1912

6 January
St. Helena[1]

With Mr. R.A. Anderson,[2] Father Finlay[3] and L.S. Amery, M.P., to Boyle Co. Roscommon to attend a Conference of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

12 January
St. Helena

To the Vicarage with Eric to see Mr. Ardagh,[4] the fine old Church plate, and the very interesting Vestry Book going back beyond Commonwealth times. Many interesting signatures including several of the old Settle family.

In the afternoon to town *[Dublin]* to see Sir Henry Robinson[5] head of the L.G.B. *[Local Government Board]* in Ireland and to discuss with him (for Runciman) the working of the Labourers Cottages Act in Ireland, Home in time to tell the babes Peggy and other stories before bed.

[1]Property of the Harmsworths in Finglas, County Dublin, originally owned by CBH's father-in-law, William Hamilton Maffett.

[2]Robert Andrew Ramsay Anderson (1860–1942): Secretary of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, a successful co-operative organisation founded by Horace Plunkett in 1894.

[3]Thomas A. Finlay (1848–1940): entered the Jesuit order 1866; a professor at University College Dublin 1883–1930; Vice-President of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and a close collaborator of Plunkett and Anderson.

[4]Arthur William Ardagh (*c.*1858–1925): Vicar of Finglas 1891–1919.

[5]Sir Henry Augustus Robertson (1857–1927): Irish civil servant; Vice-President of the Irish Local Government Board 1898–1920; knighted 1900, cr. baronet 1920.

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13 January
St. Helena

The babes riding as usual – Giltrap[6] 'ringing' the cob on a long rope. Daff getting on extremely well.

In the afternoon Aunt Marcella,[7] Em and I call on the Swift McNeills at 17 Pembroke Road. [. . .]

Also there T.W. and Mrs. Russell. T.W.R. apprehensive that Home Rule may be ship-wrecked on one of two rocks – the recent Papal proprio motu decree[8] and or the fiscal question. The Government, to judge by what T.W.R. says, determined not to give an Irish Parliament control of Customs. Many important Nationalist influences in favour of fiscal autonomy — including the *Daily Independent*, the Healy-O'Brienite section,[9] and the old *Freeman* leaning that way.

15 January
St. Helena

Lunch at the Kildare Street Club with Sir H. Robinson. We discuss further the working of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts under the Irish L.G.B.

Afterwards with Em to call on old Mr. Deane in Mount Street and to see his very fine old Waterford glass.

[6]John Giltrap (b. *c.*1867): coachman and domestic servant.

[7]Presumably Marcella Deane, aunt to CBH's children.

[8]In December 1911 Pius X issued a decree 'Quantavis diligentia' which subjected to excommunication any private individual who summoned a member of the clergy before a tribunal of laymen without first seeking the permission of the ecclesiastical authorities. In other words, he was attempting to discourage people from suing clerics.

[9]Timothy Michael Healy, (1855–1931): Nationalist MP for Wexford 1880–1883, Monaghan 1883–1885, Londonderry South 1885–1886, North Longford 1886–1892, North Louth 1892–December 1910, North-East Cork 1911–1918; first Governor-General of the Irish Free State, 1922–1928. William O'Brien (1852–1928): journalist and author; founder of the anti-sectarian All-for-Ireland League; Nationalist MP for Mallow 1883–1885; Tyrone South 1886, North-East Cork 1887–1892; and Cork City, 1892–1895 and 1901–1918. By the time of this entry, Healy and O'Brien, who favoured a conciliatory approach to the quest for Home Rule, had broken away from the Irish Parliamentary Party under the leadership of John Redmond and had obtained a small following of MPs.

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16 January
St. Helena

To the office of the Congested Districts Board in Rutland Square to discuss with Mr. Doran[10] the working of the Board's schemes for building homesteads for small farmers.

E. and I lunch at the Mitchells – the children go to the Museum. We dine at Sir C. Nixon's[11] 2 Merrion Square[. . .] Afterwards to our dance at Roebuck. A delightful affair. Lots of fresh, pretty young people[. . .]

To sleep at St. Helena as the old clock in the hall strikes 4.

22 January
Montagu Square

To the War Office to see Sir E.W.D. Ward[12] about Fred Spencer.[13] Sir E.W.D. very good about it but not certain that he can do anything.

In the afternoon to the Old Masters at Burlington House and then to a Committee meeting of the Proportional Representation Society at Lord Courtney's, Cheyne Walk.

Bishop of Ossory (Dr. Bernard) dines with us. Just off with the Speaker's party to Russia.

Em and the children home from Ireland by the express arriving at Euston at 11 P.M. All well but very tired.

24 January

To discuss affairs of the Garden Cities Association with E.G. Culpin the Secretary. Afterwards to Carmelite House to see Harold [Rothermere]

[10]Henry Francis Doran (1856–1928): Irish civil servant; Inspector of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland 1892–1910; a Statutory Permanent Member of the Board from 1910.

[11]Christopher John Nixon (1849–1914): prominent Irish physician and academic, holding a series of senior posts at National University of Ireland; founder of Royal Veterinary College of Ireland.

[12]Edward Willis Duncan Ward (1853–1928): army officer; Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the War Office 1901–1914; knighted 1900; cr. baronet 1914.

[13]Frederick A. Spencer: later a Captain in the Royal Tank Corps, m. 1925 CBH's niece Sophie Geraldine ('Chirrie') King (b.1902).

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25 January

Board of Agriculture in the morning to report results of my enquiries as to the working of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

Lunch with Bonch at the Cavendish Hotel. Turkish Bath at the Automobile Club.

29 January

Finance & General Committee Garden City Association. After dinner to the Sylvan Debating Club. Discussion on Welsh Disestablishment.

30 January

Lunch at 22 St. James's Place with Alfred and Mary.[14] Also there Mr. Scott,[15] engineer at Grand Falls, and Arthur Lee [Lord Lee of Fareham], Tory MP for Fareham. Then to meeting of National Insurance Committee, 12 Downing Street, the Master of Elibank, Chief Whip, in the chair. Dine in Hall, Middle Temple, with Dudley Stewart Smith, K.C., a Bencher.[16] Port, wonderful old sherry, and dessert in the Parliament Room. A delightful evening. I meet several old friends of my father who was a member of this Inn. Mr. Henry R. Beeton[17] recalled with much pleasure my father's 'charming humorous speeches' at the Sylvan Debating Club.

31 January

Meeting of Council Garden Cities Association, 3 Grays Inn Place. Afterwards Turkish Bath at the R.A.C.

[14]Mary Elizabeth Harmsworth, née Milner (1867–1963); Baroness Northcliffe, wife of Northcliffe.

[15]William Scott (d. 1922): civil engineer, Grand Falls, Newfoundland.

[16]Dudley Stewart-Smith (1857–1919): Lib. MP Kendal 1906–1910; knighted 1917.

[17]Henry Ramie Beeton (1850/1–1934): pioneer of the electricity supply industry; founder and chairman of the Brompton and Kensington Electricity Supply Company and its predecessors for 45 years.

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1 February

Committee meeting Commons & Footpaths Preservation Society, Lord Eversley[18] in the chair.

5 February

Annual Meeting of the Garden Cities & Town Planning Association at Carpenters Hall (very splendid) Mr. Justice Neville[19] in the chair. Mr. Ebenezer Howard on the platform by my side and with characteristic modesty taking a shorthand note of the proceedings in place of a reporter who had failed. Prof. Adshead[20] gives a Lecture on the Improvement of London.

6 February

Finance Committee at Millbank House of the National Insurance Committee. In the afternoon Turkish Bath at the Automobile Club. Bonch dines with us – and Mr. and Mrs. Hamar Greenwood,[21] Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Harben,[22] Miss McCheane,[23] Mr. Hankey,[24] Ruth, Bayly[25] and Fred Spencer.

[18] George John Shaw-Lefevre (1831–1928): Lib. MP Reading 1863–1885, Bradford Central 1886–1895; Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1866; Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade 1868–1871; Under-Secretary of State, Home Department 1871; Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty 1871–1874, 1880; First Commissioner of Works 1881–1885, 1892–1894; Postmaster General 1884–1885; President of the Local Government Board 1894–1895; co-founder and first chairman of the Commons Preservation Society 1865, and its president 1905; cr. Baron Eversley 1906.

[19] Ralph Neville (1848–1918): Lib. MP Liverpool Exchange 1887–1895; QC 1888; judge in Court of Appeal from 1906.

[20] Stanley Davenport Adshead (1868–1946): architect and town planner; Associate Professor, later Professor of Civic Design, University of Liverpool, 1909–1914; Professor of Town Planning, University of London, 1914–1935; first editor of *Town Planning Review*.

[21] Margery Greenwood, née Spencer (1887–1968): m. 1911; cr. Dame 1922.

[22] Agnes Helen Harben, née Bostock (1879–1961).

[23] Ethel Agnes McCheane (1864–1928): dog enthusiast and shower.

[24] Maurice Pascal Akers Hankey (1877–1963): Naval Assistant to Committee of Imperial Defence 1908–1912; secretary to Committee of Imperial Defence 1912–1938; secretary to War Council 1914–1916; secretary to Cabinet 1916–1938; Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster 1940–1941; Paymaster General 1941–1942; cr. Baron 1939.

[25] Probably Oswald Bayly Maffett.

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9 February
Leighton Buzzard

With Handel Booth, M.P.,[26] a great authority on the Insurance Act. Dinner in comfort at the Swan – Mr. W.H. Smith[27] with us. Large and very keen audience in the Town Hall. We motor back to town – too much of a journey altogether.

10 February

Walk from Hampstead, through the Garden Suburb and on to Totteridge to see Mother. [. . .]

Members of the Council of the Garden Cities Association to dinner – Messrs. Warwick Draper,[28] Fremantle,[29] Montagu Harris,[30] Warren[31] and Pepler[32] – and to discuss points of policy.

12 February

E. and I to Lloyd-George's great meeting of the Insurance Act in the London Opera House, Kingsway. An embarrassing moment for me when Ll.-G. in referring to what is known as the 'Harmsworth Amendment' (that relating to medical institutes 15 (4)) turned round and indicated me, sitting two rows behind him, with outstretched hand!

[26]Frederick Handel Booth (1867–1947): industrialist; Lib. MP Pontefract 1910–1918; led government inquiry into Marconi Scandal 1912; convicted of fraud in *Gruban v. Booth* 1917.

[27]Probably the W.H. Smith who had previously served as clerk to the Leighton Buzzard Board of Guardians; appears not to be part of the newsagent family.

[28]Warwick Herbert Draper (1873–1926): lawyer and town planner; chairman of the Garden City Association; leading figure in the foundation of Letchworth in 1905.

[29]Francis Edward Fremantle (1872–1943): physician; Medical Officer of Health for Hertfordshire 1902–1916; Con. MP St Albans 1919–1943.

[30]George Montagu Harris (d. 1951): secretary of the County Councils Association; civil servant in the Ministry of Health during the 1920s; latterly honorary president of the International Union of Local Authorities; OBE 1918.

[31]Thomas Herbert Warren (1853–1930): President of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1885–1928; Vice Chancellor of the university, 1906–1910; knighted 1914.

[32]George Lionel Pepler (1882–1959): a key figure in the town planning movement and a civil servant with responsibility for planning 1914–1946; a major influence on the Town and Country Planning Act (1947); CB 1944; knighted 1948.

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13 February
Luton.

By motor-car to Luton immediately after lunch to open Sale of Work in connection with the Parish Church.

Afterwards to tea with Mr. Alderman Oakley[33] and then to a meeting at the Liberal Club to discuss the Insurance Act.

A Lady at the Sale of Work did a silhouette of me for 1/-.

14 February

Opening of Parliament.

E. and Ruth Spencer[34] view the State Procession in the Royal Gallery. I have an excellent seat in the front row of the gallery of the H. of Lords on the right of the clock reserved for Members of Parliament. The House of Lords not more than 2-thirds full. I have never before seen any vacant places on such an occasion as this. [It was said at the time that very many 'Die Hard' Lords absented themselves because of their disgust at the King's promised action in the matter of the creation of Peers, to outvote them on the Veto Bill. (C.H. 1936)] The King[35] husky but audible, and sunburned after his Indian tour. The Queen[36] wearing the wonderful Cullinan diamonds rippling in liquid fire down the front of her dress.

15 February

Debate on the Address. Ramsay MacDonald's Amendment – Minimum Wage etc. E., Ruth Spencer and Bayly dine H. of C.

17 February

By road with E. and Ruth to the Harbens. Delightful day. Eric H. and Agnes in great form. [. . .] Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., to tea.

[33]Edwin Oakley (1852–1930): Mayor of Luton 1891, 1984, 1906; his brother, Albert Arthur Oakley (1854–1917) was mayor 1903.

[34]Ruth Spencer: sister of Frederick Spencer, m. 1913 the civil servant Henry Gascoyen Maurice (1874–1950).

[35]King George V (1865–1936): reigned 1910–1936.

[36]Queen Mary (1867–1953): m. George V 1893.

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19 February

Debate on the Address – F.E. Smith's Amendment alleging generally that it is incompetent for the Government to proceed with highly contentious measures – Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment etc. – before the H. of Lords is reformed and while H.M.'s faithful subjects are deprived of their usual Constitutional safeguards. Bright speech from F.E. and brilliant rejoinder by Simon.

20 February

Debate on Address – F.E. Smith's Amendment, 2nd Day. Splendid debating speech by the P.M. who is easily head and shoulders above any other Parliamentarian in force, language and everything else.

I make a little speech in a very thin House which people profess to like.

21 February

Committee Meeting Liberal (late *National*) Insurance Committee. I dine with Alfred [N.] at 22 St. James's Place. Fred Wood there.[37] [Fred Wood, a very old and affectionate friend of my Father's and of N.'s]

Em to Luton with Ruth to attend Women's Liberal Association.

22 February

Address – Fiscal Reform debate. Deputations with Runciman.

23 February

Address – Mr. Stanier's[38] Amendment on Small Holdings etc. To the Kinemacolor exhibition of Durbar incidents at the Scala Theatre.

[37]Fred Wood: childhood friend of Alfred Harmsworth Senior; maintained a close friendship with Northcliffe; head of the Mercantile Marine Department of the Board of Trade, for which Rothermere worked as a boy; died during the First World War.

[38]Beville Stanier (1867–1921): Con. MP Newport 1908–1918, Ludlow 1918–1921; cr. baronet 1917.

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Children's little party with Mary's [Mary Northcliffe's] Christmas tree.

26 February

Agricultural Deputations at the H. of Commons – Supplemental Estimates.

27 February

Agricultural deputations. H. of C.

Supplemental estimates continued. Meeting Liberal Insurance Committee in Committee Room 11.

1 March

H. of C. debate on Mr. Baker's[39] Plural Voting Bill.

Em and I dine at Lord Granard's. A Liberal party. The P.M. and Sir E. Grey the principal guests. After dinner the P.M. and Sir E.G. play Bridge.

The Militant Suffragettes make a raid on the plate glass windows of Bond Street, Regent Street and Piccadilly. We drive round after dinner at the Granards to view the damage. Brown paper patches on windows everywhere and many shops barricaded. After dinner Asquith says across the table to Grey – 'Well, Grey, your friends have been breaking my windows again.'

Sir E.G. is a champion of the cause.

4 March

Army estimates. Suffragettes make an ineffectual attack on the H. of C. One young woman dashes into Palace Yard and is ejected by 5 policemen. The crowd seems less friendly to the Suffragettes than on former occasions. Another window-smashing campaign, this time chiefly among the big shops at Brompton.

Statement about the Coal Strike by the P.M.

[39]Harold Trevor Baker (1877–1960): Lib. MP Accrington 1910–1918; Financial Secretary to the War Office 1915–1916.

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8 March

Great luncheon at Covent Garden Opera House to the Prime Minister to celebrate (somewhat late in the day) the passing of the Parliament Act. The floor of the theatre and the stage covered with small tables. A brilliant scene and an excellent lunch. The P.M. (Mr. Asquith) in noble voice and language. The party is unanimously devoted to him.

12 March

Prof. Morgan lunches H. of C. with me to discuss my proposed chapter for his Home Rule book.[40]

15 March

Em helping at the Irish Industries Sale at Londonderry House.

H. of C. – Discussion on Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen's[41] Housing of the Working Classes Bill – a feeble little Bill, aptly described by John Burns in his great voice as 'a wooden nutmeg'.

Meeting at Luton with Jeremiah MacVeagh – Jerry devoting himself to the wrongs of Ireland, and I to the Insurance Act.

18 March

Naval estimates. Speech of great range and power by Winston Churchill. Conference in W. Runciman's room with Lord Lucas[42] [Parly. Secy. Ed. of Agriculture & Fisheries. A romantic and splendid

[40]J.H. Morgan (ed.), *The New Irish Constitution: An Exposition and Some Arguments* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1912. This book was published under the auspices of the Eighty Club. CBH's chapter was entitled 'The State of Public Business'.

[41]Arthur Sackville Trevor Griffith-Boscawen (1865–1946): Con. MP Tonbridge 1892–1906, Dudley 1910–1921, Taunton 1921–1922; Minister of Agriculture 1921–1922; Minister of Health 1922–1923.

[42]Auberon Thomas Herbert (1876–1916): succ. as 9th Baron Lucas 1905; Under-Secretary of State for War 1908–1911; Under-Secretary of State for Colonies 1911; Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries 1911–1914; President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries 1914–1915; served in the RFC in Great War; missing in action, presumed killed, 1916.

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person. A face like Byron's. There was universal regret when in the Great War he flew over the enemy lines and was no more heard of[...] He used to amuse us both by suggesting that I should buy or rent his great uninteresting seat of Wrest Park in the midst of my Bedfordshire constituency with its famous gardens and over 40 gardeners. (C.H. 1936)] Mr. Middleton and Mr. Maurice on Mr. Middleton's draft Scheme for the organisation of agricultural education.

19 March

Mr. Asquith introduces Minimum Wage Bill for Coal Miners. Nobody likes it but nobody has a better remedy to offer.

Dinner and presentation of portrait and cheque to Mr. Ebenezer Howard at the Holborn Restaurant. Earl Grey[43] in the Chair. Numerous tributes to E.H. from all over the world.

20 March

Naval estimates.

Further conference on agricultural education with W. Runciman, Lord Lucas and Mr. Middleton.[44]

Rumours tonight that the Miners will not accept the Wage Bill unless it contains their Schedule of minimum rates for the several districts.

26 March

Report Stage of Minimum Wage Bill. The P.M., greatly moved, announces that all efforts to settle the Coal Strike by negotiation have failed. Wage Bill carried between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning and sent direct to the Lords who have been in attendance.

[43]Albert Henry George Grey (1851–1917): Lib. MP Northumberland South 1880–1885, Tyneside 1885–1886; succ. as 4th Earl Grey 1894; Governor-General of Canada 1904–1911.

[44]Thomas Hudson Middleton (1863–1943): Professor of Agriculture, University of Cambridge, 1902–1906; Assistant Secretary to the Board of Agriculture 1906–1919; member, Development Commission (under the Development and Road Improvement Acts) 1919–1941; first recipient of the Royal Agricultural Society's Gold Medal 1933; FRS 1936; Chair of Agricultural Research Council 1938–1943; knighted 1913.

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28 March

Mr. Ebenezer Howard to tea with me at the H. of C. and to expound a new scheme of his for a Garden City or rather a properly planned sea-port. A feature of the scheme is the construction of a great semi-circular dam open at both ends to the sea (with locks) and the utilisation of the tides for creating electric power. It seems a wild notion but E.H.'s enthusiasm is irresistible as his eyes flash through his gold-rimmed spectacles.

2 April

Lloyd-George introduces his Budget. Hon. Ernest Allsopp,[45] the Socialist younger son, lunches with me at the H. of C.

8 April

By motor to Luton to lunch with the Friendly Societies' Medical Alliance. Enthusiastic reception. All on account of the Amendment to Clause 15 Sec. 4 [National Insurance Act] that I moved immediately after my return for S. Beds in last July.

Back to Henley by Dunstable, Tring, Wendover, Watlington and Stonor.

11 April

HOME RULE BILL. Introduction in two hours' speech by the P.M. House packed. H.S.H. [Rothermere] in the gallery. P.M.'s speech wonderfully concise and clear.

Dine with Runciman and executive committee of League of Young Liberals in the H. of C.

Meeting of Departmental Committee on Small Holdings in morning at Royal Commissions House.

[45]Frederick Ernest Allsopp (1857–1928): 9th of the 11 children (6th of the 8 sons) of the 1st Baron Hindlip; army officer.

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12 April

To Letchworth with other members of Departmental Committee on buildings for Small Holdings. We examine houses in concrete and inspect several small holdings. Mr. Gaunt, the estate agent First Garden City Ltd., takes us round. Among our members Mr. Raymond Unwin[46] who practically planned Garden City and Mr. Christopher Turnor,[47] the chairman of the Committee.

13 April

To Sunningdale to see the Chief Whip (Master of Elibank) who provisionally offers me the vacant Junior Lordship of the Treasury. Discussion as to whether S. Beds would stand by us through a Bye-election. I do not disguise my fear that the experiment would be a very risky one. The continuing unpopularity of the Insurance Act – the possible resentment of the electors at a fourth election in little more than two years, etc., etc. I am to sound opinion in the Constituency by way of Mr. Milner Gray, Liberal Candidate for St. Albans Division and one of my chief Luton supporters.

The Master of E. tells me that of the 'dummy peers' who were to have overborne the H. of Lords if they had defeated the Parliament Bill only 4 were to have been taken from the H. of Commons.

In regard to the Home Rule Scheme he divulges a plan whereby certain Counties of Ulster are to be allowed to contract out of the H.R. Act and to remain under direct Government of the British Parliament. This scheme to be forced on the Government by *The Times* and *Daily Mail* bringing it forward as their own!

14 April

Anxious discussions during the day with E. as to our prospects in S. Beds in the event of an election.

[46]Raymond Unwin (1863–1940): engineer, architect and town planner; planning career included Letchworth and Hampstead Garden Suburb; strongly influential in inter-war planning in Britain and the USA.

[47]Christopher Hatton Turnor (1873–1940): owner of extensive lands in Lincolnshire; agricultural and social reformer; co-founder of Central Landowners Association.

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15 April

Mr. Milner Gray lunches with me at the H. of C. In regard to the proposed Bye-election in S. Beds he agrees with me that though we might pull it off, the risk is very considerable. Later, Alec Murray (Master of Elibank) informs me that from private intelligences from S. Beds the Government has virtually decided not to invite a contest there. So the day dream is over! Most kindly references by Alec Murray to my attitude in this affair. [It is a little hard that this is perhaps the first occasion in the history of S. Beds that a Bye-election might not have been risked.]

First Reading (2nd day) of H. Rule Bill. I spend fruitless day trying to catch Mr. Speaker's eye.

Wreck of the Titanic, the largest ship in the world, by icebergs in the Atlantic.

16 April

I write a letter of grateful thanks and duty to the Prime Minister for his kindness in considering my name in connection with the vacant Jr. Lordship of the Treasury and expressing my profound regret that the present condition of affairs does not justify an appeal to the electors. This letter I hand to C.H. Lyell,[48] the P.M.'s private Parliamentary Secretary and soon afterwards I receive the following note:-

'10 Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.

'My dear Harmsworth

Very many thanks for your letter. I much regret that, for the moment, we are not to have the advantage of your co-operation as a colleague, but I hope that the opportunity may not be long deferred.

'Yours sincerely
(Sgd.) H.H. ASQUITH.'

To which I send a note expressing my deep obligation to the P.M.

[48]Charles Henry Lyell (1875–1918): Lib. MP Dorset East 1904–1910, Edinburgh South 1910–1917; died of pneumonia while serving as Assistant Military Attaché to the USA.

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17 April
Luton.

In the H. of C. Motion of the Ch. of the Exchequr. to set up a Select Committee on Estimates.

Em, Ruth Spencer and I to Luton to attend Annual Meeting of S. Beds Liberal Association. Presentation of handsome inkstand to Lord Ashton of Hyde and of a pair of candlesticks to Lady A.[49]

Eclipse of the sun. Everybody (including our babes) peering at the sun through smoked glass. Most curious effect during the transit as of yellow moonlight.

Mr. Henry Webb,[50] Member for the Forest of Dean, with a majority of over 3000 appointed Jr. Lord of the Treasury.

18 April

Quiet day in the H. of C. Discussion (on Estimates) on general working of Insurance Act. I pair with young John Lyttelton my successful opponent in Mid Worcestershire, for today and tomorrow.

Dine at home. Ruth and G. Sheppard.

Lord Lytton[51] asks me to cut the first sod for the Co-partnership cottages and open some completed houses at Knebworth Garden Village – in place of Earl Grey who is unwell. I accept.

19 April

I walk out from Golders Green to Totteridge to see Mother recently returned from her trip with Alfred (Northcliffe) to the South of France.

Back to town for the first of the town-planning lectures at the office of the Garden Cities Association.

[49] Eva Margaret James (1855–1938): Baroness Ashton.

[50] Henry Webb (1866–1940): Lib. MP Forest of Dean 1911–1918, Cardiff East 1923–1924; Junior Lord of the Treasury 1912–1915.

[51] Victor Alexander George Robert Bulwer-Lytton (1876–1947): succ. as 2nd Earl of Lytton 1891; supporter of Garden Cities Movement; Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1916, 1919–1920; Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty 1917–1919; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India 1920–1922; Governor of Bengal 1922–1927.

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20 April
Knebworth

To Knebworth House by road with Em to cut the first sod of Lord Lytton's new Garden Suburb. [. . .] Sod cut by E. Speeches by Sir Sydney Lea,[52] Lord Robert Cecil and myself. Immediately afterwards we hasten back to town – I to take Chair at the 22nd Annual Dinner of the Readers' Pensions Committee at the Trocadero. A very successful dinner.

23 April

With Em, Ruth and Sheppard to the Ideal Homes Exhibition of the *Daily Mail* at Olympia. A delightful Show.

In the H. of C. introduction of the Welsh Disestablishment Bill by Mr. McKenna.[53] A very unpopular Bill, I think, on our side.

30 April

H. of C. Home Rule Bill — 2nd Reading. An unhappy day trying vainly to catch Mr. Speaker's eye. I spent the three days of the First Reading in the same unprofitable task.

1 May

Home Rule Bill Second Reading.

2 May

Departmental Committee on Buildings for Small Holdings. With the Deptl. Committee to Swindon. We inspect Col. Calley's concrete

[52]Thomas Sydney Lea (1867–1946): Worcestershire magistrate, supporter of garden cities movement.

[53]Reginald McKenna (1863–1943): Lib. MP Monmouthshire North 1895–1918; Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1905–1907; President of the Board of Education 1907–1908; First Lord of the Admiralty 1908–1911; Home Secretary 1911–1915; Chancellor of the Exchequer 1915–1916; chairman of Midland Bank 1919–1943.

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farm-buildings at Burderop. Then to Dumbleton to see an excellent example of covered yard in creosoted wood.

9 May

Last day of 2nd Reading Debate and DIVISION on HOME RULE BILL. Noble speech by the P.M., not inferior, I am sure, in manner, in voice and in language above all, to anything in our Parliamentary history. House full to congestion. 640 Members present out of 670. The halt and maimed summoned from their beds of sickness. Majority of 100 exactly on the Closure and of 101 on the Motion that 'now' stand.

The inside of the day among the D. of Bedford's[54] Small Holders at Maulden near Ampthill.

T.C.D. Dinner at the Grand Hotel. A delightful function as usual.

10 May
Highcliffe Castle.

Miscellaneous little Bills in the H. of C. House counted out and an early adjournment.

To Highcliffe by 4.30 train[. . .]

11 May
Highcliffe

Sea mist in the morning turning sunny and warm after lunch. We see the land at Upper Highcliffe that Harold [Rothermere] has purchased and where he is to establish a seaside garden suburb.

13 May

Back to town. Welsh Disestablishment Bill – 2nd Reading (1st Day).

[54]Herbrand Arthur Russell (1858–1940): succ. 1893 as 11th Duke of Bedford.

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16 May

Welsh Disestablishment Bill 2nd Reading carried, I vote very reluctantly, with reservations as to Disendowment.

17 May

Meeting of Liberal Churchmen H. of C. to discuss amendments to Disendowment proposals.

22 May House rises for Whitsuntide Recess.

By evening train to Hook to stay with Alfred (Northcliffe) for two or three days Mayfly fishing on the Lyde.

14 June

H. of C. Dull private members' Bills, so I take a day off. [. . .]

The Bishop to a great Anti-Home Rule demonstration at the Albert Hall. Em and I to the Government's India Office Reception. A splendid gathering. Lilian Harmsworth with us and all have supper at the Whips' Table (with the Master of Elibank) in the Royal Supper room.

21 June

Departmental Committee

Round the Staffs C.C.S. Holdings – almost entirely devoted to dairying. Return to town with Mr. Cheney,[55] Senior Small Holdings Commissioner.

Dinner at 10 Downing Street. Forty or fifty at round tables in the fine pannelled dining-room. Opposite me the striking but, I fear, rather indifferent portrait of Nelson.[56] We notice a fine pencil drawing by Sargent of Mr. Asquith's youngest boy. The P.M. tells us that Sargent

[55]E.J. Cheney (1862–1921): civil servant, at this time Assistant Secretary at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and, in that capacity, Smallholdings Commissioner.

[56]Admiral Lord Nelson (1758–1805).

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did it in two hours. A similar portrait of the youngest girl, also by Sargent. The P.M. exceedingly pleasant and simple.

10 DOWNING STREET.
Diner du 21 Juin, 1912.
Melon.
Consommé Paysanne.
Filets de Sole Cubat.
Soufflé de Cailles.
Selle d'Agneau.
Jambon.
Crème Glacée Pralinée.
Biscuits Diable.

25 June

H. of C. Woods & Forests Vote. Bedford College for Women, Regent Street Quadrant, Forest of Dean, Scotch Crown Salmon-fishings and miscellaneous points. Scene in the House. Lansbury,[57] the Socialist Member for Bow & Bromley, waxes uncontrollable over the 'forcible feeding' of women suffragist prisoners. Shakes his fist (having advanced up the floor of the House) in the P.M.'s face. Withdraws on the earnest entreaty of Mr. Speaker and some of his friends.

26 June

H. of C. Supply Board of A. & F. Admirable speech by Runciman.

Alexandra Day in commemoration of Queen Alexandra' s landing in England as 'Sea-King' s daughter from over the Sea' – forty-nine years ago. Ladies sell artificial wild-roses made by cripple girls in aid of the Hospitals in which Queen Alexandra is interested. Em told off to sell in the Ladies Gallery H. of C. but finding little or nothing doing there goes out to Westminster Bridge and Waterloo Station and plies a roaring trade. Sells flowers to 13 sweeps!

[57]George Lansbury (1859–1940): Lab. MP Bow and Bromley 1910–1912, 1922–1940; resigned seat 1912 to fight (and in the event lose) by-election on issue of women's suffrage; editor, *Daily Herald*, 1913–1922; First Commissioner of Works 1929–1931; leader of Labour party 1932–1935.

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Two in three members of the H. of C. wearing roses.

29 June 1912

With Percy Illingworth, M.P.[58] to Hook to fish Alfred's Water (the Lyde). A day of many showers, Fish rising well off and on. Bag 6 Brace not up to the best standard of the water in size.

1 July

Departmental Committee on Buildings for S. Holdings. We hear evidence at Royal Commissions House.

H. Rule Bill. 5th Day Committee.

6 July
Henley Regatta.

The King and Queen at Henley. They proceed from the Station in their State barge to the specially-built pavilion a little lower down than our lawn on the other side of the river. The barge itself with its high stern and scarlet canopy, its royal standard and watermen in quaint red tunics and peaked caps, is a most picturesque feature of a memorable Henley. [. . .] Sixty or seventy to lunch. [. . .] Hundreds on our lawn after lunch and to tea.

I run up to town in the motor-car to the annual dinner of the Amalgamated Press. Alfred in the Chair.

9 July

Naval Inspection.

The Lords & Commons to Southampton to join the 'Armadale Castle' (the ship in which we went to S. Africa) and to inspect the Fleet. Most delightful day. Several fine flights by hydroplanes. An attack

[58]Percy Holden Illingworth (1869–1915): Lib. MP Shipley 1906–1915; Parliamentary Secretary to Treasury and Liberal Chief Whip 1912–1915.

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by destroyers. Submarines. The only official function of the year I thoroughly enjoy.

17 July
Luton.

Interview with lady suffragists at the house of Mrs. Lewis,[59] Luton.
Garden-party at Mr. Edwin Oakley's.

18 July

Royal garden-party at Windsor. Em and I there and back by train very comfortably. A brilliant scene – the women in beautiful frocks, the men as dingy as modern fashions can make them.

19 July

State Ball at Buckingham Palace. A splendid affair. A young dinner-party at Montagu Square for the Public Schools dance at the Savoy. I take Em there after the State Ball and then return home.

23 July

At Stafford with W.R. [Walter Runciman], Lord Lucas and Mr. Middleton on Agricultural education conference.

24 July

Agricultural Education Conference – Wye College district – at Winchester House, St. James's Square, with W.R. and Lord Lucas and Mr. Middleton.
Council meeting Garden Cities Association.
Lunch with Em at Lady St. Davids.

[59]Possibly Ellen Lewis (b. *c.*1850): listed in the 1911 census as 'Chairwoman'.

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25 July

With W.R. and Mr. Middleton to Agricultural Conference at Bristol.

26 July

Flitwick. Liberal fête and meeting. Tea at Mr. Goodman's,[60] the miller's.

30 July
H. of C.

Deputation of cattle-salesmen from Drogheda to see W.R [Walter Runciman] and to argue about the closing of that port to the export of cattle on account of the outbreak of Foot & Mouth at Drogheda. W.R. sympathetic but inflexible.

31 July
Shillington.

Opening of new Liberal Hall. The parson having imposed conditions as to what subjects should be discussed at Liberal meetings in the village schools, the local Liberals – 'Boys of the bull-dog breed' – have transformed a discarded Wesleyan Chapel into a Liberal meeting-place. An enthusiastic and most cheerful gathering, preceded by tea and cakes. Em with me and a considerable party from Luton – Col. and Mrs. Carruthers,[61] Mr. and Mrs. Milner Gray, Mr. Edwin and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Oakley, Mr. George Warren, Mr. Field,[62] Mr. Cotchin and others.

I pair for the day.

1 August

An almost all-night sitting. I walk home about 4.30 – London beautifully fresh and bright at this hour of the morning.

[60] Richard Goodman (b. *c.*1853): flour miller and cow merchant.
[61] Lt Col. Andrew Carruthers (b. *c.*1848): Luton magistrate; m. Emily (1855–1932).
[62] Probably George Field (b. *c.*1865): manure and seed agent.

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2 August

In the House at 12 this morning. In spite of a telegraphic Whip the Government majority on the first Division is only 26.

7 August
H. of C.

Motion for Adjournment. In the evening with W. Runciman and Charles Nicholson to dinner at the Automobile Club and afterwards to the Palace Theatre.

Resignation announced of the Master of Elibank, the best Chief Whip the Liberal party or any other party ever had. He has been very kind to me. Percy Illingworth succeeds him.

8 August

Shopping for Newfoundland and a visit to the dentist. The Babes home in the afternoon from Henley. [. . .]

To 'Gipsy Love' at Daly's – a pretty piece. Master of Elibank (and his brother Arthur)[63] in a box. I go up to see him and to congratulate and condole with him. He does not like leaving the H. of C.

12 August

To Poynters to dine with Mother. Alfred [N.] arrives full of victory over Winston Churchill at golf on Princes Links. He is to play Bonar Law[64] in a day or two. Much talk about Newfoundland.

[63]Arthur Cecil Murray (1879–1962): Lib. MP Kincardineshire 1908–1918, Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire West 1918–1923; PPS to Sir Edward Grey 1910–1914; served in army in Great War; succ. as 3rd Viscount Elibank 1951.

[64]Andrew Bonar Law (1858–1922): Con. MP Glasgow Blackfriars and Hutchesontown 1900–1906, Dulwich 1906–1910, Bootle 1911–1918, Glasgow Central 1918–1923; Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade 1902–1905; leader of Conservative party 1911–1921, 1922–193; Secretary of State for Colonies 1915–1916; Chancellor of the Exchequer 1916–1919; Leader of House of Commons 1916–1921; Lord Privy Seal 1919–1921; Prime Minister 1922–1923.

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13 August

To see Alfred at Carmelite House and to discuss the Newfoundland trip with him.

On 16 August, Harmsworth departed on a trip to Newfoundland. He returned on 11 October.

14 October
H. of C.

I spend the morning at the Board of Agriculture.

Discussion in the H. of C. resumed and concluding Debate on the Home Rule Bill Guillotine Resolution. Following my usual practice I do not vote on the main question [My view was that the guillotine was destroying the House of Commons as a deliberative Assembly. C.H.]

Dinner at Brooks's with Hubert Carr-Gomm, Albion Richardson[65] and Herbert Craig.

17 October

A talk with Sir Edward Grey in Palace Yard. He has been so busy with foreign affairs this Autumn that he has had but little time for fishing. His bag has been only one 'red old salmon'.

19 October
Luton.

Deputation of the small manufacturers to present their case in regard to the Insurance Act and married women outworkers. Lunch at the Liberal Club. Then a County round with Mr. Cotchin and Mr. E. Oakley – Leagrave, Limbury Chalton and Toddington. All very pleased to see us.

[65]Albion Henry Herbert Richardson (1874–1950): Lib. MP Camberwell Peckham 1910–1922 (as Co. Lib. 1916–1922); knighted 1919; KC 1930.

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20 October

A large party to the Zoo. [. . .] An amusing rencontre in the elephant house. The children are feeding the elephants with cake and buns and all of a sudden I notice that next to Daff leaning on the rail is Lloyd-George with a little girl. Daff whispers to me: 'Isn't that gentleman very like Mr. Lloyd-George?' I come up against Ll.-G. a few minutes afterwards and tell him of the incident. I am not quite sure whether he was exactly pleased. In these days of furious Suffragettes a Cabinet Minister does not much relish being recognised even by a child who has never seen him before. (But Daff had – at Droitwich. C.H.)

21 October

Home Rule Bill in Committee.

Short speech against Amendment to exclude T.C.D. from the jurisdiction of the proposed Irish parliament.

22 October

Sir J. McFadyean[66] and Mr. G. Thatcher[67] call on me at Montagu Square to discuss the Veterinary Surgeon's Act Amendment Bill.

H. of C. Home Rule Bill in Committee.

24 October

Lunch with Christopher Turnor at Automobile Club and discuss with him draft Report of our Committee on Buildings for Small Holdings.

Dine with the Crawshay-Williams's H. of C.

26 October
Luton.

With Mr. W.H. Smith and Mr. Cotchin round some of the country districts visiting friends – Woburn, Woburn Sands, Aspley

[66]John McFadyean (1853–1941): Principal of Royal Veterinary College 1892–1927.
[67]Possibly of Messrs G. Thatcher and Son, Solicitors.

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Guise (the printing works burnt down last Christmas now rebuilt and in full working order) and Eversholt. Deputation of Industrial Co.'s Assurance agents (Prudential) at the Liberal Club Luton.

4 November

H. Rule Bill in Committee. Discussion on Proportional Representation for the Irish H. of Commons. I speak in support of P.R.

7 November

Opening of Fleetway House, the new home in Farringdon Street of the Amalgamated Press. The house wonderfully transformed by Sir Joseph Lyons'[68] firm and the dining-room as gay as the Savoy on a gala night. Banquet a magnificent success in every way, the dinner being cooked on the premises. Fine speech by A.C.H. [Northcliffe] and one of the wittiest I have ever heard by Sir Thomas Dewar[69] [Afterwards Lord Dewar].

At noon with W. Runciman to the Horticultural Society's headquarters in Vincent Square to discuss the proposal that the Bd. of A. & F. and the R.H.S. should establish a Diploma as part of a joint scheme.

11 November

Exeter. Devon & Cornwall Enquiry.

The Devon & Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee having petitioned the Development Fund Commissioner for grants of £10,000, each with the object of assisting fishermen to instal motor-power in their boats, the board of A. & F. has hung up the application pending an enquiry into the whole question of the Inshore Fisheries of the two Counties. Runciman has nominated Messrs. Stephen Reynolds

[68]Joseph Nathaniel Lyons (1847–1930): caterer and founder of J. Lyons and Co. Ltd. 1894, opening a chain of teashops in London; knighted 1911.

[69]Thomas Robert Dewar (1864–1930): whisky blender; Con. MP Tower Hamlets, St George 1900–1906; cr. baronet 1917, Baron 1919.

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[the author of admirable Fisheries books];[70] Selwyn Fremantle[71] [of the Indian Civil Service] and myself, with E.T. Atkinson[72] as Secy., to enquire.

Reynolds, Atkinson, and I call on Mr. Harry Ford,[73] Solicitor, Secretary of the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee at his office in Exeter. Afterwards by motor to Beer (Dolphin Hotel). Before dinner we spend some time in the bar of the Anchor talking to the fishermen.

The Dolphin Hotel most comfortable. Herrings caught today, and cutlets, for dinner. Fremantle to join us tomorrow.

– Govt. defeated by 22 early today on financial clause of H. Rule Bill.

13 November
Sidmouth

In Stephen Reynolds' motor boat to Sidmouth with the other members of the Committee, and Harry[74] and Tom Woolley.[75] A fine fresh morning. The coast line here is most attractive – the cliffs sometimes of chalk and sometimes warm red sandstone with delightful green coombes or chines in between.

We put up at the comfortable Bedford Hotel – old-fashioned and snug, with *English* waiters. Sidmouth lying prettily between high red headlands presents a charming Georgian sea front. It is perhaps the pleasantest small seaside town I have seen anywhere.

We summon a meeting of fishermen at the Anchor Inn. [. . .] A small gathering. The question of the £10,000 grant fully discussed, with other matters.

After dinner we go to S. Reynolds' diggings where we meet Mr. Peile,[76] medical officer of health, Uncle Sam Woolley,[77] Harry and

[70]Stephen Reynolds (1881–1919): author of *A Poor Man's Home* (London: J. Lane, 1908) and *Seems So! A Working-Class View of Politics* (London: Macmillan,1911), written in collaboration with Robert and Tom Woolley, with whom he lived in Sidmouth from 1907 until shortly before his death; member of Harmsworth Committee 1912–1913, and of Inshore Fisheries Committee 1914; fisheries adviser to Development Commission; resident fisheries inspector for Board of Agriculture and Fisheries during the Great War.

[71]Selwyn Howe Fremantle (1869–1942), Indian civil servant 1890–1925; knighted 1925.

[72]Possibly Edward Tindall Atkinson (1878–1957): lawyer; Director of Public Prosecutions 1930–1944; knighted 1932.

[73]Henry Ford (*c.*1868–?1937): of Messrs Ford, Harris and Ford, Exeter.

[74]Harry Woolley (b. 1873): Sidmouth fisherman; younger brother of Robert.

[75]Tom Woolley (1878–1953): Sidmouth fisherman; younger brother of Robert and Harry.

[76]William Hall Peile (1869–1919): qualified in Dublin as a medical doctor.

[77]Samuel Joseph Godfrey Woolley (1845–1919): Sidmouth fisherman, younger brother of Robert's father; uncle of Robert, Harry and Tom.

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Bob.[78] An open shingle beach here – the river Sid and the former harbour at the E. end of the town almost completely silted up with shingle.

Today there was a furious scene in the H. of C. – the Tories refusing to hear the Attorney-General. The Speaker suspended the sitting.

14 November
Budleigh Salterton & Exmouth.

By motor-boat to Budleigh Salterton – a delicious day and wonderfully warm for the time of year. The cliff scenery even more entrancing than that between Beer and Sidmouth. But Salterton does not compare in charm with Sidmouth. There is a very long open shingle beach – the river which enters the sea at the E. end of the town badly silted up as at Sidmouth and Seaton. One old salt tells us that he has seen ships of over 100 tons lying in the now non-existent harbour.

We find Salterton all agog with a carnival. We hold an informal meeting with a handful of fishermen on the sea front. They seem anxious to have motors in their boats. We visit the Coastguard Station.

In the evening by train to Exmouth (Imperial Hotel).

H. of C. meets today and adjourns until Monday with a view to the establishment of a modus vivendi between the parties.

16 November
Montagu Square

With S.H. Fremantle to town. Stephen Reynolds returns to Sidmouth and G.T. Atkinson stays at Exeter over the weekend.

Romps and stories with the children after tea. E. and I dine with the Courtneys of Penwith at their interesting old house 15 Cheyne Walk. Also there 'Tim' Healy and the Hugh Laws.[79] Also Dickinson, M.P.[80] and his wife.[81] Old Lord Courtney in his characteristic coat with gold buttons and famous buff waistcoat. He is almost the last of the old

[78]Robert William Woolley (1865–1947): Sidmouth fisherman; older brother of Harry and Tom.

[79]Hugh Alexander Laws (1872–1943): Irish Nat. MP Donegal West 1902–1918; Cumann na nGaedheal member of Irish Dail 1927–1932.

[80]Willoughby Hyett Dickinson (1869–1943): Lib. MP St Pancras North 1906–1918; knighted 1918; joined Labour party 1930; cr. Baron Dickinson 1930.

[81]Minnie Elizabeth Gordon Cumming Dickinson, née Meade (1865–1967): m. 1891.

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stagers, if not the last, to sport a low-crowned tall-hat of the John Bull pattern.

17 November

A quiet day at home. Storytelling with the children.

ONE OF THE ABSENTEES.

You may search through the lists of the lobby in vain,
He was not among the M.P.'s
Who voted, his friends must have noted with pain,
He *was* one of the absentees.
It could surely not be, one so docile and bland
Had rebelled against party and got 'out of hand'?
Was he still so intent on recording the deeds
Giving fame to his holiday trip,
Too busy to bother with the Party needs
Or respond to the crack of the Whip?
You could hardly imagine it one of those cases
Where, hard driven, at last he'd 'kicked over the traces'.
In the last of his letters to come to hand,
He vaguely addressed it, 'At Sea'.
Was it possible that he had never reached land?
Had there been some catastrophe?
Or had he returned to the 'Isle of the Mist',
That, as 'missing' his name appeared in the list?
Such thoughts must have filled his friends with chagrin,
But they know now the reason why
He was not in the wreck of the Party machine –
He had other fish to fry!
Piscatorial exploits in his late expedition
Have gained him a seat on a Fishery Commission!

JINGLE.

Verses in the *Luton Reporter* (Tory) on my absence from the fateful Division of Monday Novr. 11th.

18 November

Brixham. Devon Fisheries Enquiry.

By midday train to Brixham – the most important fishing port on the S. Coast. It is a quaint little place climbing steeply round the small inner harbour and owes its picturesque-ness not to its buildings but to

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its situation. The houses are as ugly almost as those of the back streets of Marylebone.

Brixham clings tenaciously to its beautiful sailing trawlers but its leading citizens are anxious that the Government should aid the fishermen in installing motor power. The sentiments of the harbour and the quays seem generally hostile to the proposal.

22 November
Leighton Buzzard.

Albion Richardson and I speak in Town Hall. A surprisingly good meeting. Albion [Sir Albion R., K.B.E., K.C.] in first-rate form.

We dine previously in the good old-fashioned 'Swan' Hotel.

All day on the Departmental Committee on S. Holdings discussing our Report.

24 November

With E. and the babes to St. Paul's in the afternoon. Excellent sermon by Canon Simpson.[82]

26 November

Lunch at the Prime Minister's [Mr. Asquith] in the fine pannelled dining-room with portraits of Nelson, Wellington, Charles James Fox, the younger Pitt and others. Present: the P.M., Mr. and Mrs. Granville Barker,[83] Colonel Seely, Secretary for War, Mr. G. Spencer Pryse,[84] the artist and Mr. Bonham-Carter,[85] private Secretary. (Mrs. and Miss

[82]James Gilliland Simpson (1865–1948): Anglican priest; Canon of Manchester 1910–1912, of St Paul's 1912–1928; Dean of Peterborough 1928–1942.

[83]Harley Granville Barker (1877–1946): actor-manager, director, producer, critic and playwright; in 1912 directed *A Winter's Tale* and *Twelfth Night* at the Savoy Theatre; Lillah Barker, née McCarthy (1875–1960): actress and theatrical manager; m. 1908, div. 1918.

[84]Gerald Spencer Pryse (1882–1956): Welsh artist, contributor of lithographs to journals including *Punch*; member of Fabian Society.

[85]Maurice Bonham Carter (1880–1960): principal private secretary to the Prime Minister 1910–1916; knighted 1916.

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Asquith[86] away attending the funeral of a member of the Strutt family.)

Delightful conversation about plays and books. The P.M. in most genial mood. Said that he desired to recommend Dr. Richter[87] the musician and composer, and Mr. J.S. Sargent, R.A., the great painter, for honours but was debarred by the fact that neither has become a naturalised British subject.

Afternoon train to Plymouth in connection with the Devon Fisheries Committee. Meet Reynolds, Fremantle and Atkinson at the Central Hotel (quite comfortable).

28 November
Plymouth.

The fish market before breakfast. A fair catch of dog-fish, now among the most valuable harvests of the Plymouth fishermen. The dog-fish, skinned and cleaned, go to London under the name of 'flakes' and are used in the fried fish shops.

To town in time for the opening of the H. of C. Debate on Guillotine Resolution Welsh Disestablishment Bill.

All night sitting. Supper (devilled bones) about 3 o'clock with T.P. O'Connor and 'Long' John O'Connor.[88]

To bed at 6 A.M.

3 December

Market Gardeners Bill in Grand Committee 15th day.

In the afternoon to meet Lord Robert Cecil in Committee Room 12 to discuss how best the iniquitous system of the guillotine can be obviated. Lord R.C. elaborates a plan.

[86]Helen Violet Asquith (1887–1969): daughter of H.H. and Helen Asquith; m. Maurice Bonham Carter 1915; president of Women's Liberal Federation 1923–1925, 1939–1945; president of Liberal party 1945–1947; cr. Baroness 1964.

[87]Hans Richter (1843–1916): Austro-Hungarian conductor; director of Halle Orchestra 1899–1911, London Symphony Orchestra 1904–1911.

[88]John O'Connor (1850–1928): called 'Long' on account of his great height; an active Fenian in his youth, he later became a strong supporter of Charles Stewart Parnell; Nationalist MP for Tipperary 1885; South Tipperary 1885–1992; North Kildare 1905–1918; called to the English Bar (Middle Temple) 1893; KC 1919; no relation of T.P. O'Connor.

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5 December

In the morning to Kelmscott House, Hammersmith, to meet Warwick Draper and G. Spencer Pryse, the painter, and to go over Hampshire House, the remarkable social enterprise on the lines of Toynbee Hall etc. that has been established by Draper and a few friends in this surprisingly poor part of London.

The district, especially that part which fronts on the river, is one of the quaintest in London. Kelmscott House is a very interesting specimen of the Queen Anne style and has many literary associations. William Morris[89] lived here. Two of the rooms are illustrated in the Life by J.W. Mackail.[90]

6 December
H. of C.

Stephen Reynolds, Selwyn Fremantle and Atkinson with me all day long in Runciman's room discussing our interim Report on the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee's application.

7 December

Busy all day over the new clause dealing with the position of T.C.D. under the H. Rule Bill.

In the evening to dine with Warwick Draper at Kelmscott House Upper Mall Hammersmith to meet some of the Trustees of Hampshire House and to discuss ways and means in connection with proposals to establish a Settlement on Toynbee Hall lines. Present: Messrs. Draper, F. Rowntree,[91] Spencer Pryse, H.D.C. Pepler,[92] J.P. Bren[93] and myself.

[89]William Morris (1834–1996): artist, designer, writer and socialist.
[90]J.W. Mackail, *The Life of William Morris*, 2 vols (London: Longmans, Green & Co, 1899).
[91]Frederick Rowntree (1860–1927): architect influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement; Quaker background; related to the confectionary family.
[92]Harry Douglas Clark Pepler (1878–1951): printer, writer, poet; Quaker background.
[93]Unidentified.

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12 December

Last day Committee H. Rule Bill. I move T.C.D. amendment. Campbell,[94] junior member for T.C.D., responds very pleasantly, while Birrell, J. Redmond and Simon all make most friendly speeches. My Amendment negatived on the understanding that Birrell will move something more generally acceptable on Report.

13 December

E.'s Birthday.

H. of C. Debate on Clause 4 Welsh Disestablishment Bill. Partial revolt of Liberal Churchmen on Gerald France's motion to reserve to the Church in Wales everything but the tithe. Admirable speeches by France[95] and young Gladstone.[96]

21 December

House of Commons rises for the Christmas recess. E. calls for me with children. We all go to Camberwell to see Lady Lever's[97] Insurance Act play.

30 December

Back to town this morning.

1st Day Report Stage H. Rule Bill. Amendment Safeguarding T.C.D., and Queen's University Belfast. I make a short speech.

[94]James Henry Mussen Campbell (1851–1931): Irish Unionist MP Dublin St Stephen's Green 1898–1900, Dublin University 1903–1917; Solicitor General for Ireland 1903–1905; Attorney General for Ireland 1905, 1916–1917; Lord Chief Justice of Ireland 1917–1918; Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1918–1921; cr. Baron Glenavy 1921; member and chair of Irish Free State Senate 1922–1928.

[95]Gerald Ashburner France (1870–1935): Lib. MP Morley 1910–1918, Batley and Morley 1918–1922; businessman and leading lay Wesleyan.

[96]William Glynne Charles Gladstone (1885–1915): grandson of W.E. Gladstone (1809–1898) and son of William Henry Gladstone (1840–1891); Lib. MP Kilmarnock Burghs 1911–1915; killed in action 1915.

[97]Elizabeth Ellen Lever, née Hulme (*c.*1851–1913): m. William Hesketh Lever, industrialist, 1874; he was knighted 1911 hence her title.

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31 December

H. Rule Bill Report Stage 2nd Day.

Walter Runciman and I play truant, dine at Brooks's and go to see 'Doormats', an exceedingly well-acted little serio-comedy, at Wyndham's. We in our workaday H. of Commons clothes find ourselves among the smartest crowd I have seen at the theatre for a long time.

Off to Cornwall by mid-night train from Paddington with G.T. Atkinson to begin our enquiry into the fisheries of Cornwall. Fremantle and Reynolds to follow.

Atkinson and I wish one another all sorts of happy New Years as the train steams out of the station.

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