

THE DIARY OF GEORGE GREY

Upton, Bournemouth
July 20th, 1875

[It is] Thirty Four years since this Diary was begun and in which there are many large gaps. I have often doubted as to whether it would not be better to destroy it. But with much that would I have no doubt make me hot were I to read it through[,] there are notices of people and events that recall to my recollection in my old days much that it is pleasant to look back upon, and upon the whole not much of an unpleasant description. I came across a passage this morning in a novel of Wilkie Collins which I greatly agree with – ‘A Diary (when it extends beyond a base record of facts and dates) is in general nothing but an expression of the weakest side in the character of the person who writes it. It is in nine cases out of ten the more or less contemptible out-pouring of vanity & conceit which the writer dare not exhibit to any mortal but himself.’⁷⁰¹ From several passages I have glanced over I find a morbid complaining as to temper, when in reality I now believe that with a natural hasty disposition I was always of a forgiving temper and I may say now without vanity – that I believe no one ever had fewer enemies – and I am sure I have felt no enmity to any one beyond a passing feeling. With this qualification I will let the book remain for those who come after me to read or destroy or both.

Berkeley Square 1841, Tuesday June 22 From 11 to 1 with Mr. Lang [for a] lesson in Algebra and much interesting conversation. Went to a breakfast at Lady Shelley’s⁷⁰² – dined at home – saw Marie Ducange⁷⁰³ at the Haymarket – not good!

⁷⁰¹ From Chapter XX of Collins’s *The Law and the Lady* (1875).

⁷⁰² Probably Lady Frances Shelley (1787–1873), the diarist and confidant of the duke of Wellington.

⁷⁰³ A June 1841 bill for the Theatre Royal advertises that ‘Mr. Bernard’s New Drama of *Marie Ducange* ... will be acted every Evening until further notice’ with the Parisian actress Madame Céleste (1815–1882) in the title role.

Sunday June 22 Rainy in shower, at home until luncheon [...] I read this morning an excellent Article in the *Quarterly* on the Budget & Dissolution.⁷⁰⁴

Monday June 28 At home until lunchtime – dined with Ld. Carlisle,⁷⁰⁵ partly mostly family – conversation much upon elections,⁷⁰⁶ I do not think they appear in spirits about the West Riding of Yorkshire – I shall be sorry for Lord Morpeth.⁷⁰⁷

Tuesday June 29 Mr. Lang as usual from 11 to 1. All the town in a turmoil about the City Election. Close of the Poll at 4 PM. By conservative version 3 of them and Wood. By Reform Club⁷⁰⁸ 2 and 2 that is Wood & Russell against Lyall & Masterman⁷⁰⁹ [...]

Wednesday June 30 City election declared Lord John 9 above Attwood and lowest of the four chosen⁷¹⁰ – making two and two – Rous is elected today for Westminster,⁷¹¹ all appearances in favour of the Conservatives. I dine with Lord Canning⁷¹² – I like him & she is a delightful person [...]

⁷⁰⁴ The *Quarterly Review*, published by John Murray and edited at this time by John Gibson Lockhart (1794–1843), was a conservative journal, arguably the most influential in the English-speaking world. Grey refers to ‘The Budget and the Dissolution’, *QR*, 68 (1841), 238–280, reviewing publications on the Corn Laws and sugar duties.

⁷⁰⁵ George Howard, 6th earl of Carlisle (1773–1848), the Whig grandee who had served as lord privy seal (1827–1828, 1834) and minister without portfolio (1830–1834).

⁷⁰⁶ Following a one-vote defeat on a motion of no confidence, Melbourne requested the dissolution of Parliament, leading to the general election of 1841.

⁷⁰⁷ George Howard, 7th earl of Carlisle (1802–1864), styled Viscount Morpeth from 1825 to 1848, had been chief secretary for Ireland (1835–1841) and MP for the West Riding of Yorkshire (1832–1841) where in 1841, as Grey feared, he lost to the Tory candidates John Stuart-Wortley (1801–1855) and Edmund Beckett (1787–1874).

⁷⁰⁸ The gentleman’s club that Edward Ellice founded on Pall Mall for liberal members of both houses of Parliament.

⁷⁰⁹ The City of London constituency returned four MPs from its creation in 1298 until the passage of the Reform Act of 1832. Besides Russell, the candidates mentioned here are the Conservatives John Masterman (1781–1862) and George Lyall (1779–1853) and Whig Sir Matthew Wood, 1st baronet (1768–1843).

⁷¹⁰ Russell beat the Conservative candidate Matthias Wolverley Attwood (1808–1865) by nine votes. However, in a remarkable demonstration of partisan vote management, only 0.8% (332 votes) separated the first candidate (Masterman, 6,339 votes) from the last, the Conservative John Pirie (1781–1851).

⁷¹¹ See n. 285.

⁷¹² Charles Canning, 1st earl Canning (1812–1862), then Viscount Canning, who was governor-general of India (1856–1862) during the 1857 uprising, his response to which earned him the nickname ‘Clemency’. His wife was Charlotte Canning (*née* Stuart, 1817–1861, m.1835), later a lady of the bedchamber to Victoria.

Thursday July 1st Election excitement still continues⁷¹³ [...]

Friday July 2nd Dine with Lady Holland⁷¹⁴ party of twelve among others Sidney Smith⁷¹⁵ – Sir John Hobhouse⁷¹⁶ [...] Sidney is [in] great force [with] many amusing stories told.

Saturday July 3rd We hear the report of an opposition to Henry in Northumberland confirmed.⁷¹⁷ I determine to set off immediately to assist him in the canvas, the dirty proceedings of our opponents having enabled them to forestall us, we have little time. At 9.PM I start in the Rail road for Darlington.

Monday July 5th Set off [...] at 6 o'clock in the morning with Mr. Robson (my father's Agent) being joined by [...] a farmer and most active supporter of my brothers – we remained canvassing until sunset – we were successful in obtaining split votes,⁷¹⁸ but found that the Bailiffs of the Duke of Northumberland⁷¹⁹ had been before us, asking for split votes in favour of the Coalition of the Tories – Baker Creswell⁷²⁰ & Ld. Ossulston⁷²¹ – it was ½ past ten before I got back to Alnwick.

Tuesday July 6th Nomination day at Alnwick – Howick's speech quite excellent, those of his opponents inaudible and unintelligible – A

⁷¹³ Grey's narrative illustrates the protracted nature of nineteenth-century elections. In 1841, each constituency's returning officer could arrange polling between 29 June and 22 July.

⁷¹⁴ Elizabeth Vassall-Fox, Baroness Holland (1771–1845), who maintained the social and literary character of Holland House after the death of her husband, Henry Vassall-Fox, 3rd Baron Holland (1773–1840).

⁷¹⁵ Sydney Smith (1771–1845), the cleric, philosopher, and founder of the *Edinburgh Review*.

⁷¹⁶ Sir John Cam Hobhouse, 1st Baron Broughton (1786–1869), the radical Whig MP who published extensive accounts of his travels with Byron.

⁷¹⁷ Grey's brother Henry, then Viscount Howick, had been MP for North Northumberland since 1832.

⁷¹⁸ As two candidates would be returned, each elector had two votes to cast, hence 'split votes'.

⁷¹⁹ Hugh Percy, 3rd duke of Northumberland (1785–1847), a Tory political magnate in north-east England, a former lord lieutenant of Ireland (1829–1830), and the chancellor of the University of Cambridge (1840–1847).

⁷²⁰ Addison Baker Cresswell (1788–1879), the Conservative candidate who, despite defeating Howick in 1841, would serve in Parliament only until the next general election in 1847.

⁷²¹ Charles Augustus Bennet, 6th earl of Tankerville (1810–1899), styled Lord Ossulston at the time, served as a Tory then Conservative MP for North Northumberland from 1832 to 1859.

parson⁷²² [...] came forward as the champion of Ossulston and Creswell and by his violence and Jesuitical language disgusted all who heard him – The show of hands was clearly in Howick's favour but being decided against him by the Sheriff a Poll was demanded on our part – Our friends are most zealous and tomorrow we are to recommence a canvas for the two days which remain before the opening of the Poll.

Friday July 9th [...] the Polling commences – By the returns tonight we have I am afraid little hope of succeeding.

Saturday July 10th Great exertions made by both sides, the Tories bringing up old men of ninety – there has been terrible oppression used on Ld. Tankerville's⁷²³ estate at Wark⁷²⁴ – and I hear some high words have passed between Mr. Robson and Hodgson Hinde⁷²⁵ – Howick also on meeting an old supporter [...] but who is now against him, has used expressions which will oblige him to appear on the hustings on Monday – The Poll closed at 4.PM.

Sunday July 11th Receive the return of the close of the Poll, Howick is beat by 61⁷²⁶ which is very near indeed; had we known of the contest sooner I have no doubt but that we should have beat the Coalition – After dinner I go to Morpeth where I sleep.

Tuesday August 10 [...] I have great hopes of being appointed to a ship by Lord Minto⁷²⁷ before he goes out.

Saturday August 21st [...] I have read an excellent Article on the Administration of Justice in India in the *Edinburgh Review* as also

⁷²² Rev. Leonard Shafto Orde (1807–1895), a chaplain to the duke of Northumberland, whose remarks were described by the *Newcastle Journal* (10 July 1841) as 'caustic, though just'.

⁷²³ Charles Augustus Bennet, 5th earl of Tankerville (1776–1859), who, while styled Lord Ossulston, had been treasurer of the household in the Ministry of All the Talents.

⁷²⁴ The *Newcastle Journal* of 17 July 1841 reports that Howick had 'expressly charged Lord Ossulston with having used coercive language at a meeting of the electors of Wark, in order to obtain their votes'.

⁷²⁵ John Hodgson-Hinde (1806–1869), the Conservative MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1836–1847).

⁷²⁶ The actual margin was 62 (1,163 to 1,101): Henry Stooks Smith, *The Parliaments of England, from 1715 to 1846*, ed. F.W.S. Craig (2nd edn, London, 1973), 239.

⁷²⁷ Gilbert Elliott-Murray-Kynynmound, 2nd earl of Minto (1782–1859), the Whig politician who, having served as British minister to Prussia (1832–1834) under Grey, was first lord of the Admiralty (1835–1841) under Melbourne. The reference to Minto 'going out' alludes to the electoral victory of the Conservatives, who returned 367 MPs.

a short one by Macaulay on the late Lord Holland⁷²⁸ – I have also been much interested in reading the Life and Memoirs of Ld. Edw'd Fitzgerald.⁷²⁹

Sunday August 22 [...] I have just returned from my morning's walk – my companion Wolfe Tone's Memoirs⁷³⁰ which reference to in Ld. E. Fitzgerald's induced me to read, as far as I have got about 120 pages I am very much interested – the events told by himself are described in an agreeable lively manner and the Editor's part performed by his Son is also well done – I had no idea that England was so near losing Ireland as these books clearly show to have been the case in 1798.

Tuesday August 24th Walked as usual with my book and my spy glass down to the sea by the long walk [...] naturally I want active employment and at this moment I am anxiously waiting to know my fate, a few days will decide whether Lord Minto will be able to give me a ship or not, but I will not let myself think on this.

Wednesday August 25 A list of Officers appointed to ships has put me terribly out of spirits and most informally out of humour – My hopes are getting low, and are now barely above the point of despair [...] With the Tories I have no chance of employment – and God knows when the Whigs will return again to power [...] I thought that I might be getting a ship now, establish my name as a good officer, and I believe I am as good as a great many and a devilish sight better than many too – well done vanity! In my walk this morning I kept reading over & over again the same page, I could not help thinking of that damned Cambrian – I had my heart set on commanding her – how I do hate the happy Chads⁷³¹ – I do not know him, but I believe he is a good fellow & a good officer.

⁷²⁸ 'Administration of Justice in India', *EdR*, 73 (1841), 425–460; 'The Late Lord Holland', *EdR*, 73 (1841), 560–568.

⁷²⁹ Lord Edward FitzGerald (1763–1798) was an Irish nationalist and veteran of the British army who played a leading – but fatal – role in the United Irishmen rebellion of 1798. Grey is probably reading Thomas Moore, *Life and Death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald* (2 vols, London, 1832).

⁷³⁰ Theobald Wolfe Tone (1763–1798), a celebrated leader of the United Irishmen. Grey is probably reading *Life of Theobald Wolfe Tone, Written by Himself, and Continued by His Son* (2 vols, Washington DC, 1826) or a British reprinting thereof.

⁷³¹ Henry Ducie Chads (1788–1868), who 'beat' Grey to command of the *Cambrian*, which was sent to China.

Friday August 27th By last night's post I receive a letter from Lord Minto offering me the *Belvidera*⁷³² – she is no beauty but I am too happy to get her.

Sunday August 29 Reach Berkeley Square at a quarter past five in the morning not a bit tired, how any body can dislike a Railroad is to me inconceivable! I went down to the Admiralty & saw Ld. Minto – at eight in the evening started for Southampton by the railroad – arrived at twelve – bad inn!

Thursday Sep'r 2nd Came down to Portsmouth. Dined with Sir Edw'd Codrington.

Monday Sep'r 13 [...] There is no post from London, but I hope the newspaper this evening will give some account of Howick's [being] elected at Sunderland – they wrote yesterday in good spirits [...] I am getting on with entering men.

Friday Sep'r 17th Hear of Howick's return by a majority 247⁷³³ a most triumphant result, and far exceeding our most sanguine hopes.

Saturday Oct'r 1st Leave Portsmouth on a fortnight's leave and arrive in London in time to dine with Mary.

Tuesday Oct. 19 to Saturday Oct. 23 Howick, the house is full [...] I have been reading a collection of letters written at different times by my Father – if it was possible to increase my admiration of his private and Political superiority to any person I ever heard of these would do so – and how kind he is to all of us – how little he has been really known by the world.

Thursday Oct'r 28 Leave London at ½ past eight – reach Portsmouth at 4.

⁷³² Grey first mentions the *Belvidera* in January 1832 in the context of his brother, Frederick, and Richard Dundas taking her to Tripoli (see p. 57). Grey's was one of the last appointments by the Melbourne ministry, which left office three days later on 30 August 1841.

⁷³³ Shortly after being elected unopposed for Sunderland in 1841, the Conservative MP William Thompson (1792–1854) resigned to stand in a by-election at Westmorland, where he owned property. This led to a by-election for Sunderland, at which Howick prevailed over Attwood, who had stood unsuccessfully for the City of London earlier that year (see n. 710), by 706 votes to 462 (that is, a margin of 244 not 247).

Friday Oct's 29 Find little progress made in fitting out since I left.

Tuesday Nov'r 2 to Saturday Nov'r 6th Routine of Portsmouth life – busy most of the day in the Dockyard, dining occasionally with an Admiral or a General.

Sunday Nov'r 7 Go to Woolbeding taking the Rocket⁷³⁴ as far as Petersfield and a fly for the ten miles further.

Friday Nov'r 12th Disgusted with my First Lieut. My only hope is that the birth of the Prince which took place two days ago⁷³⁵ may cause a brevet and that he may be included.

Monday Nov'r 15 I find that we are getting on very well, and I hope in about six months after we are fairly off to make a good ship's company out of the materials I have already on board.

Saturday Nov'r 20 Reach my lodgings at Portsmouth at 1.PM – I find waiting for me among others letters from Mary and Emily telling me that Louisa is ill at Genoa.

Saturday Nov'r 27 Running about the town paying bills [...] Dine at the Travellers⁷³⁶ with Charles and go to the play – see Macready⁷³⁷ in *Nina Sforza*⁷³⁸ – nothing could be worse.

Wednesday Dec'r 8 Paris. Since Saturday I have been travelling to join the Lambtons [...] my ship is to join me at Leghorn [...] At Marseilles I hope I shall have letters from Howick.

Monday December 13th At half past twelve last night I reached this place (Marseilles) and the Steamboat which is to take me to Leghorn.

Tuesday December 14 Genoa, arrive in time to land for dinner [...]

⁷³⁴ Not Stephenson's *Rocket*, but a stagecoach on the Portsmouth–London 'Sailor's Highway' (see n. 236).

⁷³⁵ Albert Edward (1841–1910, r.1901–1910), soon created prince of Wales, was born on 9 November. Brevet commissions often marked coronations, declarations of peace, and other momentous occasions. Grey's hope here, that the potential promotion of his first lieutenant would remove him from the *Belvidera*, was disappointed.

⁷³⁶ The gentlemen's club founded in 1819, and located at 106 Pall Mall since 1832.

⁷³⁷ The English actor William Charles Macready (1793–1873).

⁷³⁸ *Nina Sforza* (1841), a tragedy by the English playwright Richard Zouch S. Troughton (1784–1878).

Wednesday Dec'r 15 As soon as I had breakfasted I called upon Mr. Brown⁷³⁹ the Consul, from whom I learnt that Mr. [Edward] Ellice was here with Lord Coke⁷⁴⁰ – go to them, and at six embark with them on board the Pharamond Steamer⁷⁴¹ for Leghorn.

Thursday December 16 [W]e landed at Leghorn before eight and came on here directly after breakfast [...] I have had also a long conversation with Lady William Bentinck.⁷⁴²

Tuesday 21 I have been reading a journal left by poor Louisa⁷⁴³ and other papers which Mary has lent me [...] what an angel they have lost in their mother.

Saturday Christmas Day This morning I went to the Cathedral [at Pisa] & several other churches – no where was the music tolerable, and the ceremonies anything but imposing – I have also been seeing sights – Campo Santo – Leaning Tower &c – I myself have no doubt that the latter was originally built as it now is.

Tuesday 6th [January 1842] I have been having an Italian master every morning lately, and I find that I am getting on tolerably, but my Spanish is terribly in my way – I am going to Florence tomorrow with Howick.

Friday 7th I received accounts of the Belvidera having arrived yesterday at Leghorn – I rode down to that place this morning [...] they only left Plymouth on the 22^d and were consequently not more than 15 days on their passage – I return to Pisa for dinner.

Tuesday 18 We went to Florence where we remained until Saturday the 22 [...] I can imagine no winter residence more delightful.

⁷³⁹ Timothy Yeats Brown (1789–1858) was a banker who between 1834 and 1840 lived on the island of Palmaria in the Ligurian Sea. In that latter year he became British consul to the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia at Genoa.

⁷⁴⁰ Thomas William Coke, 2nd earl of Leicester of Holkham (1822–1909), styled Viscount Coke at the time.

⁷⁴¹ Named after a legendary king of the Franks, the *Pharamond* was a steamer serving a series of Mediterranean routes. Later purchased by the French shipping company Messageries Impériales, she was wrecked off Varna in December 1857 (*Lloyd's List*, 21 December 1857).

⁷⁴² Mary Acheson, the widow of Lord William Bentinck (1774–1839), the governor-general of India (1834–1835).

⁷⁴³ Grey's sister Louisa, who had become Countess of Durham on Lambton's ennoblement, died of 'an ulcerated sore throat' (*Evening Chronicle*, 7 December 1841) on 26 November; she had taken her family to Italy for the sake of her daughter Mary's health.

Sunday 23 I intended to have gone down to Leghorn today preparatory to sailing tomorrow, but the ground is covered with snow and it is still falling.

Tuesday 25th They all come down to Leghorn to see me off and at ½ past three they returned to Pisa [...] at 5.PM I was under weigh with a fair wind

Friday 28th At 10.AM anchor in Malta having had a good passage and fine weather.

Tuesday February 1st I am very much put out by the inefficiency of my First Lieutenant – this confines me a great deal to the ship – I took a long walk alone as I am rather out of spirits.

Tuesday Feb'y 8 I have made the acquaintance here of a Mr. Hay⁷⁴⁴ well known as having been for many years at the Admiralty, he is a most agreeable clever person.

Saturday 12 A melancholy business took place here two days ago – a young Officer named Adams of the 88th was shot in a duel arising from some stupid joke during the Carnival – poor fellow he died yesterday morning and was buried today – he was shot by a Mr. Levick formerly in the Malta Fencibles⁷⁴⁵ now retired.

Monday 14 Packet arrived from Marseilles, Galignanis⁷⁴⁶ up to the 6th, Queen's Speech.⁷⁴⁷

Thursday 17 All day on a Court Martial on board the *Impregnable*⁷⁴⁸ – The case is an awkward one – the Second Master struck a Quarter Master, the witnesses differed as to whether the blow was violent or not, but the man was suffering under a chronic aneurism and in a few minutes after the blow was struck

⁷⁴⁴ Robert William Hay (1786–1861), a 'civil servant and dilettante' (*ODNB*), had been private secretary (1812–1825) to the first lord of the Admiralty and then an influential under-secretary of state at the Colonial Office (1825–1836).

⁷⁴⁵ The Royal Malta Fencible Regiment, an infantry battalion of the British Army.

⁷⁴⁶ The reprints of newspapers and journals that the Parisian publishing brothers John Anthony Galignani (1796–1873) and William Galignani (1798–1882) furnished to English-speakers across Europe.

⁷⁴⁷ *Hansard*, Lords, 3 February 1842, 3rd ser., vol. 60, cc. 1–5.

⁷⁴⁸ HMS *Impregnable* (1810), a 98-gun, first-rate, three-decker ship of line, built at Chatham, and serving at the time on the Mediterranean Station under the command of Captain Thomas Forrest (d.1844).

he expired – tomorrow the surgeons will be examined and on their evidence all will depend.

Friday 18th The Court Martial finished this evening, at seven – the Prisoner has been dismissed [from] the service – the evidence of the Surgeons saved him.

Sunday 20 Sailed from Malta for Leghorn intending to touch at Messina & Naples.

Saturday 26 10.AM Go on shore at Naples leaving the ship to stand off & on – 4.PM return & make sail for Leghorn.

Wednesday 16 [March] Sail from Leghorn for Naples.

Saturday 19th Drove to Naples – ‘Hotel de la Gran Bretagne’ saw Lord & Lady Ponsonby[;]⁷⁴⁹ returned on board to dinner.

Monday 21st We left the ship early breakfast at Naples and spent the day in an excursion to Pompeii – the rest of the party returned on board to dinner.

Monday 28 Sunset arrive at Malta.

Tuesday April 5 The ship is towed out of Malta harbour by the *Devastation*⁷⁵⁰ – sail for Gibraltar.

Thursday 21st We all took up our quarters at the Club House Hotel at Gibraltar. The rest of the month living at Gibraltar. I go on board every forenoon, in the evening ride with the Lambtons – I have also dined at some of the Army Messes.

Monday May 9 9.30 P.M. sail from Gibraltar.

Tuesday May 10 8.30 arrive at Cadiz – Land after dinner [...] we go into Walls Hotel.

Friday 13 The Lambtons with Charles and Caroline sailed this morning for England in the Montrose Steamer, and I am now

⁷⁴⁹ See n. 400. ‘Lady Ponsonby’ was Frances Elizabeth Villiers (1786–1866, m.1803)

⁷⁵⁰ HMS *Devastation* (1841), a paddle steamer designed by Sir William Symonds and launched at Woolwich.

alone and feeling more desolate & lonely than I can possibly describe.

Wednesday 18 Returned to Cadiz from Xeres⁷⁵¹ having seen all that was to be seen which was not much beyond the Sherry wine vaults.

Friday 20 I have been at home nearly the whole day – reading a book called Owen Felthams resolves.⁷⁵²

Saturday 21st I am angry with myself for not having kept my resolution of not losing my temper with my Steward – he is enough to provoke anybody but still I am ridiculous & weak in my own eyes for not being able to control myself better.

Monday 23 Sailed this morning early from Cadiz, and anchored at Gibraltar at 4.30 PM.

Tuesday 24 Queen's Birthday – there has been a great affair today in the way of Salutes, Levers – reviews, illuminations &c – The Alameda was beautifully lit up.

Thursday 26th Not being very well I remained on board all day – wrote several letters and read for some hours Sir Samuel Romilly's life,⁷⁵³ it is a most interesting book, and one that every one should read as it shows what a good man the writer was, and apparently how happy and contented – Many of us I am afraid without his regulating principle of religion.

Friday 27 On board the greater part of the day, I have been reading and writing a good deal lately, but I am not satisfied with the result, I find myself very deficient [*sic*] in the power of fixing my attention to one single object, and abstracting my mind from all other considerations – I am also deficient in strength of memory.

June 1st I have not moved from the ship all day.

⁷⁵¹ Jerez de la Frontera, from which the name 'sherry' is taken.

⁷⁵² Owen Feltham (1602–1668) was an English chaplain whose *Resolves: Divine, morall, and politicall* (c.1623–1661) was a popular collection of essays and reflections on seventeenth-century life.

⁷⁵³ Sir Samuel Romilly (1757–1818), the lawyer, politician, and abolitionist who was solicitor-general in the Talents ministry; *Memoirs of Sir Samuel Romilly with a Selection from his Correspondence* (2 vols, London, 1840).

June 2nd Still confined to the ship [...] I am endeavouring to employ [myself] usefully, & first & foremost to school my mind and bring myself into a more contented disposition [...] I am reading Boswell's Johnson.⁷⁵⁴

Tuesday 7 Still confined to the ship, during the morning I wrote letters and read the English newspapers [...] The Great Liverpool⁷⁵⁵ arrived from England & brings news that the Queen has been fired at in the same spot as when it occurred two years ago.⁷⁵⁶

Wednesday 8 Upon the whole a satisfactory day. I have written many letters and read a good deal – some of Dr. Channing's discourses⁷⁵⁷ have struck me as containing arguments on religion that appear conclusive – I only wish to learn, therefore I must endeavour not to allow any doctrine to convince me too easily – but ideas and sensations which I never could convey intelligently to myself are put so clearly and simply by Channing that I certainly never felt myself go along with a writer more completely than I do with him.

Thursday 9th I am getting on with Boswell's Johnson and at the same time I read during an hour in a History of the Jews⁷⁵⁸ – in the evening I also read a little poetry latterly I have been reading Pope⁷⁵⁹ – my admiration for Lord Byron has subsided considerably – still there is nobody like him in many respects.

Tuesday 14 I have not left my cabin for some days, and never see any body.

Thursday 16 I have been at times in low spirits during the day, the effects I suppose of the medicine I have been taking [...] I think sometimes what I should do in case of my health obliging me to give up my ship – it would require all my philosophy to bear that

⁷⁵⁴ *Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.* (London, 1791) by James Boswell (1740–1795).

⁷⁵⁵ *Great Liverpool* (1838), a Peninsular & Oriental passenger liner.

⁷⁵⁶ John Francis's (1822–1885) attempted shooting of Victoria on 29 May 1842, the first attempt having been made by Edward Oxford (1822–1900) on 10 June 1840; John William Bean (1824–1882) would make a further attempt on the queen's life on 3 July 1842.

⁷⁵⁷ William Ellery Channing (1780–1842), the American Unitarian preacher, published numerous collections of discourses, essays, reviews, and sermons; it is unclear to which Grey refers.

⁷⁵⁸ Possibly Henry Hart Millman's *The History of the Jews* (2 vols, London, 1829), which had scandalized polite society upon publication by narrating a biblical history without mystery or majesty.

⁷⁵⁹ Alexander Pope (1688–1744), the poet, essayist, and translator.

properly – but again if I feel unequal to command am I justified in continuing?

Friday 17 I read a chapter or two in the Bible every night, but I cannot understand as I would wish, ought I to try? – if I resolve to receive the doctrine of the English Church, I must not read, as if I am to do so it must be blindly – if I seek to understand, who can tell me what conviction I may come to – belief is not voluntary – trust in the mercy of one Good God I hope I have, and I feel that if I reform in what my conscience tells me is wrong, that it will be for fear of the Deity and not from consideration of the world.

Thursday 28 The Thunder⁷⁶⁰ arrived from Malta – I have offered to take the Duchess of Gordon⁷⁶¹ to Barcelona, where I am to go in a day or two.

Tuesday 5 [July] A light westerly wind all day and delightful weather – I have a long talk on religion with the Duchess of Gordon, which I shall endeavour to renew.

Tuesday 12 At 5.PM anchored at Barcelona the day had been thunder and rainy.

Wednesday 13 I remained on board following my usual occupations until 1 o'clock, when I went on shore, and accompanied by the Consul I called on Van Halen⁷⁶² the Captain General – he received me most cordially, would not allow me to speak anything but Spanish, but kept me talking for above half an hour [...] the moon [at night] is respectable and the number of people walking on the Rambla and on the ramparts make it appear like a 'fiesta'.

Saturday 16 I dined with Mr. Penleaze⁷⁶³ the Consul and met General Van Halen, with whom I had a good deal of conversation –

⁷⁶⁰ HMS *Thunder* (1829), a 12-gun bomb ship built at Deptford, which had been refitted as a survey ship.

⁷⁶¹ Elizabeth Gordon, duchess of Gordon (*née* Brodie, 1794–1864), widow of George Gordon, 5th duke of Gordon (1770–1836), who, despite being an episcopalian, used her wealth to support reformed Scottish ministers in their clerical work and in disputes with the Scottish courts.

⁷⁶² Antonio Van Halen y Sarti, conde de Peracamps (1792–1858), the Spanish soldier and veteran of the South American wars of independence who was captain-general of Catalonia from 1840 to 1842.

⁷⁶³ John Story Penleaze (1786–1855), who as Whig MP for Southampton (1831–1832, 1833–1835) was described by a parliamentary colleague as 'in some respects objectionable'

the French Consul M. Lessepp⁷⁶⁴ I had met before in Egypt.

Sunday 17 Heard of the death of the Duke of Orleans.⁷⁶⁵

Wednesday 20 Anchored in Rosas bay.⁷⁶⁶

Thursday 21st We spent an hour and a half this morning firing at a mark and it was wonderful how well the men fired – I was much pleased [...] In the evening I took a walk with the Governor and the Consul who pointed out [to] me the ruins of the Citadel, which must have been a noble work.

Friday 22 We had another morning's practice having fired away in the two days upwards of 300 rounds of powder, and 280 of shot.

Monday 25 Went with several of the Officers & Mids to San Pedro de Rosa, an old ruined Convent 10 miles from the town – returned by Selva – enjoyed my excursion.

Tuesday 26 Sailed from Rosas for Barcelona.

Friday 29 On board all the morning, went to the top of the Montjuich in the evening.

Saturday 30th Sailed for Tarragona.

Sunday 31st Anchored at Tarragona, and having spent some hours very agreeable in seeing the place sailed again for Alicante at 9.P.M.

Thursday 4th [August] Anchored in Alicante at 7.AM.

Saturday 6th I went to see the process of smelting silver at some works lately established here by an English Company.

Friday 12th We anchored off Malaga last night, and this morning towed into the harbour.

(*HoP*). He had been British consul at Amsterdam (1840–1841) before Barcelona (1841–1854).

⁷⁶⁴ Ferdinand Marie, comte de Lesseps (1805–1894), the diplomat who played a key role in developing the Suez Canal. Grey does not otherwise mention visiting Egypt.

⁷⁶⁵ Orléans (see n. 693) died upon falling from an open carriage and fracturing his skull.

⁷⁶⁶ The Bay of Roses and the site of the Siege of Roses, where, in late 1808, 3,500 men led by Lord Cochrane resisted a vastly numerically superior French force.

Thursday 18 I have been here now a week [...] I have had the Captain General of Granada on board and the principal authorities of the place – An English brig having been seized by a ‘Guarda Costa’ the Consul and myself have had to remonstrate on some illegality in the proceeding, but all this smuggling is so connived at by those employed to put it down, and what with bribes and one thing and another it is impossible to get at the truth, this case is like fifty others that our Gov’t has taken no notice of, therefore I shall not be over zealous.

Friday 19 I am reading Sir Walter Scott’s *Life*⁷⁶⁷ with the greatest interest – it is a most useful book for any one to read!

Saturday 20th Having received a parcel of letters from Gibraltar I sailed for that place.

Monday 22 Anchored at 6.AM in Gibraltar – orders for Malta, I am to sail in week – Dined with L’d Yarbro⁷⁶⁸ on board his yacht.

Saturday 27 I have had nothing particular to put down in this Journal during the week [...] I received a box of books by the packet [–] a present from the Duchess of Gordon – among others a beautiful Bible. I have made the acquaintance of Lord George Quin,⁷⁶⁹ Father of one of my Lieut’s – he appears a very nice person.

Tuesday 30 At Noon today we weighed for Barcelona [...] I have neglected this Journal very much lately – but for the future I will endeavour to keep an account of my feelings, and how I act up to my resolutions.

Wednesday 31st Becalmed all day off Malaga [...] This morning I flogged a man, and in a speech which I made afterwards, made a fool of myself ‘tengo calor’ [‘I’m hot’] when I think of it.

Saturday 3rd [September] [...] I slept for half an hour during the middle of the day, and all my spare moments have been given to Sir Walter Scott – his diary during his pecuniary misfortunes and on the death of his wife is most affecting – Lockhart has been accused

⁷⁶⁷ John Gibson Lockhart, *Life of Sir Walter Scott* (7 vols, London, 1837–1838).

⁷⁶⁸ Charles Anderson-Pelham, 1st earl of Yarborough (1781–1846), helped to found the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1815 and died aboard his own yacht off Vigo.

⁷⁶⁹ Lord George Quin (1792–1888); the son is Vice-Admiral Richard Quin (1820–1870), lieutenant in the *Belvidera* from 1842 to 1844.

by some people of having made the book too long⁷⁷⁰ – I should be sorry if it was a page shorter.

Monday 5 I am an extraordinary animal, all the morning and forenoon I have felt well, and have been able to follow my usual occupations, with more than common attention – this afternoon I feel throaty & bilious [...] We are off Cape Palos not having done much since yesterday both wind and tide against us.

Tuesday 6th This evening Alicante is in sight [...] I find the days pass quick, and certainly I have not been so much annoyed by my liver and what Sir W. Scott calls the black dog⁷⁷¹ lately [...] I have been a big sinner for many a year – how can I expect to reform at once – Paley⁷⁷² does me much good – his doctrine that true repentance will not admit the allowance of any known sin, speaks to one's convictions.

Friday 9th Anchored at Barcelona.

Saturday 10 Went with a party of Officers to Montserrat.

Monday 12 Returned to the ship – We were all delighted with our excursion [...] the view from the top reminded me of a Picture of Martin's called the 'Assuaging of the Waters'⁷⁷³ – the look of desolation in a country which is in reality highly cultivated is the most curious effect produced by looking down from such a height.

Tuesday 13th We sailed this afternoon for Mahon.⁷⁷⁴

Friday 16th Everybody is astonished at our having come in last night without a Pilot [...] I called on the Governor and Captain General of the Balearic Islands the latter Don A. Nogueras,⁷⁷⁵ only famous for

⁷⁷⁰ A second edition of Lockhart's *Life of Scott*, stretching to ten volumes, had appeared in 1839.

⁷⁷¹ Scott frequently used the phrase 'black dog' to mean melancholy or depression: in *The Antiquary* (1816), for instance, Sir Arthur Wardour has 'the black dog on his back again'.

⁷⁷² The English clergyman and philosopher William Paley (1743–1805), whose *Natural Theology* (1802) was formative to the idea that examination of the natural world was a means of understanding the works of God.

⁷⁷³ *The Assuaging of the Waters* (1840) by the English painter John Martin (1789–1854), arguably the most popular artist of his day, depicts the water calming after the Deluge.

⁷⁷⁴ There was enduring British anxiety that the French would seek to seize Port Mahon, a superb natural harbour of strategic importance in the western Mediterranean.

⁷⁷⁵ Agustín Nogueras (1786–1857), the soldier and politician who executed the mother of the Carlist general Ramón Cabrera (1806–1836) by firing squad during the Carlist War.

having shot Cabrera's mother [...] Another acquaintance of today is an adventurer calling himself Colonel Scott⁷⁷⁶ who has lately written a book about Abd. El Kadir.⁷⁷⁷

Sunday 18th [...] Mr. Dalzell⁷⁷⁸ (the Consul,) dined with me – in the evening I went on shore with my guests – and was introduced to Mrs. Dalzell – the Consul is a drunkard and in every way unfit for his situation – he is laughed at by everybody [...] he has been lately in Mayorca endeavouring to trace the origin of the Buonaparte family for a Colonel Mitchell⁷⁷⁹ who is writing the Life of Napoleon – he showed me a curious document copied from the Archives at Palma.

Tuesday 20th We sailed from Mahon this morning, and [...] we shall be in Cagliari early tomorrow.

Wednesday 21st We anchored in Cagliari bay at 5.PM [...] I landed with Mr. Bomester⁷⁸⁰ the Consul, and [...] I had to attempt Italian with the lively wife of a Judge.

Thursday 22^d Called on the Viceroy [...] returned on board at 4.PM and got under way for Malta.

Friday 23rd [...] I have been reading a good deal of Alison⁷⁸¹ during the day – it is certainly interesting, but his Toryism comes out strong.

Saturday 24th 8.30.P.M. Made fast to a buoy in Malta harbour – The Admiral⁷⁸² is at sea I am to go out and join him.

⁷⁷⁶ Colonel Scott (n.d.), a British infantryman who had served with the Spanish liberals during the Carlist War.

⁷⁷⁷ *A Journal of the Residence in the Esmailia of Abd-El-Kadir and of Travels in Morocco and Algiers* (London, 1842), partly a biography of the Algerian leader Abdelkader El Djazairi (1808–1883), who was heralded for his military prowess and humanitarian conduct during the resistance of the French annexation of Algeria.

⁷⁷⁸ Unidentified.

⁷⁷⁹ John Mitchell (1785–1859), the Scottish soldier and author who contributed several articles to *Fraser's Magazine* and the *United Services Journal*. The book is *The Fall of Napoleon: An historical memoir* (London, 1845).

⁷⁸⁰ George Bomester (n.d.), British consul at Sardinia.

⁷⁸¹ Sir Archibald Alison, 1st baronet (1792–1867), the conservative Scottish lawyer and historian noted for his *History of Europe from the Commencement of the French Revolution* (10 vols, London, 1833–1843).

⁷⁸² Vice-admiral Sir Edward Owen (1771–1849), commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station (1842–1845), with HMS *Queen* (1839), a 110-gun first-rate ship built at Portsmouth, as flagship.

Monday 26th We went out of the harbour at daylight, and having soon fallen in with the Fleet, communicated & returned to the buoy by 2.P.M.

Tuesday 27 The ship refitting. I go on shore to live at the Palace with Sir Henry Bouverie.⁷⁸³

Tuesday 4th [October] & Wednesday 5th – usual life.

Monday 24 Sailed for Naples at daylight.

Tuesday 25 A most beautiful sunrise, and view of Mount Etna [...] I had for a short time this evening a touch of the 'blackdog'.

Wednesday 26 Passed through the Faro today – the weather most beautiful.

Friday 28th A head wind took us into the bay of Salerno and procured us a most beautiful view of the coast [...] I have been reading Gibbon's memoirs⁷⁸⁴ – I have a great liking for all memoirs and Biographies.

Sunday 30th We anchored yesterday morning in Naples bay – I have not seen many people that I know – having a cold I remained on board most of the day.

Thursday Nov'r 3rd Every moment has been taken up during these last few days, I have dined with Colonel Meyrick,⁷⁸⁵ yesterday with Prince Lieven⁷⁸⁶ at Castellamare, today with the Consul – Percy Doyle⁷⁸⁷ has introduced me to some friends of his.

⁷⁸³ Sir Henry Bouverie (1783–1852), veteran of the Peninsular War and governor of Malta (1836–1843).

⁷⁸⁴ The historian Edward Gibbon's (1737–1794) posthumous *Memoirs of My Life and Writings* (1796).

⁷⁸⁵ Possibly Colonel William Henry Meyrick (1790/1–1865), husband of Lady Laura Vane (1800–1882).

⁷⁸⁶ The Prince Lieven who served as Russian minister to Britain (see n. 41) had died in 1839 and his wife was at Paris at this time, so it is unclear which of (presumably) their sons was at Naples in 1842.

⁷⁸⁷ Percy William Doyle (1806–1887), who was shortly to embark on 15 years of diplomatic service in Mexico.

Saturday Nov'r 5th I have had a dinner party tonight [...] it went off well on the whole.

Monday Nov'r 6th Poor Doyle heard yesterday of the death of his father – I dined with Temple and went to the Opera.

Tuesday Nov'r 10th We sailed from Naples at noon this day and are now running with a fair wind for Leghorn [...] there were not many English that I knew at Naples [...] Some of the Officers saw fire coming out of Vesuvius this morning, I wonder whether the state of the weather portends an eruption – The air is close & sultry.

Tuesday 15 We anchored at Genoa yesterday – today the American Commodore Morgan⁷⁸⁸ arrived in the Columbus (84).⁷⁸⁹

Friday 18th I arrived here (Turin) this morning.

Sunday 20 I have had my time completely taken up in seeing sights, yesterday morning I went to the church of the Superga – situated about five miles from Turin on the highest of the nearest hills, the view is magnificent – the Alps were without a cloud from the Monte Viso to the Monte Rosa – one of the Attachés to the mission, went with me & afterwards took me to see the Pictures in the Old Palace⁷⁹⁰ – some of which are magnificent[.] I wonder Turin is not more spoken of – the Paul Veronese – the Vandycks – the Albanos – the numerous Titians & Guidos, and also a famous picture of Homer as a blind improvisatore by Spagnoletto⁷⁹¹ or Murillo⁷⁹² – Mariannne Stark⁷⁹³ does not give more than a page to this place [...]

⁷⁸⁸ Charles W. Morgan (1790–1853), who had seen action during the *Constitution–Guerrière* battle of 1812.

⁷⁸⁹ USS *Columbus* (1819), a 92-gun ship of the line built at Washington and scuttled at Norfolk in 1861 to prevent her falling into Confederate hands.

⁷⁹⁰ It is unclear whether Grey means the Royal Palace of Turin or the Sabauda Gallery in the Palazzo Madama, which had displayed the Savoyard collection since 1832. Either way, that collection includes Paolo Veronese's (1528–1588) *Mars and Venus with Cupid and a Horse* (1575), Anthony van Dyck's (1599–1641) *Saint Sebastian and the Angel* (1628–1632), Francesco Albani's (1578–1660) *Salmacide Bathing, Rejected by Hermaphroditus* (1633–1635), and Titian's (1488–1576) *Leda and the Swan* (c.1555).

⁷⁹¹ *Homer as a Blind Man Dictating His Verse* by Jusepe de Ribera (1591–1562), known as 'La Spagnoletto'.

⁷⁹² The Spanish painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682).

⁷⁹³ Mariana Starke (1762–1838), the travel writer whose *Letters from Italy between the Years 1792 and 1798* (2 vols, 1800) dealt very briefly with Turin: 'The fortifications are very strong, and the City itself clean and elegant. The Strada-del-Po, the great Piazza, and the regal Palace, particularly deserve attention; as do the University, the Library, and the great Theatre, which is one of the finest in Europe' (I, 9–10).

[L]ast night I went to the Opera – singing miserable & dancing worse – the house is pretty but was badly lighted.

Monday 21st I dined with the King⁷⁹⁴ last night having been received by him half an hour before [...] [T]he dinner was stiff, but I was well placed and was not bored – the Royalty consisted of King, Queen Duke & Duchess of Savoy⁷⁹⁵ – Duke of Genoa⁷⁹⁶ [...] and the young Duke of Lucia⁷⁹⁷ – after dinner while we were all ranged in a circle in the drawing room, I was addressed by all the above by turns – the young Duchess of Savoy the bride struck me as a remarkably nice person – too good for a Princess [...] I am now going to see the Palace and the stables with Count Pollon⁷⁹⁸ – I saw the Armoury yesterday which is beautiful especially a shield by Benvenuto Cellini⁷⁹⁹ – I also paid a second visit to the Pictures – at 4.P.M. I start for Milan.

Wednesday 23 All the morning seeing Milan – 1.P.M. set out for Genoa.

Thursday 24 Arrived at Genoa at 10.A.M. heard the glorious news from China.⁸⁰⁰

Friday 25 On board all the morning a gale from the North'd with heavy rain – heard of disturbances at Barcelona⁸⁰¹ – determine to go there.

⁷⁹⁴ Charles Albert of Sardinia (1798–1849, r.1831–1849).

⁷⁹⁵ Victor Emmanuel, duke of Savoy, later Victor Emmanuel II of Italy (r.1861–1878); his wife was Adelaide of Austria (1822–1855).

⁷⁹⁶ Prince Ferdinando, duke of Genoa (1822–1855), the younger son of Charles Albert.

⁷⁹⁷ 'Duke of Lucca' was the title awarded to the heir to the duchy of Parma. The duke of Lucca in 1842 was not young – Charles II, duke of Parma (1799–1883, r.1847–1849) – so Grey may mean Charles III (1823–1854, r.1849–1854), who was 19 at the time.

⁷⁹⁸ Joseph, count de Pollon (1797–1846), who despite being present at Turin was Sardinian ambassador to the United Kingdom (1837–1846) at the time (see *Health v. Samson* (1851) in the Court of Chancery).

⁷⁹⁹ Benvenuto Cellini (1500–1571), the Florentine sculptor and metalsmith; the Royal Museums of Turin hold a shield by Cellini engraved with 'stories of Jugurtha', the ancient Numidian king.

⁸⁰⁰ Probably the news of Chinese capitulation in the First Opium War and the conclusion of the Treaty of Nanking (August 1842), by which Britain seized Hong Kong, forced open Chinese ports, and demanded compensation of more than \$20 million.

⁸⁰¹ The economic policies of Baldomero Espartero (1793–1879), then the regent of Spain (1840–1843) and a recent prime minister (1840–1841), had caused major unrest in Barcelona. The uprising began in mid November and, from 3 December, the government bombarded the city from Montjuïc Castle.

Sunday 27th We have been unable to get out of the harbour the wind being strong in [...] I have been reading a book called the Trials of Margaret Lyndsay⁸⁰² which has interested me much.

Wednesday Dec'r 7th We anchored [at Barcelona] on the 2nd at 10.P.M. [...] [O]n the 3rd Barcelona was bombarded for 13 hours – 847 shot & shells thrown from Montjuich – I paid Espartero a visit at Sarria a village 4 miles off – I hope my going to him saved the Barcelonetta – Bishop of Gibraltar⁸⁰³ [...] came on board to be taken by me to Malta [...] I went on shore & walked about for some hours with the Bishop.

Saturday 10th This morning a boy (Chapman) was found missing, supposed to have thrown himself over board – he was under my Steward and on investigating this business I found myself for other reasons obliged to discharge him at once, which I [in]tended to have done at any rate on arriving at Malta.

Wednesday 14th Anchored in Malta.

Tuesday 20th The week that has just passed has been a dissipated one, dinners, balls, & getting to bed late has prevented all journalizing – I cannot say that I like this life – still there are many people, in Malta that I am getting to know and like [...] [O]rders from the Adm'l to prepare for sea, as I am to return to Gibraltar.

Saturday 24th I am first of all to go to Toulon and then to some ports on the coast of Spain, final destination Gibraltar.⁸⁰⁴

Friday 30th We anchored in Toulon on the 28th [...] last night I dined with Admiral Baudin⁸⁰⁵ – Prefet Maritime – tonight I am engaged [with] my old friend Hugon – tomorrow I am to have a party on board.

Friday January 6th [1843] We sailed from Toulon on the 3rd – had a rough but quick passage to Barcelona [...] [N]ow while I am writing

⁸⁰² *The Trials of Margaret Lyndsay* (1823) by the Scottish lawyer John Wilson (1785–1854), who also wrote for *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* as 'Christopher North'.

⁸⁰³ George Tomlinson (1794–1863) was consecrated as the first Anglican bishop of Gibraltar in 1842; this diocese is now the Diocese in Europe, its bishop resident at Waterloo, Belgium.

⁸⁰⁴ Likely reconnaissance to assess French strength in the Mediterranean.

⁸⁰⁵ Admiral Charles Baudin (1784–1854), who had commanded French forces during the Pastry War against Mexico.

we are off Cape St. Antonio (9.PM).

Monday Jan'y 9 We anchored in Carthagena yesterday afternoon – I went on shore for a couple of hours and I have again been sight seeing all this forenoon – the Arsenal, and the Presidio – besides walking round the town, and going up to the Moorish Castle – The Consul Mr. Turner⁸⁰⁶ seems an 'animal' both in size and sense. 2.30.PM We have just sailed with a fair wind for Gib.

Friday 27th During the last week I have been living a regular and therefore an agreeable life in Gibraltar – I remain in my cabin, altho' the Officers & ship's company are on shore – I have two horses, and what with my occupations during the morning and my ride in the evening time goes very quick – I have been out with the hounds, on Tuesday last, and am going again today.

Monday 30th The Lady Mary Wood⁸⁰⁷ has come in and brings accounts of the Rhadamanthus⁸⁰⁸ being safe, she had terrible weather & narrowly escaped sharing the fate of the numerous vessels that have been lost in the late gales – I have received long letters from Howick and also a copy of Frederick's most interesting journal⁸⁰⁹ – I have read the same with mixed feelings of envy and gladness at not being there, the destruction of the Chinese must have been very horrible – still that curious country must afford so much that is interesting, to say nothing of being an actor in an event which I consider the great one of our time, and such the opening of China certainly is.

Monday 13th [February] I dined yesterday with Colonel Maule⁸¹⁰ at San Roque, and went with him to a masked ball where I was considerably bored until 2 o'clock this morning – I take it that nothing can

⁸⁰⁶ Charles Turner of Truro (n.d.; *West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser*, 19 April 1844). In contrast to Grey, T.M. Hughes's *Revelations of Spain in 1845* (2 vols, London, 1845) praised Turner for 'acts all worthy of England' (II, 104).

⁸⁰⁷ The *Lady Mary Wood* (1841) was a P&O paddle steamer launched at Liverpool, named after Grey's sister Mary (1807–1884), who was the wife of Sir Charles Wood, 1st Viscount Halifax (1800–1885), who had been first secretary of the Admiralty (1835–1839) and would serve as Chancellor of the Exchequer under Russell (1846–1852) and first lord of the Admiralty (1855–1858).

⁸⁰⁸ Named after the mythological Cretan king, HMS *Rhadamanthus* (1832) was among the Navy's first steam-powered ships.

⁸⁰⁹ Grey's brother Frederick commanded HMS *Endymion* (1797), the fastest frigate in the service, during the First Opium War (see pp. 293–294), a significant appointment for a well-connected young captain. Frederick's journal of events does not appear to have survived.

⁸¹⁰ Lauderdale Maule (1807–1854), the son of William Maule, 1st Baron Panmure (1771–1852), and later MP for Forfarshire (1852–1854).

be worse than the sounds of that town, – Contrabandistas – robbers &c are not looked upon as bad characters – as for having committed a murder – no es nada!

Saturday 18th Another week has passed, sin novedad! The Resistance⁸¹¹ troop ship on her way to the West Indies arrived yesterday with the 77th on board [...] The last packet brought us the opening speeches in Parliament.⁸¹²

Sunday 19th I went on board the Owen Glendower⁸¹³ Convict ship, and heard Mr. Armstrong⁸¹⁴ the Director read prayers and a sermon [...] I rode out to San Roque, and excused myself from a masked ball at Colonel Maule's – I have been dining with the Officers – and congratulate myself on being quiet in my own cabin.

Sunday March 5th I have not been in a journal humour, a proof that I have not much to note – Today I have read Lieut. Eyre's interesting account of the disasters at Cabul⁸¹⁵ – a most interesting book, but full of horrors – I have not felt very well today.

Monday 6th I have had a curious conversation this morning with Mr. Armstrong the head of the Convict establishment at this place – it turned upon whether released convicts often reformed, or whether 'once a thief always a thief' [and] he admitted that unfortunately the latter is most frequently the case, but he said it was caused by the difficulty that lay in the way of an honest livelihood [for] a man who has once had the stigma of a convict attached to him – he mentioned several instances of men who had obtained situations and were doing well in them having been recognised by former associates, dismissed by their employers, and driven to the necessity of resuming their former habits – among many cruel instances of over severity of punishment he mentioned the cases of 3 men

⁸¹¹ HMS *Resistance* (1805), launched as a 36-gun fifth-rate ship, but converted to a troopship in 1842.

⁸¹² *Hansard*, Lords, 2 February 1843, 3rd ser., vol. 66, cc. 1–62.

⁸¹³ HMS *Owen Glendower* (1806), a 38-gun fifth-rate frigate, had seen action in the Gunboat War and served in South America and the West Indies before being fitted as a prison hulk in 1842.

⁸¹⁴ Armstrong was formerly master of the *Warrior* convict ship at Woolwich (*Witness*, 12 October 1842).

⁸¹⁵ Sir Vincent Eyre (1811–1881) kept a diary throughout his nine months of captivity during the First Anglo-Afghan War. He published *The Military Operations at Cabul, which Ended in the Retreat and Destruction of the British Army, January 1842* (London, 1842). The 'disaster', of course, was the annihilation of Elphinstone's (1782–1842) expeditionary force, depicted in *Remnants of an Army* (1879) by Elizabeth Thompson (1846–1933).

under him, one of whom had stolen a gallon of peas, another a shovel and a third, a waistcoat, for which they were all transported their united families making up the number of 33 – the wives deprived of their husbands and unable to support their families are driven to the poor house, the children in all probability becoming thieves – there is something very shocking in this and calls for the interference of Parliament – why should such disproportionate punishment still be possible in these days? Why on dismissal is there not some measure adopted to procure work for those who have the inclination to work – I must write this to Fox.⁸¹⁶

Saturday 11th The Indian mail arrived yesterday but brings no particular news – My life is so regular that I seldom have anything to note.

Sunday 19th The *Vanguard*⁸¹⁷ arrived the night before last on her way to Lisbon – yesterday the Governor and a party of 10 dined with me.

Good Friday April 14th A whole month since I have written any Journal – Indeed little has occurred worth remembering.

Tuesday April 19th [A] maintopman fell from the top and was killed on the spot.

Sunday 23 Sailed for Cadiz.

Wednesday 26 Left Cadiz at 8.AM in the *Teodosio*⁸¹⁸ arrived at Seville – 3.20.PM – Naish's Hotel.

Thursday 27 Acting as guide about Seville [...] Cathedral – Caridad, Museum – play.

Friday 28th In six hours I saw more of Seville than I had done in all my former visits – Keys of the town – alhajas⁸¹⁹ – book of Columbus⁸²⁰ – pages torn out – Marginal notes to an old work

⁸¹⁶ Probably Henry Edward Fox, 4th Baron Holland (1802–1859), former Whig MP for Horsham (1826–1827) and then-British minister to Tuscany (1839–1846).

⁸¹⁷ The sixth HMS *Vanguard* (1835), a 78-gun second-rate ship built at Pembroke, which later served in the experimental Evolutionary Squadron of 1845.

⁸¹⁸ Unidentified ship.

⁸¹⁹ Spanish for 'jewels' or 'treasure'.

⁸²⁰ Presumably the manuscript abstract of Christopher Columbus's (1451–1506) journal that Bartolomé de las Casas (1484–1566) made in the early sixteenth century.

'Imago Mundi'⁸²¹ – At Mr. Witherall's⁸²² house curious collection of Mexican antiquities books of drawings – original sketches by Murillo – orthographs – extraordinary note from the Duke of Wellington – uncivil & unworthy of him especially the expression that he was neither 'Notary Publick or Attorney' – Cigar manufactory 2700 women, good days work 500 cigars [...] House of Pilate in the same style of Alcazar.⁸²³ Until today I always thought that Columbus had been buried in Seville, but not so – his son is⁸²⁴ – his body from Valladoled where he died was taken to Hispaniola.⁸²⁵

Wednesday 3rd to 5th Arrived at Gibraltar [...] Great Liverpool arrives, brings orders for Formidable⁸²⁶ to remain here & for me to rejoin the Admiral – touching first at the ports between this and Barcelona.

Saturday 6th On shore arranging for my departure – dined at the Inspection dinner of the 79th.

Wednesday 10–11th Sailed at 5.PM for Malaga [...] Anchored in Malaga at 7 AM. Sailed again at eight in the evening – having spent an hour or two on shore with Mark, visiting Mr. Hendra's Ironworks and the English cemetery.

Friday 19–22 On shore at Valencia [...] I had to punish two men today who both richly deserved it – still it is a brutal operation, and I think might be done away with by the Government increasing the advantages of the well behaved and allowing the bad characters

⁸²¹ *Imago Mundi* (1410) by the French theologian Pierre d'Ailly (1351–1420), a work of cosmography which influenced Columbus's views on navigation and the viability of reaching the Indies by sailing west.

⁸²² John Wetherall (n.d.), an antiquarian whose collection is detailed in *Catálogo de una Colección de Antigüedades Mejicanas con Varios Idolos, Adornos, y Otros Artefactos de los Indios* (Seville, 1842).

⁸²³ La Casa de Pilatos, the residence of the dukes of Medinaceli.

⁸²⁴ Diego Columbus (1479–1526), the second viceroy of the Indies (1511–1526), is buried in Seville Cathedral.

⁸²⁵ Columbus was initially buried at Valladolid, but reinterred at Seville in 1513, then again at Santo Domingo on Hispaniola in the 1530s. DNA analysis conducted in 2024 confirms that the bones in Seville Cathedral are indeed those of Columbus, although this does not preclude the possibility of some of his bones remaining in Santo Domingo.

⁸²⁶ HMS *Formidable* (1825), an 84-gun second-rate ship built at Chatham; she had run aground in Catalonia only a few months beforehand.

to be discharged – I have been reading a good deal but as usual with little method – Arnold's lectures on History⁸²⁷ interest me.

May 24–29th, Queen's Birthday Anchored off Barcelona [...] heard of the Lopez crisis⁸²⁸ in Madrid [...] Sailed from Barcelona for Malta [...] the crisis regarding the late changes of Ministry still in uncertainty – Cortes is dissolved & the country in great excitement.

Saturday 10th Dine with the Governor, farewell dinner in St. George's Hall – 42 people.

Monday 12th Preparing for Athens [...]

Wednesday 21st Anchor in the Piraeus [...] go to Athens & return to ship.

Thursday 29th During this last week I have slept every night in Athens, having taken up my quarters at Griffith's secretary of Legation, I have been presented to the King and Queen,⁸²⁹ and have called upon the Corps diplomatique [...] Sir Edmund & Lady Lyons⁸³⁰ are just the same as they were nine years ago, the kindest and most agreeable people I know – I have made acquaintance with their eldest son Bickerton,⁸³¹ their eldest daughter M^e de Vurtsburg⁸³² is an old friend, her husband equerry to Otho [*sic*] is gentlemanlike and good humoured.

Sunday July 2 I have just finished an odd sort of novel called Susan Hopley⁸³³ in which most marvellous coincidences and occurrences take place – in spite of the improbability I was on the whole much interested, and having once begun it, went through to the end.

⁸²⁷ *Introductory Lectures on Modern History* (1842) by the headmaster of Rugby School, and later Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford, Thomas Arnold (1795–1842).

⁸²⁸ Following the downfall of Espartero, Joaquín María López (1798–1855), prime minister of Spain (May 1843 and July–November 1843), recognized the majority of Isabella II, leading to a power struggle between Lopez's radical supporters and the conservative rump of 'Esparteristas'.

⁸²⁹ Otto of Greece had married Amalia of Oldenburg (1818–1875) in 1836.

⁸³⁰ Lyons had married Augusta Louisa Rogers (1792–1852) in 1814.

⁸³¹ Richard Bickerton Lyons, 1st earl Lyons (1817–1887), would serve as British minister to Tuscany (1858), the United States (1858–1865), the Sublime Porte (1865–1867), and France (1867).

⁸³² Anne Theresa Lyons (1815–1894), who married Philip Hartman Veit, Baron von Würzburg (n.d.), in 1839.

⁸³³ Catherine Crowe, *Susan Hopley; or, the Adventures of a Maid-Servant* (3 vols, London, 1841).

July 8, Saturday [...] yesterday's papers arrived Galignan to the 23 June still bad news from Spain.

July 14th Friday – I came on board early this morning notwithstanding that it was past twelve last night when I returned with Sir Edmund from Kifissia⁸³⁴ where we had gone to dine with the Russian minister M. Cataery.⁸³⁵

Saturday 15 Sailed from Egina after divisions and [...] anchored in the bay of Epidaurus.

Monday 17 Sailed from Epidaurus looked into Sophiko and anchored in Kalamaki at 5.PM.

Thursday 20 Got my letters, heard of my Father's illness and recovery, dined with Sir E. Lyons returned on board to sleep – out of spirits & anxious to hear more from England.

Saturday 22 On board all day – rode to Athens in the evening & returned to sleep.

Wednesday 26 This morning we have been firing at a mark.

Monday 31st On Saturday I dined at the Palace or rather I should say with the King as the house that the Court now inhabits is as unlike a palace as can well be, we were about twenty, and the party was much less stuffy than I expected, the Queen is very taking in her manner and seems to be a general favourite.

Wednesday 2nd [August] Anchored in Athens yesterday afternoon, this morning I have received letters up to the 16th of July with the most satisfactory accounts of my Father.

Friday 4th Vesuvius⁸³⁶ arrived from Malta, news of the loss of the Lizard,⁸³⁷ Espartero bombarding Seville.⁸³⁸

⁸³⁴ Kifissia, now a northern suburb of Athens.

⁸³⁵ Probably Gavriil Antonovich Katakazi (1794–1867), Russian ambassador to Greece (1833–1843).

⁸³⁶ HMS *Vesuvius* (1839), a paddle steamer built at Sheerness.

⁸³⁷ HMS *Lizard* (1840), a paddle steamer which sank following a collision with the French ship *Velee*.

⁸³⁸ A purely punitive expedition mounted by Espartero in July 1843 as revenge for Seville's defiance of his regency; within a week of the ceasefire, Espartero had exiled himself to England.

Monday 7th Sail for Andros, trial with Snake⁸³⁹ who joined this morning – did much better than I could have supposed.

Tuesday 22nd Weigh at 4.AM. visit Plotion, anchor for an hour abreast of Thirmophylie,⁸⁴⁰ return along the shore of the Myropont.

Thursday 24th Weigh at daylight – land at Marathon & Cape Colonna – reach Athens at 6.PM. Find the Snake, and orders to return to Malta – Weigh in Co. with Vesuvius at 10.PM.

Saturday 26 [...] I was in a terrible passion this morning, provoked certainly by great stupidity on the part of my servant – but what credit is there in keeping one's temper while all goes right – I am far from having that command over myself that I earnestly pray for – A long sea-trip would do me good, regularity of occupation is better for me than excitement.

Monday 28 [...] I had to flog a thief this morning, I hate this operation more and more, and begin to doubt whether it does good – solitary confinement, discharge with disgrace and increase of pay to Petty Officers would I believe do away with the necessity – Malta 300 miles.

Saturday 2 [September] Hearing that my old Tripoli friend Colonel Warrington had arrived at the Lazarretto I went over to see him, and found him hearty & well notwithstanding his great age – his daughter Louisa has been lately married to a Mr. Dickson son of a Doctor a boy in age in comparison – I found her much altered, seeing her again has revived many thoughts of old times, not without considerable self reproach.⁸⁴¹

Thursday 7th We have now been four days in Pratique, and I see no immediate prospect of going to sea [...] [T]he Admiral has given me no hint of what he intends doing with us – now that all is quiet at Tunis, I think that we are likely to return to our old station at Athens. Yesterday Sir James Stirling⁸⁴² having got into a correspondence with the Admiral respecting some of his doings at Gibraltar,

⁸³⁹ HMS *Snake* (1832), a 16-gun sloop that was wrecked in the Mozambique Channel in 1847.

⁸⁴⁰ The site of the noted battle of 480 BC during the second Persian invasion of Greece.

⁸⁴¹ Grey intimates here that Louisa, whom he complimented on her fine riding (see p. 62), was his first love.

⁸⁴² Admiral Sir James Stirling (1791–1865), third naval lord during the first Derby ministry (1852) and later commander-in-chief of the East Indies and China stations.

requested me to take a message to say that what Sir Edward had written was quite satisfactory – this I did, not without some misgivings, but I need not have had any as the old man was glad that Sir James was satisfied, and wrote him a note on the subject [...]. In these last few days I have met the Governor at three dinners.

Saturday 9th Yesterday being a great fete among the Maltese I [...] met the Admiral, [the] Governor and a large party [...] Miss Jane Stuart the second seems as nice as she is pretty I almost wish I was not going to sea so soon – I am to sail for Athens again on the 12th.

Sunday 10th Last night there was a party at Mr. Smith's the Admiral's secretary – it being a 'festa' at Slinia, the Governor and a number of people were invited to see the fireworks – I danced once with Miss Stuart – she is certainly very pretty and the family a remarkably nice one.

Thursday 14 Sailed today for Tunis – we have been ten days in Pratique – I was beginning to like Malta from having made the acquaintance of the Governor and his family – I have seen a good deal of them and like them very much.

Saturday 16th We anchored this morning off the Goletta and I am now writing from the Country house of Sir Thomas Reade.

Monday 18 Visit Carthage, & the French tomb & chapel newly erected to St. Louis.

Saturday 23 Buy a horse for 40 dollars – 4.P.M. Sail for Malta.

Tuesday 26 We came to the buoy in Bighi Bay Malta at 8.P.M – this evening, I find that the Admiral is at sea – I suppose I shall hear from Sir Lucius Curtis⁸⁴³ tomorrow, what is to become of us – no letters sent off!

Thursday 28 The Admiral returned this afternoon, a beautiful sight to see the Queen come in – nothing decided about us – I have heard of Bulteel's death – poor Bessy!

⁸⁴³ Admiral of the Fleet Sir Lucius Curtis, 2nd baronet (1786–1869), then the admiral-superintendent of the Malta Dockyard (1843–1848), who had seen action during the Mauritius campaign of 1810.

Saturday 30th [...] I have received a most civil note from the Governor offering me a stall for my horse at the Palace, which I have accepted for many reasons, and hail it as a proof of good feeling towards me – I am afraid that I am too shy to improve my opportunities.

Sunday 8th [October] Sailed this morning for Barcelona – this has been a busy & eventful week for me – Thursday, Friday & Saturday I have been on Courts Martial – in the evening I have occasionally met the Miss Stuarts out riding – I have dined twice at the Palace.

Saturday 21st It has been blowing a gale from the East'd for the last two days, unable to land in consequence. The Citadel of Barcelona firing upon the town.⁸⁴⁴

Saturday 11 [November] This week has passed like the last, the forts firing occasionally – news arrived two days ago of the capitulation of Gerona, and two members of the Junta went to confer today with the Captain Gen'l so that we may expect a speedy termination of a most disagreeable business.

Monday 20th Barcelona capitulates.

Tuesday 21st Wait on the Captain General – 4.PM. sail for Gibraltar.

Wednesday 22 [...] Today I have had to lecture the midshipmen and did so with more calmness of manner, than I am often able to command – a Swedish midshipman having joined us from Malta, I am anxious that he should find a gentlemanlike tone among his mess-mates – I read for some time in Alison this morning and thought his description of the Spanish character fair and just [...]

Thursday 7 The Great Liverpool brings me a letter from Charles with a bad account of my Father – I write to the Admiral for leave to go home.

Tuesday 12th I have had a long conversation this morning upon Spanish mercantile affairs, among other points worth remembering – upwards of 7,000 hogsheads of tobacco smuggled into Spain every year – a good deal of the smuggling now carried on from

⁸⁴⁴ The 1843 rebellion, against the Lopez government, known as La Jamància.

Oran⁸⁴⁵ – Considerable trade with Tangier – Mr. B.⁸⁴⁶ himself shipped 5,000 tons of bark from Africa last year – bark of the Cork tree, sent principally to Ireland – Upwards of 4 millions sterling of English Cotton goods landed in the whole of Spain during the year – little or no return except in specie – Mining concerns on the coast badly managed and many of the companies ruined – Heredin of Malaga making a great profit – by the San Andres concern alone at Adra cleared last year 197,000 dollars – Mr. B.'s brother a merchant at Valparaiso has shipped a great quantity of 'Guano' lately [...] [I]t is a deposit from birds, in some places it is in layers of 60 & even 90 feet deep – no such bird now known – it sells in England from 12 to 20 pounds the ton – panic a few years back that it would impoverish the land.

Tuesday 26th While at Lisbon call upon Lord Howard de Walden⁸⁴⁷ – meet Olazaga,⁸⁴⁸ have an interesting conversation on Spanish politics – 2.10.PM sail from Lisbon.

Wednesday 27 Arrive at Vigo at 9.PM – Land with the Adm'ty Agent at 10. Leave again for England.

Saturday 30th 6.P.M. The Needles Lights now in sight in all probability we shall be in Southampton by 9 we have had a most wonderful passage, the water smooth as a river the whole way and the weather delicious.

Sunday 31 We entered the Southampton docks at 9.30.PM yesterday [and] at 10 this morning left in the Railroad for London, and lunched with Lady Grey in Hertford Street [...]

Wednesday 3rd [1844] I left London on Monday night and arrived here [at Howick] to dinner yesterday – I was [with] my Father in the evening and have found him terribly altered, his disease a most painful one and has reduced him very much and I cannot help desponding in spite of the brighter view taken by most of the family

⁸⁴⁵ The major port in north-western Algeria.

⁸⁴⁶ Possibly Robert Bright (1795–1869), the Bristol merchant and partner in Gibbs, Bright & Co.

⁸⁴⁷ Charles Ellis, 6th Baron Howard de Walden and 2nd Baron Seaford (1799–1868), the son of the West Indian magnate Charles Rose Ellis, 1st Baron Seaford (1771–1845). Howard de Walden was British minister to Sweden (1832–1833), Portugal (1833–1846), and Belgium (1846–1868).

⁸⁴⁸ Salustiano de Olózaga (1805–1873), the Spanish statesman who had recently – but briefly – been prime minister of Spain (November–December 1843).

[...] but we have all much to be thankful for – my Father is now 80.

Thursday February 1st Sail for Gibraltar in the Lady Mary Wood packet.

Friday 9th At 2.30 AM Anchor in Gibraltar – find all right on board Belvidera.

Wednesday 21st, Ash Wednesday Since my return I have been living on shore at Robe's – I have had a rather disagreeable business with the Governor which lead to a correspondence in which I had the best of it – he behaved in a weak and shabby manner – but it is over we have made it up and shaken hands, so the less I either write or think about it the better.

Friday 23 The Malta packet brought me orders last night to proceed to Malta touching at the ports along the coast of Spain.

Saturday 2nd [March] Anchor off Barcelona at 8.PM.

Monday 4th Go on shore to see the public entry of Queen Christiana⁸⁴⁹ on her return from France – the town decorated by hangings of silk & damask hung out of the windows, besides triumphal arches & other devices – an immense concourse of people but little or no enthusiasm.

Saturday 9 6.30. Make fast to the buoy in Malta harbour – Dine with the Admiral [who gave me] orders to refit with all despatch.

Tuesday 12 to Tuesday 19 Riding almost every day with the Governor's family – during the forenoon and reading at home – I have just finished the *Memoirs of Horner*⁸⁵⁰ [...] [H]ow fortunate are those who are never exposed to the baneful effects of a youth of profligacy as was my case – such a life is now disgusting to me – but still it has left its effects, it has dulled the niceness of one's moral feelings – yet it may have this one beneficial result, to make me more indulgent to the excesses of those who [though] younger, are not so bad as I once was – last night this came across me when dining at a large mess – I left the first, leaving the officers

⁸⁴⁹ Maria Christina, the widow of Ferdinand VII (see n. 263).

⁸⁵⁰ *Memoirs and Correspondence of Francis Horner, M.P.* (2 vols, London, 1843). Horner (1778–1817) had been a Whig lawyer, economist, and MP for St Ives (1806–1807), Wendover (1807–1812), and St Mawes (1813–1817).

& guests after two hours spent at the dinner table – by way of finishing the evening with cards & billiards in a room stinking of spirits & Tobacco – this is what I have saved my brother Harry from.

Thursday 21st I am ordered to Tunis, to sail on Sunday. I dined at the Palace last night.

Friday 22 At a Court Martial on the Carpenter of the Geyser⁸⁵¹ – was broke for drunkenness [...]

Wednesday 27 Land at the Goletta, attend the trial of a Maltese murdered before the Bey – which was postponed for want of witnesses for 15 days.

Saturday 30 Polyphemus⁸⁵² with despatches relating to Sardinian question – returns the same day.

Wednesday 3 [April] Geyser arrives with answers from the Admiral [...] I am reading when I get time Castine's Russia.⁸⁵³

Monday April 22 2.30.PM. We are now within a few miles of the anchorage in Cagliari, having sailed from Tunis at 7.PM last night.

Wednesday 24 In all the monotony of Quarantine! [...] I have no fear of 'ennui' I am an early riser, and have a good deal of methodical application – what I do fear is restlessness from ambition – and above all a habit of finding fault, which command at an early age has given me.

Monday 29th I remained quietly on board until after dinner, when I landed and walked for a couple of hours with Mr. Bomerster – I have invited all the principal people to a dance on board tomorrow night – to tell the truth the Consul compromised me so that I could not escape – I have seen enough of this place [the island of Sardinia] to despise the upper classes to pity the lower who are brutalized by their misery, and to wonder that such a state of things can exist in the nineteenth century – such is the ignorance of these islanders, that I see no chance of any amelioration in their condition except in a successful revolution of all Italy – which might eventually

⁸⁵¹ HMS *Geyser* (1841), a *Driver*-class paddle sloop built at Pembroke.

⁸⁵² HMS *Polyphemus* (1840), a paddle steamer that was wrecked off Jutland in 1856, losing 27 hands.

⁸⁵³ Astolphe, marquis de Custine's (1790–1857) *Russia in 1839* (1843) was one of the most successful travelogues of the nineteenth century.

lead to their civilization – the corruption & profligacy of the upper classes, is frightful – I became melancholy from having seen such misery, & felt relieved to return to my own ship and quiet cabin – from which I shall not stir again more than I can help.

Tuesday 30 My party has gone off better than I could have expected, and I have got rid of my visitors sooner than I could have hoped.

Thursday 2 [May] At 5.PM this evening we got under way for Palermo.

Saturday 4th I have been reading Brydone's account of Sicily⁸⁵⁴ which is interesting, and old as it is still holds its place as the best account that has been published.

Monday 6 I have spent a most agreeable day every moment taken up in seeing the sights of Palermo.

Saturday 11 Anchored at Messina at 2.PM – Lost my temper in bringing the ship to – poor Ward is so slow that the men work faster than he can give the order.

Sunday 19th We anchored in Malta harbour at 9.PM. on Tuesday last – since then I have dined three times at the Palace and have joined the party every day in their rides – My own mind is quite made up, that if there were no money difficulties that I should be happier by following the dictates of my own heart.

Monday 27th I am alone in cabin once more! We sailed this afternoon for the Smyrna station – I have explained my wishes to Lady Stuart, but nothing is decided – she has spoken to her daughter who was naturally taken by surprise, and said she had never thought of it – owned that she liked no-one better &c. but could not make up her mind, I did not expect she should – The Governor was very kind and evidently wishes me success – Three months is a long time to look forward to in uncertainty.

Monday 17 [June] Anchored at Boodroom⁸⁵⁵ for a couple of hours, Turkish Governor treated Mr. Alison's 'firman' with contempt and

⁸⁵⁴ Patrick Brydone (1736–1818), the Scottish author of *A Tour through Sicily and Malta in a Series of Letters to William Beckford* (1773).

⁸⁵⁵ Bodrum in southern Turkey, formerly the Greek city of Halicarnassus; Bodrum Castle, built by the Knights of St John, fell to the Ottomans in 1523.

would not allow us to see the castle – within which there are some fine marble ‘bas reliefs’ – a few built into the outer wall we saw from the boat.

Tuesday 18th Anchored at Rhodes at 5.30 P.M. & sailed again at 8.P.M.

Friday 21st Jaffa 150 miles [...] I am reading Robinson’s Palestine,⁸⁵⁶ in order better to understand the localities at Jerusalem.

Saturday 6th [July] We are still at Beyrout, having returned from the Dog River on Tuesday [...] This is a most disagreeable place [...] Part of the Turkish fleet sailed two days ago for Tripoli where there is some disturbance [...]

Wednesday 10 We sailed from Beyrout at 4.AM.

Friday 3rd [January 1845] The Aigle⁸⁵⁷ arrived at Athens yesterday morning and we sailed yesterday evening [...]

Jan’y 8th Wednesday Arrival Malta all well – and happy.

Thursday 16 Belvidera sails for England – I leave after three years and I have every reason to believe that I carry with me the good wishes of all on board – I can look back with pleasure – I have endeavoured to do my own duty strictly, to be just and consistent to those under me – and if stricter perhaps than most ships on the station she has never been found wanting for her work, and there have been no disagreements – The Admiral has written me a most handsome letter.

Wednesday 22nd I was married the day before yesterday, and am now honeymooning it here with Jane – My happiness is very very great – but I must soon begin with occupation.

Thursday 30th We returned from St. Antonio on the 25 and since then we have been living in the Palace – every day convinces me more how fortunate I have been in obtaining such a wife as Jane –

⁸⁵⁶ Edward Robinson (1794–1863), the American scholar whose *Biblical Researches in Palestine, Mount Sinai and Arabia Petraea* (1841) was a seminal work of biblical geography.

⁸⁵⁷ HMS *Aigle* (1801), a 36-gun fifth-rate frigate built at Buckler’s Hard, Hampshire; she saw extensive action in the later years of the Napoleonic Wars, her crew capturing or destroying several dozen ships.

She is full of feeling and anxious to conform to my wishes [...] I have had a very kind letter from Sir Edmund Lyons, who has also written a public one to the Admiral in praise of the Belvidera's condition – this may be of use to me in case of Ward making a bad inspection – and of use to him if he makes a good one.

Friday 7 [February] [...] The fortification of Paris⁸⁵⁸ of today appears to me more than ever ridiculous – a united nation has no need of walls for its independence, to a divided one they are of no use – France will never again be allowed to overrun her neighbours and in consequence will never require her capital to be fortified against an Allied force – which only her own misdeeds can unite against her.

Thursday 13 I went yesterday to the Civil Prison with the Governor – it is dirty and badly kept – as a proof of Malta justice the following is a good example – A soldier belonging to the 88th having shot Dr. Martin (the surgeon of the Hospital), is confined here for life, and has the same freedom of the court &c. as a poor man condemned for a similar term for having stolen a shillings worth of oil!! from a Government store. How much might yet be done in the revision of our Colonial Codes, and there are few places which perhaps merit the attention of Government, so much as Malta, especially as with an insufficient garrison it is of vital importance to keep up a good feeling with the native population. I cannot conceive why English was not made the language of the courts &c. instead of Italian – had this been done on first taking possession 46 years ago by this time the people would have become accustomed and attached to our government & habits.

Monday 10 [March] [...] The debates have also taken up a good deal of my time, and I am convinced that if I was in Parliament that I should support Peel upon the principle of get what you can, all the while urging further advance. Free Trade should be my 'chevaux de bataille'⁸⁵⁹ – Sir Thomas Turton⁸⁶⁰ is here on his way to India much recruited in health since I saw him last year, he is very

⁸⁵⁸ On the proposal of prime minister Adolphe Thiers (1797–1897), the French government from 1841 constructed a 20-mile defensive wall around Paris; completed in 1846, it consisted of 94 bastions, 17 gates, and 12 posterns.

⁸⁵⁹ Likely Cobden's speech on protection in advance of Peel's 'free trade' budget: *Hansard*, Commons, 6 February 1845, 3rd ser., vol. 77, cc. 185–208.

⁸⁶⁰ Sir Thomas Turton, 1st baronet (1764–1844), former MP for Southwark (1806–1812), had scandalized society with his promiscuity, with *The Times* reporting that he would enter into 'the history of his youthful adventures a little more explicitly than we can decently report' (*HoP*). He died only weeks after Grey saw him.

agreeable, but the terrible affairs of his youth make him rather shunned in society.

Friday 28 Having finished Arnold I am now reading the Historian Napier's account of the Conquest of Scinde by his brother.⁸⁶¹

Thursday 10th [April] We left Malta on Sunday morning in the French Steamer, spent some agreeable hours at Naples on Tuesday and arrived here [at Rome] last night [...] [A]ll we have yet seen is St. Peter's in passing – the Dome came up to my anticipations, the columns in front and the façade are not in character for a church.⁸⁶²

Wednesday 23 – Leghorn – & Pisa.

Friday 25th Left Genoa at 2.PM & arrived at Turin a little before eight in the morning.

Tuesday 29 Set out in Malle Poste⁸⁶³ for Chambéry travelled all night.

Geneva May 1845, Thursday 8th The Hotel des Bergues at this place is most comfortable, and we both agree that our detention could not have occurred in a more agreeable place – we are delighted with the scenery with the beautiful walks [...] We have been this evening to Baute the great jeweller whose shop is a most tempting one – I could not resist buying a bracelet for Jane, altho feeling that I was committing a great extravagance.

Sunday 11th I am disappointed with what I have seen of Switzerland, the immediate mountains are tame, and there is none of the diversity of forest and valley which is so striking among the Pyrennes [*sic*] [...] In talking of the late disturbance at Lucerne⁸⁶⁴ one never hears the same version twice, but I have no doubt that the numbers killed have been very much exaggerated – they vary from six to one hundred, I take it that the latter number is the most probable – one of my

⁸⁶¹ Charles James Napier (1782–1853) had conquered Sindh and reported his triumph with the single word 'Peccavi' (Latin: 'I have sinned'). His brother, the soldier Sir William Napier (1785–1860), related these endeavours in *The Conquest of Scinde* (1845).

⁸⁶² Grey had married Jane at Malta in January, and this was their honeymoon.

⁸⁶³ The 'malle-poste' was a French horse-drawn carriage, equivalent to the British mail-coach.

⁸⁶⁴ In 1844–1845, radical uprisings sought to bring down the conservative government of the canton of Lucerne.

informants told me that the peasantry even women & children had been most savage in butchering the stragglers from the Free Corps.

Howick, May 1845, Wednesday 28 [...] Having had a prosperous and expeditious journey by the Rhine & by railroad to Ostend where we crossed over to Dover in five hours. – We left London on Friday the 24th and travelling all night arrived here at five o'clock on the following day – I have found my Father better in bodily health but looking much older than last year, and occasionally wandering and confused in his manner.

Tuesday 3rd [June] I have thought my Father more confused than usual in his manner today – still at times brightening up, and remembering everything.

Friday 6 Drove with Jane before luncheon to Alnwick and Rock – my Father pretty well today, but it is impossible to conceal from oneself that his manner is more confused than it was, and his memory much gone.

Eaglescarnie June 1845, Monday 23 I arrived here⁸⁶⁵ on the 12th and have been most agreeably surprised as to the extent and beauty of the place. Mr. Stuart is most kind and my life with the exception of going to Edinburgh one day and returning the next the latter end of last week, has passed agreeably.

Howick July 1845, Friday 18th In the midst of my happiness at Eaglescarnie [...] I rec'd a letter from Harry mentioning that my Father had become suddenly worse, I set out by the first coach and arrived here at 3 o'clock this morning – having heard at Alnwick that my Father had breathed his last at half past eight last night – On my arrival I found all had gone to bed except his own servant who was watching in the next room to where the body was – I went in and was much struck by the beautiful look of calmness and repose which had settled upon his features. I have not seen my Mother yet, but I hear that she is tolerably well – the funeral is to take place on Thursday next – I trust that it may be as private as possible.

Sunday 27th My Father's funeral took place yesterday attended only by his own family and the people of the place – the ceremony in its perfect simplicity and in the feeling shown by his old tenants and

⁸⁶⁵ The Stuart family's estate in East Lothian, Scotland.

servant was the most impressive I have ever seen – I came from it with most gratified feelings.

December 1845, Sunday 7 The Times two days ago announced that the Cabinet had determined on the total repeal of the Corn Laws⁸⁶⁶ – this has been contradicted by the Morning Post & Herald,⁸⁶⁷ but by the paper of yesterday the Times stakes its credit on the truth of its information – and I have no doubt that it will prove to be correct. – How Peel will stand the cheers of his opponents and the reproaches of his friends it is hard to conceive – My own opinion is that having announced the necessity of opening the ports in the Queen's speech, that he will then either resign or dissolve the Parliament – should he attempt to govern in the knowledge that however much the land-owners may resent his abandonment of their cause – yet their dread of Lord John will induce them to support his conduct [and this] will give a blow to all principles and shadow of consistency.

Wednesday 10th Go to Gosford [...] Hear from Ld. Rosbury⁸⁶⁸ of Lord John Russell having been sent for by the Queen.⁸⁶⁹

Wednesday 17 [...] Henry has gone to London at Lord John's request – nothing is yet known as to the formation of the new Ministry – I trust that it will not be too exclusively Whig.

Saturday 20 The Times of today announces that Lord John after much deliberation has accepted office.⁸⁷⁰

Monday 22nd I have received a long letter from Henry relating all that has occurred [...] Lord John's conduct in my opinion has been miserably below his position. After his original letters from Edinburgh, his course was clear, to accept office [and] state his principles boldly, and if beat he would have retired with credit and been at once hailed as the chief of the Free Traders, but to even contemplate half measures was weak in the extreme, the blame laid upon Henry is a cowardly attempt to shelter himself from the reproach

⁸⁶⁶ The article which is closest to Grey's description is the leading article in *The Times* of 4 December 1845.

⁸⁶⁷ *Morning Post*, 5 December 1845; *Morning Herald*, 5 December 1845.

⁸⁶⁸ Archibald Primrose, 4th earl of Rosebery (1783–1868), grandfather of Archibald Primrose, 5th earl of Rosebery (1847–1929) and Liberal prime minister (1894–1895).

⁸⁶⁹ The Queen summoned Russell on 8 December. He reached Osborne House three days later, when he was invited to form a new government.

⁸⁷⁰ Russell had indeed accepted the offer and his wife now 'fantasized about his forming the most religious and moral government the country had ever known' (*ODNB*).

of having endeavoured to create a crisis which when it occurred he was afraid to face.⁸⁷¹

Tuesday 6th [January 1846] Streleski arrived from London to pay us a visit.

Friday 16 Drive into Edinburgh [...] Call upon Lady John Russell, who tells me a secret, which means that it is none, that her husband wrote the Article on my Father & Lord Spencer in the Edinburgh⁸⁷² – I thought it smelt of finality – and present party purpose.

February 1846, Wednesday 25th The Times contains the accounts of a great battle fought with the Sikhs near Ferozapore – victory complete – loss on both sides very great.⁸⁷³

March 1846, Tuesday 31st ¼ before ten at night Jane after a severe labour gave birth to a healthy boy.⁸⁷⁴

Saturday 9 The remarks in the Times referring to a discussion in the H. of Commons on Law abuses, are excellent,⁸⁷⁵ and at the same time encouraging to such a ‘progresister’⁸⁷⁶ as I am.

June 1846, Sunday 21 Sir Robert Peel’s answer to the attacks of Lord G. Bentinck⁸⁷⁷ & D’Israeli triumphant⁸⁷⁸ – I think it disgraceful to the H. of Commons to listen to these vindictive personalities – Lord John in rendering justice to Sir Robert lets out a personal jealousy natural to a little mind & selfish ambition.

⁸⁷¹ By 19 December, three days before this entry, Russell had abandoned his attempts to form a minority government. As Grey intimates, one factor was the opposition to Palmerston returning to the Foreign Office.

⁸⁷² ‘Earls Grey and Spencer’, *EdR*, 83 (1846), 240–273. Spencer had died on 1 October 1845 (see n. 136).

⁸⁷³ The Battle of Ferozeshah of 21–22 December 1845, which saw East India Company forces under Sir Hugh Gough (1779–1869) and Governor-General Sir Henry Hardinge (1785–1856) defeat an army of the Sikh Empire.

⁸⁷⁴ Charles Grey (1846–1896), Grey’s eldest son.

⁸⁷⁵ *Hansard*, Commons, 5 March 1846, 3rd ser., vol. 84, cc. 625–676.

⁸⁷⁶ Grey probably means ‘*progresista*’, Spanish for ‘liberal’ or ‘enlightened’.

⁸⁷⁷ Lord George Bentinck (1802–1848), MP for King’s Lynn (1828–1848) and parliamentary champion of protectionism, who became the Conservative leader of the House of Commons upon Peel’s resignation.

⁸⁷⁸ *Hansard*, Commons, 19 June 1846, 3rd ser., vol. 87, cc. 688–760. Peel resigned office ten days later.

Friday 26 I have read tonight a most touching account of the causes that influenced poor Haydon to commit suicide which was announced in the Times yesterday⁸⁷⁹ – The news today is that the Ministers are to be out by the end of the week, and speculation as to the manner in which Lord John will form cabinet – I hope Henry will not join him.⁸⁸⁰

July 1846, Wednesday 8th Leave Newcastle by express train at 8.30AM & reach London at 7.55PM. Go to 21 Eaton Place.

Thursday 9 Installed as Henry's private secretary at the Colonial Office.⁸⁸¹

September 1846, Saturday 26 Leave Eaglescarnie and arrive at Howick – on our way to London prior to embarking for Gibraltar there I have been named Captain of the Port.⁸⁸²

October 1846, Wednesday 7 Go to Southampton to see my packages sent off by Royal Tar⁸⁸³ – return to London to dinner.

Saturday 17th Sail in the Madrid Steamer packet for Gibraltar – with two bad days in the Bay of Biscay – with fine weather afterwards, & the usual stoppages we reach Gibraltar on Tuesday 27.

November 1846, Gibraltar, Friday 13th After considerable suffering for some days Jane was this evening brought to bed of a still born boy.

December 1846, Christmas Day Our house is furnished & comfortable, and the fact of my never having opened this journal proves that my life is passing happily & monotonously or rather I should say regularly. The occupations of one day like those of another. I see few of the Gossips of the town, and it would be better for me if I

⁸⁷⁹ The persistently indebted painter Benjamin Haydon (1786–1846) was working on *Alfred and the Trial by Jury* when he killed himself. His final written words were: 'Stretch me no longer on this rough world'.

⁸⁸⁰ Henry did, in fact, join the Russell ministry, serving as colonial secretary throughout (1846–1852).

⁸⁸¹ Despite Grey's reluctance that his brother should join the government, he proved quite willing to work for him at the Colonial Office.

⁸⁸² Grey took up the appointment on 29 September, assuming additional responsibility for naval stores in October, and he remained in post until October 1856.

⁸⁸³ Not to be confused with the American steamer *Royal Tar*, which caught fire and sank off the coast of Maine in 1836 with cargo consisting of the camels, elephants, and horses belonging to a New England circus.

could see less as it is hard to avoid the bad example of joining in ill-natured conversation.

January 1847, Sunday 24th Gibraltar [...] During this month I have had a long correspondence with the Governor owing to the release of some Spanish Carabinieris taken in our bay – but perfectly amicable.

March 1847, Saturday 20th Six weeks since I opened this book, constant occupation, and the absence of any approach to the occasional low spirits of my bachelor days, makes my time pass happily – thanks to the most amicable and most sensible of wives.

June 1847, Saturday 19th Nothing to note down – regularity of occupation, and enough of it.

August 1847, Saturday 29 This morning I read a long Article in the last *Edinburgh Review* on ‘What are we to do with our Criminals’⁸⁸⁴ – very good, and leaves in my mind the conclusion that Penal Colonies are unjust as well as impolitic – Henry’s new system⁸⁸⁵ is on the whole by far the best that has been devised – but compulsory removal after the punishment stays; [it] is (as the reviewer remarks) better than the plan of allowing choice, and the denomination of exiles [...]

Tuesday 5 [October] Packet from England [–] busy writing letters – dined at the Cottage to meet the Duke of Saxe-Weimar⁸⁸⁶ & his son on their way to Madeira – Monkton Milnes⁸⁸⁷ the member for Pontefract who came by the packet also dined with the Governor.

Wednesday 6 As usual – In the evening we had a visit from Mr. Monkton Milnes and a young Austrian attaché to the embassy in London – Potocky⁸⁸⁸ by name.

⁸⁸⁴ ‘What is to be done with our criminals?’, *EdR*, 86 (1847), 214–272.

⁸⁸⁵ As colonial secretary, Henry Grey sought to reform transportation so that it would consist of ‘a limited period of separate imprisonment, succeeded by employment on public works, either abroad, as at Gibraltar or Bermuda, or in this Country; and ultimately followed, in ordinary cases, by exile or banishment for the remaining term of the original sentence’: Grey, *The Colonial Policy of Lord John Russell’s Administration* (2 vols, London, 1853), II, 17.

⁸⁸⁶ Charles Frederick, the grand duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach (1783–1853, r.1828–1853); his son was Charles Alexander (1818–1901, r.1853–1901).

⁸⁸⁷ Richard Monkton Milnes, 1st Baron Houghton (1809–1885), the man of letters, suitor of Florence Nightingale, and MP for Pontefract (1837–1863).

⁸⁸⁸ Alfred Józef Potocki (1822–1889), the conservative diplomat who later served as minister-president of Austria (1870–1871).

Friday 5th [November] Engaged in an angry correspondence with the Governor relating to the Samarang Guard vessel.

February 1848, Monday 28th I have read this evening in a speech of Shiel's [*sic*] on a Bill for removing the few remaining Catholic Disabilities, [which contained] very true & well expressed observations.⁸⁸⁹

October 1848, Sunday 29th Months have elapsed since I last opened the book [...] Jane with her sister Catherine & the children sailed for England in the Montrose, on July 16th. I sailed in the same vessel & reached home on the 26th.⁸⁹⁰

Gibraltar, May 1849, Sunday 13th I have had few events to note for the last six months [...] I forgot to mention that Sir Charles Napier⁸⁹¹ & his squadron were with us for nearly two months – and also that Sir Robert Wilson was relieved by our present Governor Sir R. Gardiner⁸⁹² on the 14th of February.

Gibraltar Sep 1849, Sunday 9th This Article⁸⁹³ is very good, and the truth of most of the remarks it is impossible to deny, having granted the ridiculous number of Officers in comparison to the duty required it is however necessary to propose a remedy without committing injustice, and for many years I have had a decided opinion on this point, which both for justice & simplicity would I believe meet the difficulty – In the first place I would at once stop of all promotion by favour in the junior ranks, that is to say, no one should rise over the head of another until he had served according to a new scale a much longer period in every rank than at present, he should be kept constantly employed & if able to pass a strict examination at

⁸⁸⁹ Richard Lalor Sheil (1791–1851), the Irish Repeal then Radical MP for Milborne Port (1831), County Louth (1831–1832), Tipperary (1832–1841), and Dungarvan (1841–1851): *Hansard*, Commons, 16 February 1848, 3rd ser., vol. 96, cc. 751–754.

⁸⁹⁰ During his appointment at Gibraltar, Grey and his family would spend most winters at home.

⁸⁹¹ Admiral Sir Charles Napier (1786–1860), on station to deal with rising Moroccan piracy: Andrew Lambert, 'The limits of naval power: *Three Sisters*, Moroccan pirates and British battleships' in B. Elleman, B.A. Forbes, and D. Rosenberg (eds), *Piracy and Maritime Crime: Historical and modern case studies* (Newport, 2011), 173–190.

⁸⁹² General Sir Robert Gardiner (1781–1864), a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars and an aide-de-camp to George IV, William IV, and Victoria.

⁸⁹³ *Daily News*, 27 August 1849, which complained of the salaries and pensions of so many naval officers: 'Let us ask, why is it necessary for the efficiency of 185 ships [in service] to pay 150 admirals, 521 captains, 856 commanders, and 2,259 lieutenants? It is clearly *not* necessary, because a large proportion of these officers are unemployed.'

each step, he should be insured arriving at the rank of Captain at the age of 32 years, he should have his first Post ship, and at 35 should be eligible for the command of a squadron with temporary rank, the power of confirming which should be given to the Admiralty – I maintain that no abuse could arise under this system – The Gov't of the day would naturally employ a friend if fit, but further opinion would both prevent the promotion of an unknown man and ensure to justice to one who had distinguished himself, whatever his politics, in short the patronage would be so little that it could not be absurd, & the power of choosing the fit man for the highest charge is the common sense arrangement – The first step to be taken should be to make the supply meet only the demand, and not to allow the entry of more cadets than could be provided for on this plan – as in a private company to have efficient men to do the work, and to let it be clearly understood that the country has a right to the services of those who receive her pay – Beginning at once on this system, it would only be fair to continue the present Flag promotion as a reward for past services, but with the clear understanding that such promotion is given as a retirement or pension.

January 1850, Sunday 13th The largest gap of any in the Journal – Thank God I have nothing of consequences to put down [...]

Sunday 28 [April] [...] Went to forenoon service at the Cathedral, heard a very humdrum & conceited sermon from the Archdeacon – Reading the papers during the afternoon – Roebuck's speech on the Education question original & striking⁸⁹⁴ – it is a most difficult matter and the impossibility of making the different sects pull together – brings me very nearly to the conclusion that more benefit would arise from the Government renouncing the intention of interfering – the voluntary system in both education & religion being I am much inclined to believe – the only one that can succeed in allaying animosity.

Monday 29 A busy day at the Port Office – I was obliged to wait on the Governor who has taken up some most extraordinary views in matters relating to the commerce of the place [...]

May, Wednesday 1st The Governor seems determined to take advice from no one – he [has] written me another letter today wrong headed & obstinate.

⁸⁹⁴ John Arthur Roebuck (1801–1879), the Whig then Liberal MP for Bath (1832–1837, 1841–1847) and Sheffield (1849–1868, 1874–1879); *Hansard*, Commons, 17 April 1850, 3rd ser., vol. 110, cc. 450–460.

Sunday 5 The extract which I have pasted into this page is from a speech made at a public meeting at Leeds on the Education question, the amount of ignorance it shows as existing in this country is frightful, I agree entirely with the principle on which the speaker urges the state to take up the task of instructing those who otherwise are left to chains or more likely totally neglected – The cry about secular instruction alone being anti religious is absurd – it seems to me that to be consistent the rich ought to exclude either music or drawing masters who were not capable of expounding the Scriptures exactly according to the Church of England's tracts [...]

Wednesday 15 The *Odin*⁸⁹⁵ arrived last night from Malta & Athens, she brings news of the settlement of the Greek question⁸⁹⁶ [...]

[October 1850] Sunday 13th [...] I have been reading in the Times an Article on the Woolwich Academy and from the exposure that has taken place of habits of youthful vice among the students⁸⁹⁷ I am more and more determined not send Charlie to a public school [...]

1851, Jan'y Thursday 23^d More than 3 months since I opened this book.

May, Saturday 31st Sailed from Gibraltar in the Sultan at 5 AM & arrived at Southampton on Thursday June 5th at 10AM.

July Wednesday 16th Living a thoroughly idle life at Eaglescarnie – enjoying the country air and freedom from cares [...]

October 1st Harry born at Eaglescarnie. Sailed for Gibraltar three weeks after – a very bad passage – Jane not strong.

⁸⁹⁵ HMS *Odin* (1846), a steam-powered paddle frigate built at Deptford.

⁸⁹⁶ The Don Pacifico Affair: with British subject David Pacifico (1784–1854) denied compensation from the Greek government following the destruction of his property in Athens, and with growing British frustration at Greece's failure to repay its loans, Palmerston as foreign secretary ordered Sir William Parker to detain Greek vessels and blockade the Piraeus. A convention of July 1850 appointed a commission to assess Pacifico's claims, in respect of which he was awarded £500 and 120,000 drachmas.

⁸⁹⁷ *The Times* of 1 October 1850 reports that, among the cadets at Woolwich, 'bullying and tyranny were carried to excess, habits of drunkenness were notoriously common, and exploits of low rakishness were regarded as honourable achievements'.

1852, March, Saturday 20th Again after some months I open this book [...] This winter has passed happily [...] A good deal interrupted by newspaper interest on the advent to power of the Derby Ministry⁸⁹⁸ – which government I cannot conceive [with]standing a union of all Free Traders in opposition [and which] will it is hoped lay the foundation of a really strong Liberal Government.

June 1852, Friday 18 Waterloo day, there is a great dinner tonight at the Convent to which I have sent an excuse [...] I saw the Times of the 10th & 11th brought by the Arno Screw Steamer, the Derby Ministry evidently losing credit – & the dissolution approaching [...]

October, Sunday 10 [...] I have been reading Lord Malmesbury's Memoirs⁸⁹⁹ for the second time and am now in the 4th Volume much interested in all the Addington & Pitt intrigues in 1803, the rupture of the Peace of Amiens &c. &c. – certainly we were in the wrong, there was no reason because we were ashamed of a disgraceful treaty to commence the new war by a breach of faith, which the refusal to cede Malta certainly was, – Thiers, Alison, Bourrienne,⁹⁰⁰ Macfarlane⁹⁰¹ & Id. Malmesbury all agree in thinking that Napoleon really wished the preservation of peace – very possibly only with the intention of reuniting his exhausted strength with the intention of attacking us at a future time – but he might not have been able, peace might have been his destruction, or at any rate fearing it would because so he would have been obliged to [...]

June 1871, Friday 17 This book is seldom opened now – I am too old to write resolves [...]

Sunday December 31st, 1871 It wants but half an hour to the end of this eventful year – Eventful in stirring public events and continental

⁸⁹⁸ Russell had resigned on 21 February following his government's defeat by 11 votes on a minor amendment to the Local Militia Bill. Derby thereupon formed a minority Conservative government which, on account of its inexperience, critics mocked as the 'Who? Who?' ministry.

⁸⁹⁹ *Diaries and Correspondence of James Harris, First Earl of Malmesbury*, ed. J.H. Harris, 3rd earl of Malmesbury (1807–1889), (4 vols, London, 1844). The 1st earl (1746–1820) was not in government at the times that Grey mentions, but had become a trusted advisor on foreign affairs.

⁹⁰⁰ Louis Antoine Fauvelet de Bourrienne (1769–1834), a French minister of state whose closeness to Napoleon is detailed in *Mémoires de M. de Bourrienne, ministre d'état sur Napoléon, le Directoire, le Consulat, l'Empire et la Restauration* (10 vols, 1831).

⁹⁰¹ Charles Macfarlane (1799–1858), the Scottish author of *The French Revolution* (4 vols, London, 1844–1845).

wars & disturbances⁹⁰² – to us it has been a very quiet one [...] The Prince of Wales's serious illness, and almost miraculous recovery has been the absorbing event of the last six weeks⁹⁰³ – I will now close this book & go to bed.

Sunday, June 24th 1872 [...] I have just been reading a letter from my brother Charles written in Feb'y 1870 – the last almost I think he ever wrote to me – how little did I think then what the next two months were to bring to pass [...] But how curious it is to think that the tremendous war which followed was so little foreseen by him – and I trust his forebodings about Ireland may not prove correct – He had cause for these fears but I hope time has done something & will do more in settling that most restless country.⁹⁰⁴

July 1874, Sunday 12 [...] I propose to write in this book only occasionally – and I look upon having nothing to note as the happiest state of things.

Sunday, January 16 1876 Another three weeks of a monotonous but by no means a dull life [...]

Sunday Oct'r 19 1879 – Upton Tomorrow is the anniversary of Navarino – 52 years have elapsed since that day – and I have been preserved in for my age good health, and in comparatively comfortable circumstances [...]

Upton Sunday, July 10 1881 Much has occurred since I last opened this book – From Freddy at the Cape the accounts are more cheering, he has just joined the Natal Mounted Police – and the report of his Commanding Officer [...] make us hope that he is really trying to lead a new life.⁹⁰⁵

⁹⁰² Not least the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian War, the proclamation of the German Empire and the Third French Republic, and the violence of the Paris Commune.

⁹⁰³ The prince of Wales had nearly died of typhoid fever in late 1871; his recovery prompted scenes of national celebration and the composition by Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900) of 'Festival Te Deum' (1872).

⁹⁰⁴ Grey's brother Charles had died on 31 March 1870, and the war to which Grey refers – and which Charles did not predict – is almost certainly the Franco-Prussian War, which had broken out on 19 July 1870.

⁹⁰⁵ Frederick Bryan Grey (1852–1927) had endured a turbulent personal history – with fleeting references in Grey's papers to financial worries and drinking – and so his emigration to South Africa promised this 'new life'. He moved again to Tasmania, where he died.

Sunday Dec. 18 1881 Upton Last Tuesday I went to London – and on Thursday the 15th I took Frankie⁹⁰⁶ to the West India Docks – and left him on board the Delcomyn Steamer⁹⁰⁷ – bound for Australia – his destination is Hobart in Tasmania – he has not been very well and this change is recommended [...] Freddy & Frankie both gone abroad – with uncertain careers.

Moreton Pinkney Jan'y 20th 1891 This is again the anniversary of my marriage 46 years ago – What have I not to think of since, but it is idle to dwell on the past – whenever I do so this book has a narrow escape from the fire.

⁹⁰⁶ Francis William Grey (1860–1939), who, despite this reference to emigration to Tasmania, became a professor of English literature at Ottawa, publishing the novel *The Curé of St Philippe* (1899).

⁹⁰⁷ SS *Delcomyn* (1880), a cargo steamer built on the Tyne.