connor, Bp. of Omaha, whose diocese includes Wyoming, Montana & Nebraska. We had a long talk on colonisation & I think I never met so satisfactory a man for a Clever R[oman] Catholic. Any help I lend to Irish emigration I shall do through him. In evening the bishop delivered in the R.C. Church a lecture on Socialism. Some of the ninepins he put up were too rickety. But on the whole the lecture was wonderfully comprehensive.
	21 Sep, Wed	Sir Sam'l & Lady Baker went through town. Had pleasant chat with them. Dick Frewen came to Cheyenne. He & I called on Gov'r. Hoyt. In the interview neither the Gov'r nor I could get in a word. This formed a good text to a sermon I afterwards gave Dick on "Dick as a business man". He says he won't and can't undertake the Scheme with anyone except me. Hence I can assert my claim to have my share in the important business talks. I am afraid his unstable energy will upset the coaches.
	22 Sep, Thu	Left Cheyenne for Pine Bluffs. Plunged into a crowd of business plains-men – shippers, commission agents & railway touts. Miserable accommodation. Jack visits me & we arrange matters for starting cattle. Cattle to start tomorrow morning. So we pen them ready to start early.
	23 Sep, Fri	Cattle penned all night for nothing. Can't load up till afternoon. No feed. So here the Railway company's carelessness inflicts a loss on us. However we get off by nightfall and travel all night in the way car. No sleep as the cattle have to be looked after every time the train stops. They travel 20 in a truck & one has to prod them with a long goad every time they get down as they are liable to suffocation. It is tiring work perpetually rushing along the track in the dark with lantern & then if the train starts having to climb on to the top of it and climb down the last car into the "way car" or "caboose".
	24 Sep, Sat	Very tired today. But cattle doing well. Fed them till evening & started out again. Very little sleep of course but I don't regret having come along with them as I think one's brains are of great help in managing the cattle's traveling, feeding & resting according to reason.
	25 Sep, Sun	Arrived C[ouncil] Bluffs tired & with tired cattle. Prospects of market bad. Heavy shipments and market liable to be broken by President's funeral. Day being solemnly kept. No business & no cattle sales. Hence a rush of cattle on Tuesday (after 2 days of no market) which the judges say is likely to break the market hitherto good.
	26 Sep, Mon	Met Dick F. at C[ouncil] Bluffs. He seems determined to work under me to some extent if I will join with him in the Yellowstone Park scheme. I saw Kimball of the U.P.R.R. Rec[eive]d with open arms. No doubt of all the support we want from the U.P. He was strong on showing the U.S. Gov't that we were backed by influential Britishers.  Started off in afternoon. Car load of gun powder exploded ½ mile off & shook us considerably, shattering windows, chimneys &c. and throwing all manner of stuff into the air & dropping it ¾ mile off.
	27 Sep, Tue	A miserable 30 hours rough travelling with the cattle brings us to

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		Galesburg.
	28 Sep, Wed	Cattle much injured by long run of yesterday. Should only have been 20 hours. Got them into market 2 A.M. 29th.
[# - lb.]	29 Sep, Thu	Got up after short sleep to find 12000 head horned cattle competing with us. This certainly is a most astounding business. Fancy a market which can swallow 12,000,000 # beef in a day. No chance of selling ours.
	30 Sep, Fri	Our cattle sold today at miserable prices.
[Poss. 2 men: Fr. James Nugent and another; see 26 Oct 1893]	1 Oct, Sat	Father Nugent McCullough
[Chicago Burlington & Quincy]	2 Oct, Sun	Left Chicago by CB&Q.
	3 Oct, Mon	Arrived C[ouncil] Bluffs & went on to Le Mars.
	4 Oct, Tue	Spent day with Reynolds M. Bulwer had been with him some days and had talked with & generally got into the confidence of the pups. They seem to be idling away their time & just unfitting themselves for the real struggle for independence. My hopes for the colony were low.
[prob. John Walter (owner)]	5 Oct, Wed	Welters, Editor [ <i>sic</i> ] of Times called on R Moreton. I didn't like him, but he was very interesting. He said he put down the present Irish troubles to Gladstone's 1870 bill which admitted the unjust principle of compensation for disturbance without reference to improvements. He told me to let him know if the Park scheme came off next year. He would make his correspondent at Philadelphia write it up.  Next met Dodsworth my <del>friend</del> acquaintance at Univ[ersity] Coll: and brother of my very dear friend the "Dodo". He was out with muscle & without capital to struggle for the competence denied at home.
[Strahorn] [ <i>multa non multum</i> – of considerable volume but not much content]	6 Oct, Thu	Arrived Schuyler after traveling from early morning to Omaha & then by emigrant train (12 miles an hour). I saw Kimball again with Dick Frewen. Not so keen apparently as before. I suspect Dick's letter making appointment put him off a bit. His spelling is not aristocratic. Saw Rob't Strahorne [ <i>sic</i> ] who has written "multa non multum" on the Park. He may be useful.
	7 Oct, Fri	Hospitably put up by Wells & Wilkinson. Talked about Wells' herd & came to some understanding as to what he wanted for it. We shall make him an offer. Took U.P. train west. Had honour of travelling with King of Sandwich Islands.  New Pullman Car looks like an approach to the acme of Railway comfort.
	8 Oct, Sat	Arrived Cheyenne & found Dick Frewen pretty sick. He had traveled 4000 miles in 11 days & had got to the end of his tether.  Dick certainly does not stint himself in his way of living. He bought a pair of horses value \$200 for \$300 shipped them to Rock Creek & intends to go on tomorrow.
	9 Oct, Sun	We had to stay over, Dick being too sick to go on & I having

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		severe diarrhoea.
	10 Oct, Mon	Rush for the train results in my having to stay behind to collect baggage!
Claud	11 Oct, Tue	Arrived Rock Creek & found the Moreton Frewens, Horace Flower, Charles Ellis & Claude [ <i>sic</i> ] Manners & wife. Frewens on their way East. The English visitors cost us a lot of money, make themselves & us unpopular in the country by their incapability to adapt themselves to the people & interfere much with our business. Still they are welcome in our solitude.
	12 Oct, Wed	Left Rock Creek by stage for Point of Rocks. Weather bitterly cold & journey miserable. Found Dick at Point of Rocks anything but well.
	13 Oct, Thu	Dick & I started out. We made 58 miles P. o. Rocks to Brown Springs. A ridiculously long drive for one day in the middle of a long journey.  In the middle of the day we called on Mrs. Powell and lunched. Major Powell gave us some very good advice about the Yellowstone Park scheme. His chief point was that a "lobbiest" [ <i>sic</i> ] should be associated with the scheme to have a chance of success at Washington.
	14 Oct, Fri	Made 17 Mile Ranche. On the high bleak ground between Antelope and 17 Mile R. the cold was intense. I had Ulster, warm shooting coat, flannel shirt & 2 jerseys & yet the wind blew straight through to my skin.
	15 Oct, Sat	Arrived Dick's house, found Alexis waiting for me. Dick still ill, never had a chest attack before & much frightened about a weeziness in the lungs. His house at night was like an ice house.
	16 Oct, Sun	Alexis & I drove home. On way I talked over the Cattle Company & promised him a share in it for his work, if it came off.  Arrived for dinner & found Mayo who had returned via McKinney where he had a bone in his hand mended after a fall from his horse.  Our house had been chinked with lime & sand & was warm & comfortable. We have a good cook too & can live like kings
	17 Oct, Mon	Had a talk with Boughton about the company. He is the great difficulty. We don't want to buy him out & at the same time I can't give him a salary for his work. I had rather throw the company & the present firm together. Boughton promises that in that case he will not interfere with the management and says he does not want a salary more than a nominal one.
	18 Oct, Tue	Went to Dick's to see the Gaskell's. I like <u>her</u> very much. He seems to me too cold to her. But I haven't seen enough of him to dislike him. Gillie Leigh M.P. by his father's desire was of the party.  Poor Dick has been made ill by Moreton's reckless expenditure of his money. He is quite miserable about it. They are both inconsistent unstable characters. But the less polished & more irritating Dick is, I believe, the more worthy after all.
	19 Oct, Wed	Gaining health on wholesome food & rest. Settling up Ranch affairs.

<b>Correspondence [Notes]</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>Diary Entry</b>
	20 Oct, Thu – 22 Oct, Sat	[No entry]
	23 Oct, Sun	Mayo & Porter & servant & 14 others on business & loafing are crowded together in the Ranche & it is almost impossible to do any work.  Pater writes very much against Yellowstone Scheme. It alarms him. He thinks I am going out of my depth.
	24 Oct, Mon	[No entry]
	25 Oct, Tue	Mayo & Porter left. The settlement of the account which one is bound to charge gave them great offence. They leave us thinking we have made money out of them in their discomfort. We have lost about \$70.00 through them which is about all we can be expected to give to men richer than ourselves & whom we didn't particularly want. I wanted to do a good turn for Mayo but Porter I never saw before. I went to Dick's.
	26 Oct, Wed	Went to see Peters and Alston with Dick. They are beautifully located and live in comfort and refinement.
	27 Oct, Thu	Returned Ranche.
	28 Oct, Fri	After a long talk with Alexis & Boughton we decided that if the Company came off it was to be an affair betw'n me & them and that I could invest the money in our present firm. Weather glorious & miserable by turns.
	29 Oct, Sat	Spent day riding over range round home Ranche looking into the question of fencing a large pasture. I think it will pay but it will be a matter of some £600 if we undertake it.
	30 Oct, Sun	Boughton & I took leave of the cowboys and went to Dick's with Jack & the buggy. If Ireland were in decent order and that cursed lawsuit did not threaten 3 weeks of Cheyenne with annoyance & disappointment at the end I should have the good old school boy feel of holidays to come. I don't like missing it as too few years of such childishness remain.
	31 Oct, Mon	Went on to the Post. People begin to talk of my usual luck going down the road. But the day is fine.
	1 Nov, Tue	Stage journey again and as usual I wake to find a snowstorm. Dick & I intended to make Brown Springs in his buggy, but we only got to 17 Mile Ranche where we are glad enough to take the cold shelter of the stage being half frozen with the heavy fall of snow. A large herd of buffalo cross the road just behind the stage. Great lumbering animals but noble visaged & withal as gentle as lambs. What a shame to take advantage of their tameness to wantonly slaughter & extinguish them. They are given to man for food, clothing & firing. But 1000 are murdered for one that is sacrificed to the claims of utility.
	2 Nov, Wed	Made Point of Rocks. Bitterly cold & I am upset as usual.
	3 Nov, Thu	Up at 5 AM. Wind howling through the open logs of this exposed little shanty. Heavy snow on ground and high wind drifting it into impassibility. However we go slow & sure & reach Rock Creek after 15 hours travelling. Pretty slow for 55 miles. In this weather one is always delighted to get to the Railroad, the great escape



Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		from the Western wilderness.
	4 Nov, Fri	Reached Cheyenne Club. Comfort will be some compensation for the delay I shall be subject to.  Moreton Frewen working at his good idea of packing beef at Sherman (8000 feet above sea on UPRR). He should I think have taken a place with water for ice in case of accidents. Cheyenne or Laramie would have had these advantages with a certain amount of local market.
<i>[ne sutor ultra crepidam</i> – the shoemaker should not go beyond his last]	5 Nov, Sat	Consulting lawyers about our case looking up witnesses &c. R Frewen went East to work the Yellowstone Scheme. I wish I knew whether it was coming off. I am not very keen about it as I think I can get lots of money for the cattle business. “Ne sutor ultra &c.”  Tyson, a Dublin hosier writes to offer to conduct my business during the winter as he wants a trip. I offer to conduct his for same reason!
	6 Nov, Sun	[No entry]
	7 Nov, Mon	Brown argued our case against Corlett, on motion of defendant to strike out allegations of our petition which claimed special damage.  We have a good case but though Brown came out stronger than we expected, Corlett no doubt discounts him. Judge reserves his decision.
	8 Nov, Tue	[No entry]
	9 Nov, Wed	[No entry]
	10 Nov, Thu	Fearful snowstorm. Moreton Frewen out with his cattle about 18 miles W. of this. He is trying to get them to the R.R. here. People think they will all get scattered.
	11 Nov, Fri	[No entry]
	12 Nov, Sat	Moreton F. returned thoroughly prostrated by the effects of exposure. He had a fearful time of it, often riding in snow which buried his horse. His men got the cattle in yesterday through a storm which called forth a fine sample of cowboy pluck.
	13 Nov, Sun – 16 Nov, Wed	[No entry]
	17 Nov, Thu	Went to call on the Tom Sturgis’s to be introduced to Mrs. T.S. Had what the newspapers call a “social evening”. Alexis and Mrs. S. sang, she very nicely.
	18 Nov, Fri	Still waiting for the Judge’s decision. I have determined to give my evidence on deposition and leave Roche to give the technical evidence. Hope to sail on the 26th.
	19 Nov, Sat	[ No entry]
	20 Nov, Sun	Started at 2 AM for Laramie City where I arrived at 5.30. Went to bed, up at 8 and at 9 I am in deep consultation with M C Brown on Roche & Plunkett vs Searight Bros. We discussed every phase of the case and decided that we must win in the long run. But alas for the Law’s delay! We see no hope of a speedy termination. The case will probably not come off before May now. But we hope to

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		get the preliminaries satisfactorily arranged.
[ACR – Alexis Charles Roche]	21 Nov, Mon	Potter took my deposition & Corlett X examined me. I was sorry to give the other side a cue to our case. But the trial may not come off till Jan[uar]y & I could not wait till then. ACR & I left by Eastbound train.
	22 Nov, Tue	Reached Omaha where I left Alexis to see the UPRR officials & return to the business.  About 6 miles E of Council Bluffs a freight train ran into us from opposite direction on single track! All a bit shaken & conductor rather broken. Engines smashed up. I was in eating car and we were all mixed up at one end with broken glass, dishes &c.
	23 Nov, Wed	[No entry]
	24 Nov, Thu	6 AM Sleeper left track on a “switch”. Bumped considerably & lost more time. 2 accidents in one trip!
	25 Nov, Fri	Arrived 3 PM N.Y.  Saw M Frewen. He told me Dick was still to be bought out but not by Johnny Kaye. Kaye is to see me. I may become his man of business. JB Roche wrote that he wanted to see me for the good of the cattle business. I arranged meeting. He did not turn up.
[Philip]	26 Nov, Sat	Left New York SS Germanic. Splendid ship but not very clean – very smelly.  Met Phillip [ <i>sic</i> ] Bagenal on board.
	27 Nov, Sun	370 From Sandy Hook.  W.C. Alston my Wyoming neighbour on board. Nice fellow. Fat, manly Tory of the Tories, honourable Liberal, finest specimen of squire model. Reads a bit but takes life thoroughly easy.
	28 Nov, Mon	372 Fresh breezes
	29 Nov, Tue	369 Strong breezes
	30 Nov, Wed	353 Fresh breezes & high sea
	1 Dec, Thu	200 Strong gale. Short run accounted for by 11½ hours’ delay. We rescued a sinking steamship’s crew with 25 souls. They had been 21 days from Montreal with ?grain – 11 days without a rudder at the mercy of the waves. Four days ago a steamship had passed by on the other side. One day more or at any rate two days would have sunk them to Eternity. Some brave life boat work was done in a high sea. But the appliances for lowering boats and the life boat drill were miserably deficient.
	2 Dec, Fri	371 Fresh gale
	3 Dec, Sat	“356 Strong breezes”
	4 Dec, Sun	“371 Strong gale & heavy sea”  135 to Queenstown.  Arrived Queenstown 10.30 P.M. Bagenal & I took a jarvey for Cork. He was most refreshingly Irish.  First glimpse of newspapers divulges bad feeling in Ireland.

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		Hounds stopped, Tom Hare insulted. Herbert Gladstone a Right Hon. Lord of the Treasury in Dublin.
	5 Dec, Mon	Had hoped to get off by 6 AM train. But our miserably overdriven mare last night only got us in here at 2 AM this morning. I determined to consider my nerves & slept to 9 A.M. Went to Dublin by Limited mail. Saw Fermoy & wife and had talk about Alexis, Edmund & the business. Met Misses Roche & told them the news also. In Dublin dined at Club with Donoughmore. Saw some Club acquaintances.
[screw – obsolete term for a horse]	6 Dec, Tue	Dunsany by early train. Broad delight on Barton's & Reid's face & joy at being home again came over me. The old place looks the same as ever. People all well. Store going on satisfactorily and I find 2 screws and a good fresh young horse all in good hunting order.  Old Briscoe turns up at lunch time and spends 3 hours in his "apologia" – about some farm he had death bedded an old parishioner out of. Poor old man: he is a mess – but I think he is more of a fool than a knave.
	7 Dec, Wed	Wards at Batterstown. I hunt my new horse & get a baddish fall at one of first fences. A little shaken & awfully nervous about my new purchase. He is very green. However he has beautiful manners & can be made into a good one.
	8 Dec, Thu	Meaths at Kilmessan & I ride Tripod. We draw Dunsany & find a fox in Glane. Run to Warrenstown then across betw'n village of Warrenstown & Glane to Derry Patrick & back to Glane. Best run I ever saw out of Glane. Tripod carried me in style.  Dined & slept at Bellinter where I pay my respects to the Bride. She is nice I think & not too provincial. N. Everard invited me for this day week & offered me a mount on my old friend "Dunsany".
	9 Dec, Fri	Meaths at Somerville. On Officer again & I find my favorite horse in proud form. But there is a fearful fox & I lose the hounds early in the run from Slaters Gorse.
	10 Dec, Sat	Hunt with the Tara Harriers now a subscription pack (late Bellinter). I ride my new horse & school him greatly to his improvement. I think he will turn out A1. Slept with Coleridge.  Invites from Lady Mayo to shoot at Palmerston on the 20th, from Lady Verney to shoot at Claydon same day & Mrs. E. Frewen for ?Bat--- Ball shoot &c.
	11 Dec, Sun	Kilmessan Church. During the dreary service I think over the old times in Dunsany. How differently the Kilmessan ordeal has impressed me at different times. How cold and valueless to me now, and yet I see from their faces that the present generation of vegetative Wilkinsons derive as much consolation from the means of grace provided as they are, as ever. Coleridge was with me. In the evening we talked over Wyoming and he decided that he couldn't join me.
	12 Dec, Mon	Freezing hard. J Wilkinson, Coleridge, N Preston, self shot 7 pheasants & some rabbits & hares in the place. Fingall & Leonard & Coleridge dined with me.
	13 Dec, Tue	John Wilkinson & I did Rock Lodge & Trim.

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
	14 Dec, Wed	Wards at Culmullin. I rode the Officer who never left the hounds during a good run. I never enjoyed a hunt more. In the morning Barton & I did the place with the Co--. The end of Pater's life work draws nigh. The land which was before a fine instance of the worst system of husbandry in the world – ill tilled, ill drained – is now becoming beautiful green pasture lands such as Meath alone can show.
	15 Dec, Thu	Up to Dublin. Business all day. Took boat for Liverpool.
	16 Dec, Fri	Arrived early at Liverpool. Saw Hugh Cullen about his proposed American investments. He talks of investing from £5000 to £10,000 in land and giving me the management. But he talks of sending out his son with me which I shouldn't like. I have millstones enough round my neck already.  Arrived for dinner at No. 7. Welcomed by Pater, Conny & Raymond. Conny looking like twins at least, poor little thing. I hope there is not much pain in store for her. Raymond looking well & happy. Pater on the whole in good health. But I see a difference in him since last spring.
	17 Dec, Sat	Lunched with Dick Frewen, Gaskells, -- Fitzpatrick &c at the Orleans Club. Randal arrived from Halfield looking very thin but well.
	18 Dec, Sun	Lunched with Bernie Fitzpatrick at Marlborough Club. He talked over his proposal to invest with us. I asked him to lend anything he put in to Alexis promising to look after it for him.
	19 Dec, Mon	[No entry]
[ <i>grand battue</i> – big hunt] [ <i>cap a pie</i> – head to foot]	20 Dec, Tue	Went to Dunstall with Raymond to shoot. There were to be two days. But tomorrow is to be the grand battue. Night after night Johnny & his retainers have prowled the district armed cap a pie to insure the game from the incursions of poachers. What game? About 6 dozen rabbits & half a dozen pheasants! After a chilly ferreting we returned to the glass balls as affording better sport though without the glorious uncertainty.
	21 Dec, Wed	The great shoot. Twenty-six thoroughly disciplined beaters. Each has his post, his system of signals, his rate of progression and all other necessities for efficient expulsion of game from its hiding place. After all we don't get much to shoot but we all made a lot of noise.  I dined with Wm. Cunard (68 Cromwell Rd.), we were to talk over Western affairs as I thought with a business view. But it came to nothing. However he wants to see me again before I go to America.
	22 Dec, Thu	Fingall called & spent the afternoon. He is on his way to the south of France to get his sisters home. I had a good deal of conversation with him on his affairs. He seems to have been fearfully robbed by his predecessors confidantes.
	23 Dec, Fri	I paid Chess Club subs[criptio]n (St. George's) for /80 & /81. I mention this as I think I had paid for /80 before.
	24 Dec, Sat	Dick Frewen & John Rodger & wife dined. We had a very cheery dinner & Pater quite seemed to enjoy himself.
	25 Dec, Sun	Xmas day. We dined all the family (adult) except Chum & Polly

Correspondence [Notes]	1881	Diary Entry
		whose places were taken by the Hawkesleys. Are these feasts enjoyable? Or do they only mark the progress of the great enemy Time the Destroyer? Well, I think the Father of the party enjoyed seeing his family around him.
	26 Dec, Mon	[No entry]
	27 Dec, Tue	Dined with Hon. Charles Ellis at St. James' Club. I met him out at the Ranche. He is one of those people you only read of in books who live a thoroughly selfish life gratifying all their pleasures. His happen to be chiefly pleasures of culture. He has no ambitions and is quite independent of any kind of plans beyond the whim of the moment. He was on his way to San Francisco this autumn. But having lost his portmanteau for 4 days he was put out. The whim changed and he came to London.
	28 Dec, Wed	[No entry]
	29 Dec, Thu	We are living very quietly & uncourtfully it being so near Conny's confinement. We see nobody & it is somewhat lugubrious.  Raymond & I went to the Savoy Theatre to see Patience, a charming combination of W.S. Gilbert's clever nonsense & Sullivan's music.
	30 Dec, Fri	Much annoyed today by a most disgusting sign of the times in Ireland under Gladstone. Chum had intended to hunt with me at Dunsany and Trotter hearing it asks Coleridge to hint to me that his doing so would endanger the interests of foxhunting as farmers are determined not to allow members of other hunts to escape from their own troubles & hunt with us. I could do nothing but write to Trotter & ask him to let me know whether he really thought Chum would be looked on as a stranger in Meath.
	31 Dec, Sat	Dined with Dick Frewen at Orleans Club. He is going south for his health & poor fellow, how I wish me may regain it. His mind is preyed upon by the unsatisfactory relations between him & Moreton. But he has the pluck of Job.