

Mr. Grierson, but we spent all the first part of the afternoon in the garden, & went as late as we could. Colonel & Mr. Bols were there; he has lately come to command the Dorsets, & is a sort of connection of W.'s. I liked the look of him immensely, he is extraordinarily like my old friend Capt. Blunt. His second-in-command, Major Archer, was there too, with his wife, & Col. Hackett-Pain, our C.S.O., came later. Mr. Grierson's is always a sort of common ground, where both 'sides' meet, & talk with apparent freedom about the crisis! It really is very funny, & there is a sort of atmosphere of cats-in-bags, which is very apparent to those of us who are sitting firmly on several! Talking of the situation, I wonder how Mr. Asquith's behaviour yesterday in the House strikes the Country in general. You may take it as a fact that we have, & are prepared to produce, ample proof of all that Saturday's "Statement" contains. We have also proofs of a good deal more, but those proofs we are not, at present, prepared to produce. It is an absolute fact that the warrants for arrest - did I say this before? - were issued, but were not yet signed by the necessary magistrates.

On Sunday I stayed in the garden in the morning, & in the afternoon was summoned by an

urgent message to the O. T. H., to help send off
 1000 copies of the Northern Whig containing Pat's
 "Statement" to English Radicals. Their own
 papers are sure to present only a garbled version
 of it. 1500 'Belfast Newsletters' have also been
 despatched. It was hard work, but we finished
 them all, & I was glad to get home to tea in
 the garden about 5. We dined early, & W.
 & N. H. went off to the O. T. H. after, N. H. to
 see some doubling, & W. to give a lecture to
 Despatch Riders.

Tuesday - yesterday - I went to our Nursing
^{Class}
~~Lecture~~ in the morning - oh such a heavenly
 morning to have to spend indoors! - but
 spent nearly all the afternoon in the garden.
 We came home, actually, to tea, & we all 3
 played croquet afterwards. N. Hannah
 left after dinner, & soon after W. had
 to go to a meeting at the General's.

N. H. was a very nice visitor, & wanted no
 entertaining, as he went off cycling every day
 to see some antiquity or other. But he is
 decidedly fatiguing, as he likes to discuss
 serious things all the time, such as the Situation
 points of Constitutional Law, Historical parallels
 &c &c, ad lib!! And when W. has been working hard
 all day, it is the last thing he ought to do! So I used to spend
 my time trying to work the conversation round to frivolous
 topics!

Monday, Apr. 27th Marie's Birthday: Mary Happy Returns to her!
 I am going to send this particular chapter of diary
 over to England by hand, as my account of Friday
night is Confidential, & must not go beyond Welfrid's
 & my families.

Last Wednesday afternoon I went over to Mr. Curney's
 - she is our Commandant - for a practice. I found
 5 or 6 others camped on a rug on the lawn, cutting out
 mustard plasters, & there were tables close by containing
 tinned mustard, basins, water &c. It was such a
 funny sight, especially when we started making the
 plasters & poultices, as the wind blew everything away,
 but it was far better than being indoors, especially as
 Mr. S. always has every window tight shut. Then we bandaged
 each other, till rain drove us indoors - the first break-
 up of our marvellous fine weather. It was pelting
 when I ^{went} got back.

Thursday I paid a long-owed call on Mr. Torrens, Lord
 Shaftesbury's agent, who has a lovely home down by the
 sea, near Belfast, & was rewarded by being taken over the
 really beautiful gardens, & given tea, & an armful
 oficum lilies & Cineraria to take home. I wish all
 the other 14 calls I owe would have similar results!

Friday I went to the D.T.H. as usual, to help send
 off pamphlets, & Eva came too, & came back to
 lunch with us, & I eventually persuaded her to
 stop for the night, as Mr. had told me he would

have to be away that night with the General, seeing
 after the big Test Mobilisation which was to take place
 there, but which was being kept a profound secret until
 the last moment. He left ~~at~~ soon after lunch, taking
 a latch key, as he said it was possible he might get back
 early Saturday morning. Eva & I had a busy afternoon
 sandbagging each other etc., & Mrs Johnson, a Cousin
 turned up to tea. When they'd left, we flew off to
 the 'Drill' at the O.T.H. Jack was able to come, &
 gave us a splendid drilling, both Stretcher Drill, &
 ordinary. We really are improving. We were all
 wondering if we were to mobilise too, but had had
 no orders, so concluded we weren't wanted. Jack
 came away with Eva & me, & managed to tell me in
 a hurried aside, that "they" were to "get them in
 tonight". Of course I knew what that meant, & so will
 you, in the light of Saturday's evening papers. His
 post was to be at Gungahane Channel, assisting at
 the Hoax which took in all the Customs Officers, &
 kept them occupied all night, watching the *Balmorino*
 which of course contained nothing but coal!

You can imagine my anxiety, realising what was
 afoot, & what the dangers were, & not in the least
 knowing what part we was taking in the night
 proceedings. I could not tell Eva, but she knew
 I was anxious, & we occupied ourselves as best
 we could, by catechising one another in first

Aid & Home Nursing. It was a comfort having her. I imagine my delight when, about 6 o'clock next morning, my door opened, & in came a muddy, tumbled, disreputable bloke, whose shining eyes, however, told me that all was more than well. Then I learned that he had been sent to the danger-point, to Larne itself, & had been up all night, helping to unload the precious goods, & to carry them to the motors waiting by the wharf. The papers will describe it all to you, better than I can, & how 'they' were all safely landed, & all reached their various destinations without mishap. The whole proceedings are almost incredible, & nothing but the most perfect organisation, combined with the most perfect & loyal cooperation on the part of all concerned, could have carried it through without a single case of bloodshed. Need I say that for the Organisation W. himself was mainly responsible, the scheme having been originally drawn up by him?

Tuesday 28th The plans had been maturing for two months or more, & it had of course been a source of great worry & anxiety to W. It made it worse that he could not talk to me about it, but so much trouble had been caused by others talking, that he felt he must be able to say that he, at any rate, had not even told his wife. Of course I knew about 'the Landing

& all about W.'s adventures in Scotland, but not
 about the jural scheme. Some day you shall hear
 the whole story. What a tale P.D.S. would have
 made out of the adventures of 'the Fanny' alone!
 Can you imagine what it meant to W. (so therefore to me)
 to have this scheme, that he had toiled at for months,
 brought off without a single hitch? He had
 bicycled part way into Larue that night, & ridden
 the whole way back, getting a tow for some miles
 by a motor cycle one of the Despatchriders - He
 had a spill ~~at~~ ^{near} the end, but luckily escaped with
 a bad graze on the leg, & some bruises. I was
 proud to bandage him up in my best hospital
 style! & then he came to bed to snatch a little
 sleep before having breakfast, & going off to
 report to the General. Eva & I went down town
 to do some shopping, & buy our Ambulance. Uniform
 hats. At the latter shop, the owner greeted me
 with "Hope Capt. Spender got back all right last
 night?" & then began telling me his own ex-
 periences, he being one of the Belfast U. V. F.,
 & having been up all night. There must
 have been a good many sleepy people in Ulster
 that morning! But everybody was too delighted
 over the success of the night's work, to mind
 the loss of sleep. After lunch, Eva having
 gone, & Jack too, who had turned up to bring

With a wire, we set off for our week end at Cushendall, & got there about 7 p.m. An absurd little narrow-gauge railway (exactly like the Newfoundland railway, & just about as jolty) takes you on from Ballymena, & at Parkmore dumps you down in the middle of the moors, about 1000 ft. up, whence there is a 6½ mile drive in an outside car to Cushendall on the coast. It was a perfect evening, & the scenery simply lovely. The road winds down through larch woods into the wide vale of Glearring, & the banks & fields & woods were gay with gorse & broom, primroses, violets, anemones, & ribes, & the air was heavenly-sweet with the scent of these & of the fir trees. Across the sea the Scotch coast looked astonishingly near: the Kell of Cantire, Ailsa Craig, & the low hills about Stranraer. Cushendall is a pretty little village, thickly-wooded, & with clustering hills all about it. The Inn we went to is very primitive, but quite all right for a short time.

Sunday was grey all day, but quite fine. I went to church, but wouldn't let W. come, as he was completely worn out from the reaction after the long strain of all these months, & needed absolute rest & 'laying'. In the afternoon we found our way to a grassy slope just above the beach, & layed there till tea-time. Monday was another sunless day, & we spent

May 6 - 1914.

My diary has been terribly neglected, but it was simply impossible, or almost, to write while Katie was here.

My last installment was written under the greatest difficulties, for she was talking to me all the time. I think I left off with last Monday week, while we were still at Cuskerdall. We spent a very quiet day; in the morning, climbing a hill close by, & lying out on a rug, & doing the same thing in the afternoon, on another hill covered with gorse, a hill which a car driver pointed out to me next day as "the Fairies' Hill", it being the place where Fairies were last seen in the neighborhood!

Tuesday morning we went for a rather longer walk, as W. was feeling better, & found a little old graveyard in a pretty valley opening onto the sea, & filled with snowy blackthorn. There was a ruined church there, & the graveyard was in a terrible state of neglect, but it is still used, though we could hardly believe it.

In the afternoon, we drove to Glemarkiff, & walked up the stream one side, & down the other. It is the Lochest place, very like the Goreskinie valleys near Whitley: very steep sides, clothed with larch & carpeted with primroses, bluebells & anemones; a rushing stream at the bottom, with beautiful waterfalls at intervals, - one is about 40 or 50 ft. high. We got a gleam or two of sun towards the end. Fortunately the season hasn't begun, so we had

the whole glen to ourselves, with the exception of a most unexpected fox terrier, whom we discovered perched on a rocky ledge, busily digging a hole. She looked very embarrassed when she saw us, stopped digging, & trotted hurriedly away, carrying a dead rabbit! She crossed the stream carefully on stepping stones, climbed up the other side, found another spot where she thought we couldn't see her, & started digging again, & this time buried the rabbit successfully. It was so amusing to watch. They gave us tea at the little tea house, though it's not open yet, & we drove back another way. That night we got quite a scare, for about 10 o'clock (we being already in bed!) we heard the unmistakable sound of big guns firing, & they went on till nearly 11. The place seemed alive with motor-cyclists too, & every moment we expected to be aroused by a message summoning us to some scene of action! It wasn't a bit nice, but as nothing did happen, we realised it must be gun practice at Glasgow, or somewhere over there.

Wednesday we got up at 5.45, & drove into Parkmore after breakfast, to catch the 8.30 train, both feeling very much the better for our change. Katie was due to arrive from Diverpool, & Jack was going to meet her, & bring her to breakfast

here in our absence. But when I arrived, no Katie was there! & Jack, who went to ^{England} Liverpool to meet her ones, had not arrived either, which puzzled us completely. In the afternoon, I went to Mr. Swiney's, to practice hospital work, & came back about 6: still no Katie, & no news. But at last they both turned up, having been delayed 12 hours by fog outside Liverpool.

Thursday was a heavenly day. We sat out in the garden most of the day, & I tried to write! In the ^{late} afternoon, ~~three men~~ ^{Jack brought} Col. Patterson (who wrote "the Wanderers of Travo"), Commanding the West Belfast Regiment, Mr. Stewart Blacker Quinn, & Mr. Finlay, ^{who} all came to see the Colours. They really are beautiful, & were greatly admired, & Katie was much complimented on her handiwork. W. & I were dining out, so I had to dress first, & let Katie & W. receive them, ^{Mr. Carne, in Cater,} & I had no idea who any of them were (except Mr. Quinn), which was tiresome, as I'd like to have talked about East Africa to Col. Patterson. He is a slim, good looking man, with a smile like Lewis Waller in his most swash-buckling parts! They were still here when W. & I went off to our dinner at the Hughes down at Cultra, virtuously & frumpily going by train! It was quite a small dinner, Lord Jocelyn, Mr. Torrens, Capt. & Mr. Brudenell Bruce, of (I think) the Dorsets, & ourselves.

Capt. B. B. fell to my share, & as he was of the "Haw haw, what?" type, & never originated a single remark during dinner, I left him alone, & talked to my host on my other side. Conversation after dinner, till the men came in, consisted exclusively of regimental gossip, of a rather ill-natured type, & I was bored stiff till we adjourned to the billiard room, & played some game without axes, rather amusing. - Meanwhile, Jack & Katie had dined at No. 12, & then gone out to see some night-drills.

Friday morning, I took Katie up to the O.T. H., & showed her over the Post House & Signalling Departments. The former has grown most wonderfully since W. first organized it. They showed us the patent signalling lamp which the U.V.F. use, & which carries 6 times as far as the Army one. There we went, & helped the Literature Committee, & came home with W., & after lunch B. & I went up to the Picture House where we met Eva, & saw the films of the recent U.V.F. parades, Claudeloye, Belfast Castle &c. Jack was very prominent in the latter. W. of course was away from all those ceremonies. Every time Sir E. C. appeared on the screen he was wildly applauded. We had tea there afterwards, & then went on to the O.T. H. for our

Dill. Jack came back & dined with us - W. was dining out, as he was to inspect the Annual Parade of the 1st Company of Belfast Boys' Brigade, & afterwards we all 3 went to see the inspection, Mr. Selater being in the chair. There were about 60 boys, & W. said it was the best Boys' Brigade he had ever seen anywhere. They really were astonishingly smart. W. gave them such a nice address, quite short, but very much to the point. The whole thing was well worth going to.

Saturday N. & I had a busy morning getting the Colours ready. To our horror, we discovered that the King's Colours would not go onto the staves, the socket being too small. We telephoned wildly for Jack, & after a long time, a Mr. Lloyd appeared to see what he could do. He is a brother of the M.P. for Shrewsbury, & is a retired I.C.S. who has lately come over, & is serving with the W. Belfast Regt. He was most amusing, & also very helpful, & after some trouble, we got the Colours to go on. A Mr. Brown turned up later to see if he could help, but all was finished by then. In the afternoon W. & I, & Jack all went up to Glencarrig, Mr. James Cunningham's place, where the Presentation of Colours was to take place. It was quite fine, tho' sunless, & there was a tremendous crowd of people. Mr. Stewart B. Quin presented the Regimental

Colours, while Mr. Finlay was the giver of the Battalion Colours. We had tickets for, the Saluting Base, so could see beautifully, & Katie, as the waker of the Colours, was summoned to stand with the actual participants in the ceremony, which pleased her greatly. The presentation was to the first & second Battalions of the W.B. Regt., & they all marched past afterwards. It's a beautiful ceremony. The officiating parson offers some prayers, & blesses the Colours, & one or two speeches are made, & then several ~~of~~ of the Regt. come forward & kneel on one knee to receive the Colours, & then march proudly away with them to the tune of God Save the King! The W.B. Regt. is the proudest of all, I mean its men are of a lower class than the others, as they are all in Devlin's Constituency, which is the slummiest in the city. Many of the men looked just the type you see loafing about public houses, & were no better dressed, but they marched every bit as well as the others, & looked just as keen & determined. We went in to tea with Mr. Cunningham afterwards. He & Mr. are very good friends, & I took a great liking to him, such a kindly, ~~was~~ homely person, with a strong Ulster accent.

Sunday we all 3 went to early celebration, & to Mattie's at Malone Church. Jack came to

Luncheon, & then we all 4 went to Larumney to tea with Mr. Barton. The garden was looking lovely, & K. quite fell in love with it. It simply pelted coming home. Our fine weather has quite broken up now. Jack came back to supper, but did not stay late.

Monday morning, K. & I went round to Mr. Finlay's, to see her embroidery. She does the most lovely needle work pictures, & the house is full of her work. K. was simply thrilled, & could hardly be torn away. While we were there, Jack rang up to ask us to come & lunch with him at Thompson's, which we just had time to do, & after that we came home, & spent a quiet afternoon. Jack came to an early dinner here, & then we all drove off, first to the wharf, to deposit K.'s luggage, & then to the Shankhill Rd. Picture House, to see the film of the Saturday Junction. They put it on specially for our benefit, & reserved seats for us, & when we arrived the Manager was waiting on the steps for us, & flatly refused to allow us to buy tickets! The atmosphere in the house was the very worst I ever encountered anywhere, for the audience was drawn exclusively from the slums, & the smell was appalling! Tobacco smoke is the most delicate perfume compared to it, & I would have welcomed it as a disinfectant,

but they were too poor to smoke. The film was excellent. Kate found me in one of the pictures, but I think they just missed her. There was another excellent film of Claude Boye, which will probably be seen in London later. Afterwards we tra^{nsferred} to the Wharf, & saw H. onto the ship, & then W. & I came home.

Tuesday I had my Nursing Class in the morning, & went back to lunch with Eva, & we both lay on her bed all the afternoon, & catechised each other on Ambulance work. Our 3^d Exam. is nearly due, & I'm not half ready for it. For it's been impossible to work this part 3 weeks or more. I came back directly after tea, & W. & I hugely enjoyed our first quiet home evening for a very long time.

Wednesday - yesterday - I went to our Quarter-master's (Mrs Malcolm's) house for a practice. I came home after to lunch, & W. & I had our usual croquet afterwards, & then I spent a quiet afternoon. We are getting rather anxious at all this talk of compromise. Why Unionists should dally with the idea at all, when the Govt. is so obviously helpless to coerce Ulster, I can't imagine. If the whole party would unite to oppose Home Rule, I am certain we could win. It is so hard to sit here & realise how little England, as a whole, understands the situation.

May 14: Fri. Such a heavenly morning, & I'm sitting in the garden - about 9.45 - & wondering how I can lose myself away to go to the Old Town Hall & help the Literature Committee, as I shortly must. The garden is still gay with wall flowers, forget-me-nots, & pansies are beginning to make a brave show. We had hoped for some early Sweet Peas, but alas our seeds never came up & the other day, I discovered the thief, an enormous root, hard at work in the bed! Now however, Eva has given me some well-grown seedlings, which we hope are too advanced to suffer from birds or slugs.

I think I left off on Thursday 6th, yesterday week.

On Friday 7th I went to the O.T.H. & had a busy morning despatching pamphlets to Grimsby. Eva came back to lunch, & we studied together till tea time, after which she left, & I went up to the O.T.H. again for drill.

Saturday morning I went down to Dunsbury with Sue Macaulay for my first day's rifle shooting at the little rifle club I've joined there. There were only two other ladies there, M^{rs} Higgins & Miss Murray, & a boy to coach us. I really didn't do badly - especially as I've since discovered I was holding the rifle quite wrong! - They gave me the 50 yds. target at 25 yds (the targets are all the same size, but have bigger bulls for the

longer distances) & I got all my shots on but the first two, & all but got a bulls-eye. And at 50 yds. I had the 100 yds. target, & got all my 5 shots on to it. I simply toned it, but it was bitterly cold work, as there was only one rifle between us, & a lot of waiting about therefore.

In the afternoon it turned heavenly, & W. & I went for our first bicycle ride, up such a pretty road at the foot of the hills on the way to Atrium. Jack turned up at tea time, & he & W. had a long discussion about certain aspects of affairs, a discussion which may prove fruitful later on.

Sunday morning we went to the Cathedral, & in the afternoon played croquet, & had tea in the garden. A nice, peaceful day.

Monday afternoon I went to St. George Wheeler's to tea. I was to have sung, but my voice has not come back enough yet. Col. Patterson's wife was there, & I talked a lot to her. She is Irish herself, but Southern Irish, tho' she was born in Belfast.

Tuesday we had our last Nursing Class in the morning, & were all put through our paces in turn, making beds, palasters, poultices, preparing dressings &c. Then I went back to lunch with Eva, & we

handaged each other most of the afternoon, till Major & M^{rs} Christie turned up. I hadn't seen her for ages, & she was very reproachful to us both for having disappeared from Society, so to speak, all this winter. I believe he has been made Intelligence Officer now, so they are very much "the enemy". But they were most friendly, & I distinctly like him, whom I've hardly talked to before. We left together, & went part way home together. In the evening, Col. Davis ^{who lives close by} came round, just as we were ready for bed, to fetch W. to speak to someone on the telephone, so he had to dress again, & go out. Such are the joys of not having a telephone! The other night Jack knocked us up after we were ~~both~~ peacefully asleep, & W. had to go down & talk to him for nearly an hour, about some important matter which had suddenly cropped up. It's almost like being married to a doctor!

Wednesday I wrote letters all the morning, & went to M^{rs} Swiney's after lunch for a practice. Thursday & yesterday - I had a practice by myself, making plasters & poultices on different materials &c., & after lunch I paid a call, & came back to tea in the garden. - On Tuesday I brought back the Sweet Pea

seedlings from Mr. Barton, & W. & I planted them just before dinner, in sheets of rain. Rather damp & chilly for us, but lovely for them. Must go, but it's wicked to have to spend such a morning in doors.

I met Mr. General & Lady Richardson in the tram on Monday, & he was so friendly. He spoke most warmly of Mr. Pical & was to tell him he was working much too hard, & added "He's a fine worker".

I forgot to say that Wolf & Jack turned up together on Monday afternoon, one carrying an "umbrella", & the other "a box of chocolates" for me. Both were remarkably heavy, which was not surprising when they turned out to be a ^{miniature} rifle & a box of ammunition! I'm fearfully proud of my rifle, & I shall be an object of envy at the Club tomorrow, as they are very hard to get now! Jack gave me a lesson on it before he left.

Money penny was most complimentary, & remarked as he entered my marks that he had never yet given anyone 100%! Whether he was giving it to me or not I don't know. [Yes, he did!] I've told you about the Exam. in detail, because I wanted to show what a really practical Exam. it is, not a bit like the St. John's Ambulance First Aid & Home Nursing ones.

Eva & I got away finally at about 6.30, much exhausted, but very cheerful, & quite sorry it was over!

Wednesday I was at the O.T. H. all the morning, helping the Literature Committee. We have just been voted £40 a month for our work, so can go ahead splendidly with it. We could not send any to Chesterfield, as, for some reason or other, we could not get a single test out of the agent there. However, Raja Bowden is in, so it doesn't matter. Chesterfield, you know, is one of the Constituencies he was asked to stand for. If he had, I might have been the wife of Capt. Spender M.P. by now! However, this is bigger work, & more exciting. I had a blissfully lazy afternoon, & browsed happily in Alfred Noyes' poems, which I had got from the library that morning as an antidote to the hard facts I've been digesting

factly. But I may mention that when W. came
 home he found me mending his boots, so
 I was not altogether lazy. X He had to go
 out that evening and one of the biggest
 gun-warming expeditions there have been
 since the 25th, taking a huge contingent
 down to Portsmouth (this is confidential)
 is the reason why I am sending this letter
 by hand to England). They came to pick
 him up after 9, Capt. Hale - the Malloy
 Sec. - Gate, a Mr. Jackson, etc, stayed some
 time talking before they started. But I
 did want to be going. He is staying behind
 on these occasions, with nothing to think
 of but the anxiety; so hard to bear. He
 did not get home till 10 next morning, having had
 a splendidly successful run. I must have
 been a wonderful experience, the preservation of
 some half dozen huge skin motor horses. - The
 men on top of them arrived at the teeth, 15 or
 20 16 motor cars, thundering over the great
 counting tracks, or through the sleeping horses
 where, here & there, a number would open, &
 a beautiful in-habitant would find out
 either stay his hands delightfully when he
 saw what I was, or even directly, according
 to his sympathies. A suitable or two

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Thurs. May 21st.

* Quite wrong! I went to the Rifle Club at Dummerby, & shot at 25 & 50 yds. with proper targets, & got on much better. 4 bulls - 2 tens - out of 15 shots at 50 yds., & a score of 35 out of a possible 50 in the last round. I was quite pleased with myself!

Last Friday we had our literature Committee work at the O.T.H. in the morning, & Eva came back to lunch here, ^{after lunch.} We practised hard in the afternoon, & went back to the O.T.H. directly after tea for our drill. I drilled the Class for a bit till Jack came in, & shouted at them in tones as nearly resembling his as I could manage. It was rather fun. We shall not have any more drill from Jack, as he is too busy now.

Saturday I had a quiet morning studying in the garden, & after lunch, W. & I went off to Mr. Scott's, & went for a motor run with him & his sister. Before we started, he took us over a new model Creamery which has just been built close to his house, & which of course interested me greatly. It was such fun to see his astonishment when I asked learned questions about the Refrigerating Plant, & discussed the relative merits of CO₂ & Ammonia Plants with the Scotch foreman! We had a lovely run past Couber to Strangford Lough, & had our tea in the car down by the shore. It is the oddest bit of country. The land is covered with little round hills like mole-hills, & the lough with tiny islands. There is no flat ground at all, & the little hills are all the same size, & look absurdly artificial. Mr. Scott is one of Wolf's Motor Corps; rather

a rough diamond, with a terrific Ulster accent,
 but a very good sort. By the way, here is a
 piece of doggerel we "threw off" the other day
 about the Motor Corps, which greatly pleased them.
 How doth the merry Motor Corps
 Delight to show its might;
 It carries ladies all the day,
 And rifles all the night.

[Friday 22nd]. I'm not sure that the third line is not
 rather a libel on some of the Corps, but they don't
 seem to mind! In the evening Jack came
 to dinner, to eat some asparagus his mother
 had sent him, & asked us to cook it & share it
 with him! Just as he was thinking of departing,
 Mr. Scott & Mr. James Cunningham turned up
 to discuss some important things with W.
 Jack & I were able to help, & they stayed till
 after 11. Not one of them would have anything
 to drink when they left! You are changing
 in those ways. Did I mention that, when dining
 at the Hughes' the other night, only one out of
 the six men survived after dinner? By the way,
 it was Lord Joicey, not Lord Jorselie who
 was there that night.

Sunday I was very tired, & spent all the day
 in the garden, studying hard for the Exam.

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on Tuesday, & we went to the Cathedral in the morning, & sat out all the afternoon, & we nobly calisthenised me, & submitted to copious bandaging. played a croquet table. Such a lovely day.

Monday we ^{little} had a sort of Dress Rehearsal for the Exam. in the Orange Hall where it was to be held. Miss Penderyart, a very nice Red X nurse inspected & criticised our uniform, & asked questions, & made us perform with splints & bandages. Eva & I thoroughly enjoyed it. But oh our Commandant is so popelen! She knew we were to be inspected, & yet she came in the Cook's apron, several sizes too large for her, no waistband, & a grubby, crumpled cap! Imagine it! She is a dear, & so kind hearted, but simply impossible as a Commandant. At drill she is quite the worst in the class, & Jack nearly gave Wolf hysterics the other night describing her vagaries! — I persuaded Eva to come back to lunch with me, & we spent the afternoon in the garden, plying each other with questions, & had tea out, & then made some practices.

Tuesday I studied in the morning, & then got a message telling me to be at the Orange Hall at 2 instead of 3.30, so had an early lunch, & flew off there, arriving 20 m. too early; & when I had hunted up the caretaker, I found

that no one was expected till 3, so my message
 was a mistake! So nice! A whole hour & a
 quarter to wait in the dirtiest place I ever
 saw - or smell! - that was supposed to be
 respectable. However, I strolled out & bought
 chocolate & a magazine of no more study for me!)
 I amused myself till the others turned up,
 but even then, Eva & I, who were going in
 together, had ages to wait before our turn came,
 & it was not till after 5 that we went in.
 Once in, we both thoroughly enjoyed ourselves,
 it was so much easier than we expected.
 First I had to wash a surprising, purple-
 coloured dumpling in bed under the eye of
 one examiner, who let me off when I'd done
 the face & chest & 1 arm, & then I went
 to Miss G^o Robert Campbell to take a temperature
 & chart it, & be asked questions. But she
 only asked me 4 or 5, & then ^{she} began to talk,
 & she was perfectly charming, & was very pleased
 with me for being "so practical", she said.
 Then I made a Boracic fomentation for her, & Eva & I made
 up a bed, being timed, & then
 I passed on to the Doctors, one superintending
 bandaging, & one asking questions. We
 had to do 4 bandages, & then be asked
 questions. I was most lucky in ^{my questions} mine, & D^r

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turned out in scanty attire as they passed a police barracks, but no interference was attempted. — X / walkers gave W. some breakfast, & then walked part way to the O. T. H. with him, as the Literature Committee were at work again. When I entered the Committee Room I was greeted by a chorus of Congratulatory, & learned that I had passed out top in the Exam! So pleasing. 20 of us went in, all have passed; & 6 of us have got the Medal which is given when the marks exceed 85%, Mr. Bolton being one. So the result is very satisfactory.

In the afternoon I went to Mrs. Higgins of Malone House, to practice at her Rifle Range. She wasn't there, but Mrs. Murray was, & we had a good practice at 25 & 50 yds. I am really getting on, & got two bulls at 25, & one - a ten - at 50 yds. In fact, I shot better than she did! Then we played Croquet, the first time I've played scientific croquet for many a year. She plays in Matches & Tournaments, but we played level, & near the end I was ahead by one hoop! I had no time to finish. Truth compels me to state that she was off her game, but still I feel quite encouraged to go in for croquet this summer, if I get a

Chance.

On reading this one. It strikes me as horribly conceited. but the Family do like to hear everything. I do like to tell them! I don't think I'm any more conceited than I was, really. And certainly the Exam. result was an enormous surprise to me, for I was far from confident when I went in.

Thurs. June 4th I've got to go back to Friday May 22nd & I've no idea what happened there, except that I went to the literature Committee in the morning.

Saturday May 5 I went off by the 12 o'clock train to Ballycastle, arriving about 2.30. We got our rooms in the little hotel on the sea front, & then set off on our bicycles to ride along the coast to Fair Head. It was a gorgeous day, with a tearing wind which blew us up the steep hills going there, & acted as brake coming back, in the most-oblique manner. It's only about 5 miles there, & we left our cycles at a cottage, & wandered over the wild moorland behind the great bluff called Fair Head. There are two delightfully unexpected little lakes hidden away on the tops among the rocks & heather, & there's another which we didn't see. It was at Fair Head that beautiful Deirdre & the 3 sons of Uisneach, Naois, Aislinn & Ardair, landed, when Fergus brought them over from "Alba", so sorely against Deirdre's will. I don't know if any of you know the story. It's one of the loveliest of the Ulster Legends. We came to the cliff edge quite unexpectedly; rounded a big rock, & suddenly found ourselves looking over a sheer precipice, 600 ft. or so. The view over the sea, across the desolate Rathlin Isle, to the blue Scotch mountains with their wild

outline, was most lonely. A queer thing is that, though standing upright on the topmost rocks, the ground falling away from us on every side, & no shelter in sight, even, & though the gale was still raging, we could not feel one breath of wind! We were hopelessly puzzled till Wolf realized that the wind, hitting against the cliff, was forced upwards, & continued blowing upwards for some distance above our heads, & sure enough, when we lay flat & put our heads over the precipice, a blast of wind nearly took our breath away, but the moment we drew back, we felt nothing. It really was most uncanny!

Before going home, I persuaded the woman at the cottage to give me some tea. She was very surly at first, & very friendly afterwards, as these Ulster folk so often are, & in the end I had some difficulty in persuading her to accept 6^d!

Sunday was cloudless all day. We cycled out to 8.30 celebration at a tiny church we'd noticed on our way back the previous day, & after breakfast, we took our lunch & set off westward for the Giant's Causeway. It really was a glorious ride. Our way lay along the top of the cliff which was ablaze with gorse, & the colours

were almost incredible; a blinding sheet of gold against the deep Italian blue of the sea, the dazzling white of the cliffs of Rathlin Isle, & its green grass, & beyond, the lovely, wistful blue of the mountains on the Scotch Coast. The air was thick with the perfume of gorse & hawthorn - in fact, it was a "halcyon day" if ever there was one. We eat our lunch in a tiny cove, under the shadow of a rock very much like Tintagel, with the ruins of an old castle on the top, & were delighted to discover two seagulls 'sitting' on tiny ledges high up in the cliff. We had our field glasses & should never have desecrated them. We got to the Giant's Causeway about 2, & left our cycles at the Hotel, & walked along the 'cliff walk' nearly as far as you can go. It certainly is a marvellous place, & it's almost impossible to believe that some of the columns in the cliff are not artificial. I got some tea at the hotel, & there learned, by questioning a waiter, of Gasterman's defeat at Sparwick, which put the finishing touch to a glorious day! We rode home another way, more inland, & rested some time on the heather. It turned bitterly cold, tho' still cloudlessly fine, before we got back, & I believe it froze that night!

I forgot to say that on Saturday evening, we took a walk along the shore, after our ride, & had some talk with a coastguard. A Destroyer was at anchor close by, & I asked if she'd been using her search light at all. "Oh yes", he said, with a sort of weary contempt, "they was at it last night. Lookin' for guns what they won't get." Shuttin' the door when the horse has bolted, that's what I call it. They keep us on the run, they do, signalling half the day" - with great disgust! No doubt as to where his sympathies were!

Monday we didn't feel inclined for a long ride - we did 30 miles on Sunday, & walked about 4! - so we took lunch & books, & rode up the G lenshest valley for a few miles, then padlocked our machines, left them by the roadside, & plunged into 'a pathless wood', & made our way with some difficulty down to the little river, where we found a charming little clearing, adorned with bluebells, primroses & anemones, & overhanging the stream just where it plunged through a miniature, rocky gorge; & here we spent the day, & an enchanting day it was, with a soft blue & white sky, & a soft breeze. Part of the time we behaved like babies, & scrambled perilously along

the rocky bed of the stream, & crossing the raging flood by uncertain stepping stones, & racing grassy boats - called, of course, the Fairy & the Mountjoy! - down the Rapids, &c &c. We tore ourselves away about 5 o'clock, & came home another way, managing to find ~~find~~ a lovely bluebell wood which had caught our eye from the train on Saturday. Never have I seen such bluebells. The whole wood - an oak wood - wherever one looked, was carpeted with misty blue. One seemed to have wandered into fairyland.

Tuesday we got up at 5, & caught the 6.30 train home; rather reluctantly, as may be supposed. Wolf came home to lunch, & then informed me that he might have to go to London that night, & would I like to come too? Would I! After lunch I paid 6 calls, a splendid achievement, & came home at tea-time to find a message saying we were going! So then I packed madly, & W. soon came home & did likewise. Jack arrived in the middle, with a cleaning rod for my rifle, & sat in the passage & talked while we packed. We crossed by Fleetwood, as W. had to be in London by 12 to meet someone. It was lovely to see the family again. N. Rivington

drove up in his car, while I was still on the dovesteps, to fetch Dad to a meeting, & was so astonished to see me! He came in later, more surprise; & then Elsie, who was up for the day, such luck!

I spent the next few days oscillating between Marianne & Hubbard, with a few shops thrown in, my Extravagance Fund coming in most handy for taxis! On Thursday afternoon I walked over with Wolf to see Mabel, & thought her looking very well; & Mother called for me after tea, & we walked back. Amy had looked in before lunch, being up in town for two nights. She was looking so well & very becoming. I think I was ^{we are stopping with Mabel at 24 My de Park gate} that night that W. dined with Sir Fredk. & Lady Agerard. She is a sister, I think, of a friend of W.'s who has stayed with us, & the Agerards wanted to meet W. While there, he heard a thing which is worth passing on. Lady A. had been given, by some of the officers at the Curragh, a précis of the speeches delivered to them that fateful week in March by Sir A. Paget & Genl. Ferguson. The former told them that the King had full knowledge of the orders that were given

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to the troops on March 19th - Thursday - , & that they were given with his approval, & Genl. Ferguson went further, & said that if they refused to help in the coercion of Ulster (or words to that effect), they would be guilty of direct disloyalty to the King, since they were his orders. Lady A. wrote to Lord Stamfordham about these papers she possessed, suggesting he should come & see them. He replied asking her to send them, as he was at Windsor. She did so, & soon after received a letter - which we read ^{from Lord S.} stating that the King knew nothing whatever about these orders until he read about them in the papers on Saturday morning 21st, & that she was at liberty to make this known, but not to publish it in the Press. She wrote back to ask if she might show the correspondence to the Editor of the Times, & the reply was yes, so long as it was done privately, & did not appear in the papers. Obviously, the Cabinet, or a section of it, - probably Lloyd G. Peely, Churchill, & Simon - had informed the Generals that the King had full knowledge of those orders, & the Generals naturally believed it. It is impossible that the latter could have originated the lie. Isn't it outrageous? Personally I don't think the King has any right to keep such a thing out of the papers.

It seems to me he would surely be justified in dismissing Ministers who insulted him so grossly, & lied so vilely about him.

This story can be freely passed on, so long as it does not appear in any paper.

On Saturday we all - except W. who was at 24 H. P. G. - went up to the Yot^x for tea, & Ethel joined us there with Lillie & Norah.

Sunday W. & I walked over to join Kate at her church for Early Celebration, & stayed to breakfast there, & walked back afterwards, he going on to St. Paul's, & I to church with Dad & Mother, where we had such a good sermon from the Vicar. We had a quiet afternoon, & W. & I left after supper, travelling by Larue & Straucher. It is a horrid journey at night, for tho' we were lucky in having only one other person (a Jesuit priest!) in our carriage, & I had a whole seat to myself, still the carriages are very narrow, & the seats very hard, & we scarcely slept at all. However, we had an excellent crossing, sea quite flat, (so it was the other way), so we were lucky.

Tuesday I went to the Nursing class which is still being held once a week, chiefly for the benefit of some who have not yet

x Topshole 5000
My father was born in 1840
1840

gone in for the Exam. Eva & I helped some of the
 beginners, & practised bandaging. Then we went
 to the Carlton, where Mr. Bolton - who arrived last
 week - & Wolf met us, & we all lunched together.
 Mr. B. seems very nice, but not at all exciting.
 Saturday, W. & I went down to Craigavon to tea.
 A lot of people were there: Sir Edward, who is
 staying there, Lord Bangor, Lord C. Beresford, ^{Lord} Lady
 Londonderry, Lady Mansaree, Mr. Ronald McNeill,
 & several other M.P.'s, etc. We talked some time to
 Mr. Shirley Benn, M.P. for Plymouth, whom Wolf
 knows, & also to Mr. C. C. Craig. It was a gorgeous
 day, so we were out of doors all the time. I
 wonder who Lady Mansaree was. She looks like
 a Gaiety girl! Alice de Rougemont stayed there
 when she was over here, & says she is quite mad.
 She came down to breakfast one bitterly cold, grey
 morning over a month ago, in a lilac cotton frock
 & a sunbonnet! Why a sunbonnet? She looked
 most picturesque, so I suppose that was why.
 Wednesday being my birthday I found a box of
 chocolates on my plate at breakfast, & our first
 roses out of the garden. Dear old Wolf had
 already given me my rifle as a birthday
 present, so I was much pleased at his
 remembering the day. In the afternoon
 I cycled into the country to call on the Montgomerys.

who have a lovely place about 3 miles away,
I came back to tea in the garden, & then
croquet with W. who actually got home in
before 6.

Wed. June 10th Last Thursday, 4th, I went to Mr Higgin's in the afternoon, & Mr Murray & I shot till tea-time & played croquet afterwards. I shall have to shoot with a patch over my eye, as after a time, my right eye shuts up firmly, which is baffling. I had a try at 100 yds., but only got onto the target once, as my eye was so tiresome. Mr Slater called before I started, & very kindly took me to Malone House in her car, but as a consequence, I forgot ^{not discovering it till too late} my purse, & had to walk all the way home for want of a penny! It is surprising how heavy a miniature rifle can become in two miles.

On Friday morning the Literature Committee was in a ferment of excitement over the possibility of a visit from Sir Edward. We tried to keep it dark, but of course it leaked out, & numbers turned up who had never been before, & will never come again! & the room was most uncomfortably crowded. He did come, & we all sprang to our feet just as if he were Royalty, & remained standing till he left. Thank goodness no one tried to cheer! A woman's cheer is a desecrating thing. He talked a little to one of the principal ladies, & meanwhile some of the younger ones were honoring near, breathless & scarlet with excitement, clutching photographs & autographbooks. Of course he signed them, & ^{raised} Sue Macaulay was raised to the

seventh heaven by shaking hands with her! Little Pat was introduced to him as "the only gentleman present", & his - Pat's - face of solemn bliss was delightful to see! Sir Edward just turned round as he left the room, & said in his low voice, "I'm very proud of you all", & everybody drew a long breath, & came reluctantly down to everyday life again! It is perfectly extraordinary the effect that man has upon everyone; rich & poor, ^{men & women} & young & old, they idolize him. I'm as bad as anyone, only it takes me differently, & makes me hold aloof. I hear he had a terrible time at the Lord Mayor's Garden party the other day: Women & men pressed round him, shaking & even kissing his hand!

On Friday evening Jack came to dine, coming early, but leaving soon after.

Saturday there were two excitements on: the presentation of Drums & Pipes (the gift of 4th Riversdale Walrus) to the W. Belfast Regt. by Sir Edward, up at Glencavin, at 4 o'clock; & a Parade of the Special Reserve Force & the Young Citizen Volunteers at Balmoral at 5.15. I hadn't expected to be able to go to both, but to my joy it was arranged for me to go in a car with the General & Lady Richardson, which of course made it possible. Glencavin is in the extreme north-west of Belfast, &

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part of the route lies in one of the poorest neighbour-
 hoods. Throughout the whole way the road was lined
 with a ragged, cheering crowd. Our car was nat-
 ural but one to Sir Edward's, & the General came in for a
 lot of cheers on his own account. It was the
 most deafening, & wildly exciting experience I ever
 had. Be-shawled women waved a baby in
 one arm & a Union Jack in the other, & incredibly
 dirty & unkempt men waved caps & flags, &
 fairly danced with excitement. "God love ye"
 answered a toothless old crone; & "God bless ye"
 shouted others. "No Home Rule" bawled the
 men, thrusting their faces almost into our
 car; "Hooraay" shrieked the children, most piercing
 of all. I loved every minute of it so much
 I could hardly bear it. At Glencairn
 we waited some time, chatting to every body
 outside the house, & watching the celebrities
 - I mean the other celebrities!! - arrive.
 Lady Londonderry had been strictly forbidden by
 her lord to attend both functions, so she arrived
 independently in a small car with Col. Sanderson
 & was immediately surrounded by five
 men, all trying to take off her voluminous
 motor veil, & getting wound up in it. It was
 so nice! Sir Edward was on the lawn, chatting
 with the rest, & after a while, to my great

delight; - tho' I carefully refrained from looking at him! - he came up to me, & shook hands, & began to talk, drawing Wolf in too. He was so friendly & charming, & I was very tired when Mr Dawson Bates came & insisted on carrying me off to tea, because he wanted someone to lead the way. Terrible person! - Mrs Riverdale Walrond is just like someone in a book. She might have stepped out of an 18th century picture. She is very small & slight, with white hair, dressed high, & looking powdered; very much made-up, eyes, cheeks etc, & a black patch on her chin. She wore a remarkable 'confection' of orange chiffon ^{cropped up} over black, with a lot of military looking gold lace about it, a red white & blue ribbon round her neck, & fastening in a knot at her waist, & a very tall, black, steeple hat with a much taller orange feather flaring straight up on it!! She looked exactly like an eccentric fairy godmother, & was the cynosure of every eye, & entirely in her element. At 4, we all walked on to the field where the men were drawn up, with Col. Patterson, picturesque as usual, on a prancing horse, in command, & I had a place on the tiny - & most precarious - platform ~~at~~ from which Sir Edward addressed the men. They looked splendid, & were carrying

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rifles, for the first time, & you should have heard the roar of delight that went up when Sir Edward said "I think I recognise some of the Cargo of the 'Counting'!" Well, I both had the same thought: If only the splendid man, who brought us that cargo could be here, & get the thanks & honour he deserves.

There was a huge crowd on the field, & in spite of the efforts of the volunteer police to keep them back, they pressed all round the platform, thrusting up their hands to shake Sir Edward's, or get his autograph. I saw one burly fellow, in the uniform of a mounted R. I. C., scramble up, & hand Sir Edward a greasy little pocket book to sign his name in! After the ceremony was over, & the troops had advanced in review order, we motored back through the town, & down to Baluorail, & took our places in the seats reserved for us on the Central Stand.

The drive back was just the same as the drive there, but by far the greatest enthusiasm

Thursday 11th. was in the poorest streets. It was the first time the Young Citizen Volunteers have associated themselves publicly with the U.V.F., & they had a hearty welcome. They looked smart in their grey uniform, but, as a whole, their physique is very inferior to that of the U.V.F. The

Special Service force looked splendid, all in Khaki,
 but I wish they had decided on the caps Wolf chose
 for them. The ones they have are wretched. Two
 Suffragettes interrupted while Sir Edward was
 speaking, but I heard nothing but the roar of
 fury that went up from the crowd the moment
 they began. They were speedily disposed of.
 After I was over, I motored home with Col. McCann
 in one of the Motor Corps cars, Wolf following, &
 had just time to remove a certain amount of
 dust, before we went back to Glencarrig, or
 rather the house next door, Mr. Samuel Cunningham's,
 where we were invited to a sort of impromptu
 supper to meet Mr. Walrond who was staying
 there. This time we went in the humble
 train which was packed to overflowing, &
 had a mile to walk the other end. Such are the
 contrasts of life! The Lord Mayor was there,
 & old Sir William & Lady Crawford, & one or two others.
 I had a lot of talk with Mr. Walrond afterwards,
 & she said such delightful things about Wolf
 that I loved her! It was a case of love at first
 sight; did I mind? And more to that effect.
 She knew all about him long before she met
 him, & had the most unbounded admiration
 for his action in coming to Ulster. She seems
 to know any number of his old friends.

she says they have never forgotten him at the Staff College & the War Office, & often & often ask for him. Some months ago she wrote to Wolf & invited us both to stay at her week-end cottage at Abingdon, & now we have promised to let her know next time we are in England. Lord Alton is an old friend of hers, & she seems to know heaps of political & military celebrities.

I had a long talk with Mr. Cunningham, who is a typical Ulster business man, plain & hard-headed, & he was very interesting about the effect all this is having on men's lives over here. He said that 10 years ago he himself thought of nothing but money-making, & did not care twopence about his fellow-creatures but that now he goes to his office feeling that there is something more in life than money-making, & something more worth living & working for; & he told me various stories showing how it is taking men out of themselves, & teaching them to think for others.

Sunday we spent a very quiet day. Wolf went to the Cathedral, & in the afternoon we played croquet in between lashing rain-storms.

Monday I embarked on my long-deferred 'collecting' in the morning, with fair success. On the whole I found that the poorer people were the more they gave, not only comparatively but

actually! There was a meeting of the S. B. W. U. Local Executive Committee in the afternoon. We have got £300 to hand over to the Central Funds, retaining £85 for emergencies. So S. Belfast is quite pleased with itself.

Tuesday we had a very good practice in the Orange Hall under an English Red X nurse, & learnt to make temporary beds out of a sheet & a lot of straw, & other practical things.

At the end they presented our medals, & I was called up first, & congratulated on the fact that I had gained 100% in marks, which is the highest on record here! I am so delighted. Someone else told me on Saturday it was 98½, & I am inclined to believe that rather than the other, but W. is going to try & find out.

Wednesday, yesterday, I cycled over to M. Higgins & shot with her & Miss Murray, & then a G. Gage came to tea, & we played croquet after.

I got on better at the 100 yds., & made 36, getting 5 shots on the target, so I'm improving.

Wolf is pretty busy now, as Col. McCannion went away on Monday. But it's very much a time of waiting at present, & rather marking time.

I found the patch on my eye a great comfort when shooting.

Friday, June 19th. Last Friday, 12th, was a blazing day. I went up to the Literature Committee at the O.T. H., & in the morning, & paid a call in the afternoon.

Saturday, 13th. I went to Hillsborough in the afternoon to stay with Mr. & Mrs. Selater. He is Agent to Lord Downshire, & Chairman of the Unionist Council. They have a charming house just across the road from Lord D.'s place. It was a glorious day, & just delightful to get into the country, & be met by a comfortable motor! We sat in the garden after dinner, quite an unusual thing to do in these parts.

Sunday morning - glorious again - we went to church, & I was so interested to learn that the organist is Hamilton Hailey's father! Unluckily, he was away, & the schoolmaster attempted to play it with the most disastrous results imaginable. I believe it is a beautiful old 18th Century reed organ. A Mr. & Mrs. Fernie came to lunch. He is growing flax in that neighbourhood, & has invented a new method of "retting" the flax by means of some special bacterial culture, which method he is now testing, & keeps a dead secret. After tea, Mr. & Mrs. I went for a good walk through some beautiful woods, & over uplands that were alive with sedge & plover. The day before, we all 4 walked thro' Lord D.'s grounds. Such lovely gardens he has, a wild one by a stream in a forest, & a walled

x x went down to Downshire in the afternoon, to tea with Mr. & Mrs. Hailey. A girl, I believe, was staying with her a little time ago. So odd.
x x saw a little, the first time I've seen for ages. Mr. Hailey, who was there, told me he had discovered that Mrs. Hailey is a cousin of the Everes. Mr. Everes

garden where different coloured lupines all mixed together made a perfect feast of colours. It is an enormous house, & a tiny couple, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon, live here all alone! Such a waste.

On Monday morning, W. left early, & then Mr. Selate who was going in herself, took me in to Belfast in the car. It is such a pleasant home to stay in, & oh how one enjoys daintily furnished rooms, & pretty china etc. after the sort of way we have to live at present! Mr. Selate dropped me at the Orange Hall, where I was going to help prepare for a possible inspection this week, & there I found that our Detachment Doctor wanted to inspect us that very afternoon! I flew home, stopping to market on the way, as Mr. Selate was coming to lunch, & after lunch she very kindly drove me up to the Orange Hall again, & there we worked like niggers to get the place into some sort of order. It is the most unseparably dirty place I ever was in, but in half an hour my little "operating theatre" room looked very different, windows cleaned, floor swept, walls dusted, & everything arranged as best we could. The doctor was so pleased with it, but then he gave us a short lecture on his various instruments, showing us how to handle them, artery forceps etc.

The sermon got into his head that I was head
 nurse, & consequently explained everything to me, &
 as he is deaf I could not understand him, so I
 made the most of it, & was probably interested
 that I saw the whole picture & for he didn't
 a full picture for even a temporary observation
 the idea of him trying to clean the huge place was
 too absurd. The case taken, when surrounded on the
 subject, observed only that he never looks
 water to it. I'm glad to say I've persuaded
 there is authority by dint of much talk - that
 an array of showmen & absolutely necessary, &
 they were glad to make the note.

Tuesday was hotter than ever. I sat in the garden
 all morning, & in the afternoon went to be
 with the Governor. Dr George & Robt Richardson
 were there, & Robt O'Neil, & several others.
 I sang, & greatly enjoyed a performance
 accompanied, & to my surprise, was in very good
 voice; so I had some back at last. The
 Governor was full of her recent lessons from
 Ted, in London. They have made quite a
 difference in her singing.

Wednesday was the hottest day we've had.
 Family scattering. I went to lunch with
 Mrs Steg in, & afterwards the 21, & 3 other
 ladies, had a shorting match. I made top

1-5

at 50 yds.

score, much to my surprise, getting 76 out of a possible 100, ~~at 50 yds.~~ (0.4 bulls), & 3 bulls at 100 yds! They were still shooting at 100 yds. when I had to hurry off to go to a garden-party at Lady Cranford's, not very exciting.

After I got back & was enjoying a brief rest, a despatch rider arrived for W., & I had to go down & interview him, as his message was important. I didn't know where W. was, tho' I knew he was interviewing the General somewhere, so Mr. Davis just had to wait, & he waited nearly an hour, stoutly refusing to sit down because he was so dusty, & for the same reason declining all refreshment. I found him rather amusing, but was glad when W. finally turned up, about 8 o'clock. Col. Cameron looked in in the evening to see W., but did not stay.

Mon. June 22^d. Last Thursday 18th I went out collecting in to the O.T.H. in the morning to help the literature Committee, & in the afternoon went over to Carmichael to see the garden & demand flowers! These being Eva's orders. I had tea with Mr. Smythe & Sydney Bland - a cousin - & the latter picked me a most enormous amount of flowers, roses, iris, lupines, primies &c &c. Wolf turned up soon after I got back, with Mrs. Melville. I don't think I've mentioned her. She is a very distant connection of W.'s - yes I did tell you about her when we were at 29 at Whitcombade. She has been staying with Lord Charlemont in Co. Tyrone, & we ~~we~~ corresponded at intervals of a few days, for about 3 weeks, for she kept on postponing her departure - I think she made 6 false starts! - & kept me dangling, & never knowing what invitations I could accept. Finally she came here for dinner on her way thro' Belfast, & Wolf met her, & saw her off. She was quite possible, but neither of us yearned to be having her for the two nights we had originally asked her for!

Friday I shopped all the morning, & went out collecting in the afternoon. Oh! how I loathe doing that particular form of good deed. W. & I played croquet that evening till

nearly is orate. The days are so wonderfully
 long here. He was called up, after he
 had gone to bed that night, by Lt. Conchman
 who brought a cipher telegram to be interpreted.
 I think it was a long one.
 Saturday the weather was at last a bit warmer
 with sun. In the afternoon we went to
 Jackson to stay with the Prohams. She is
 a sister of "Uncle Pat's" - Pat Young.
 [Tuesday 23rd] Their car met me, I drove in the
 miles out to their family place, don't yield. The old
 father there was exactly like a stage father, had been
 in the family 35 years, I was artificial. Forging muston
 shops in Arkansas, I had the rather sleeping, telling water
 that always represents age on the stage. He is a
 yearful hybrid. The garden had been there 50 years;
 but in his people were there at tea, but none else
 was sleeping there. It cleared up after tea, I we
 went got a walk.
 Sunday was a lovely day. We walked to church
 in the morning, about a mile away, I sat out
 in the afternoon, I had tea out, then went to
 see the animals, I saw a rabbit. I saw a little
 in the evening, as much as I know by heart.
 At Graham's tea house, I have performed
 particularly to bring my mouse next time.

Mr Graham is so good looking, very much in Auntie Fluff's style, & I like her immensely, & him too. And I think they liked us, which is satisfactory. We left early next morning, going up with Mr Graham. After lunch I went to Mr Higgin's to shoot. It streamed at intervals all day, & we had some drenching showers while we shot, but we paid no attention to it. I shot better than I've done yet, & made top score at each distance - Mr Higgin, Mrs Murray, & Sue Yacoubay were the other shooters -; 73 at 25 yds., 70 at 50 yds. & 73 at 100 yds. It was the first time I've got all my shots on the target at 100 yds., & I made 4 bulls at that distance - 7 in all - , so I really was delighted. Mr Gage came to tea, but I didn't stay for croquet afterwards, as I wanted to get home to Wolf, who was leaving after dinner. He didn't a bit want to go away, but it was much better that he should.

Today I have had a fearfully busy morning; finished my collecting - except for 2 people, whom I cannot find at home - , then stamped & fastened up the 29 packets of prairie blots I am despatching for Mr Rivington, & then took them up to the O.T.H. (where they will go over to England with the regular packets tomorrow), & did a bit of shopping. I forgot to say that yesterday, as soon as I had

arrived home, I went up to the B. T. H., & spent nearly an hour collecting literature to send to these addresses. M. P. had given me, & addressed them when I came back.

It's ^{all} a very lengthy business, though you would not think so, till you came to do it.

I'm going into the Home late this afternoon for an operation.

It's rather a business putting everything in order at home, & getting all necessary letters written, & payments made, & planning ahead, & getting library books for oneself &c. &c. There seem such endless things to do somehow.

Wolf had a very long talk with Capt. Craig the other day, so now he knows as much as the Unionist party knows (a good deal more than some of them), but that is not saying very much. Except that next month will probably see decisive action of some sort.

I went in to a nursing home for an operation that afternoon, June 22nd.

July 16th

Now that I am back from the Home I think I may begin my diary again. Yesterday I got up soon after breakfast, & sat in the garden all the morning. Eva came to lunch, & Wolf got back for it too, & afterwards I took her for a 2 hours drive in a hickling, & we both enjoyed it immensely. It was a delicious day, tho' it rained a bit at first - mostly with the sun out - & I heard one growl of thunder, the first I've ever heard over here! We drove across the Dagan valley to the Giant's Ring, a collection of enormous stones, of druid origin I suppose, or earlier, standing in a huge amphitheatre of grass, quite imposing, & such pretty country. It was so nice to get right away from Belfast after all these weeks. Eva came back to tea, but left directly after, & then I had a rest till Wolf came back.

Today Wolf went off before 8 to meet his old friend Col. Knox, Military Attaché at St. Petersburg, who is passing thro' Belfast. He meant to try & bring him back to breakfast here, so I got up to breakfast for the joint time, but they never turned up, so I suppose Col. Knox had 'nt time, & Wolf probably breakfasted on board with him.

It is another lovely day, tho' there is a very high wind. We are having wonderful weather. ^{John} We're waiting now to hear whether Gen. & M^r Gough are coming on Tuesday next, & if for one, or

night or two. If they come, I am going to ask
 General & Lady Richardson, Capt. & Mrs. Craig to
 dine on Tues. night to meet them. I shall try
 & get a woman in to help Maggie wait, & then I
 think we can manage all right.

The clerk from the Post Office came for the third time
 to see me yesterday, & at last found me in. He
 was very polite, but assured me that I was
 entirely mistaken in supposing that either letters
 or parcels were ever opened by the P.O. It is
 absolutely & entirely against the rules, & any
 clerk detected in such a thing would instantly
 be dismissed. I did not pretend to be convinced,
 but of course it was useless to argue. I did,
 however, point out the interesting fact that
 since my remonstrance I have received 2 parcels
 absolutely intact & undamaged, the first time
 such a thing has happened for months past!
 He says that the things get damaged on the boats
 where they are all bundled anyhow into bags,
 having heavy packing cases on top of fragile
 things &c. No doubt that is so, but that some
 system of espionage is practised on certain
 people's correspondence both WOLF & I are absolutely
 convinced.

July 19th Sunday. On Friday I took my first stroll in the morning, & went out again in the afternoon for a little longer. Part of the day I occupied myself planning a menu for my little dinner party on Tuesday. General & M^{rs} Gough come to us that morning, for two nights, [Monday 20th] & it's astonishing the amount of planning that such a visit entails. What I should do without Wolf I simply can't imagine. He helps me plan the menus, does all the ordering, has inspirations for "furniture dances," & carries them out, & he even helped me make paper lampshades for the dining room. They are my first attempts at such things, & don't look half bad. I have a woman whom M^{rs} Macaulay told me of, coming in to help wait on Tuesday night. She is evidently very experienced, & has promised to come in early & help in the kitchen, & I feel she will be a tower of strength. On Wednesday M^{rs} & M^{rs} Silata (he's Chairman of the Unionist Councils, you know) are coming to lunch, & in the evening Jack comes to dine, & is going to take us to see some drilling. I believe Lady Helen Roberts is going round that evening too, so we may meet her. I asked Col. Patterson to dine too, but he has to go to England. I really think I'm very brave, but I feel very Martha-ish just

at present!

On Saturday I went "down town" with Wolf directly after breakfast, & we did some shopping, & then I came home. In the afternoon Jack came to tea, & just after he arrived we heard drums approaching, & by came a section of the West Belfast Regiment, with band, pipe band, Colours, & a Maxim, mounted on an outside car. We all flew to the gate, & they most obligingly halted exactly opposite us, so I got some snapshots. They were all carrying rifles, & the men of the Special Service Corps were of course in full uniform. Col. Patterson was in command, & came up to say how sorry he was he could not come to dinner on Wed. He is so ornamental on horseback, & was more like Lord Waller than ever! There were nearly 1000 men out. One of the Company Commanders came to beg for a drink, & then a lot of the men came & asked for water, so Jane & Maggie had a busy time, & enjoyed themselves hugely! Maggie is a staunch little Home Ruler, but Khaki is Khaki, & is irresistible! We had tea in sat in the garden after tea, & Jack stayed till nearly 7.

Sunday Wolf went to the Club after breakfast,

1. Then on to the Cathedral, & I washed my hair. This treatment I have to go on with takes up ^{over} 3 hours a day, ⁱⁿ an hour & a half in the morning, & the same in the evening, & makes it rather difficult to get much done in the day. I sat in the garden most of the afternoon, Wolf being busy in the house at first, but rain drove us in to tea, & later on he took me for a turn.

Today, Monday, is simply glorious, & I'm lying in the long chair on the lawn, thanking Heaven for a garden to sit in. Wolf is doing all the odds & ends of shopping today, besides ordering all the provisions for the next two days - from my list, of course. - There never was such a husband! I ought to be shooting at Mr. Higgin's today (~~I don't mean exactly that~~, ^{that sounds odd}, but you understand). But I'm saving up for tomorrow, so have refused. Wolf came in this morning shaking his head over the announcement of a Conference. I don't see how it can do any good. It is rather remarkable, on the face of it, that the Chief Secretary should not be included in a conference about Ireland, is not it? But of course he is an absolute cypher. If only Capt. Craig could have come to our dinner party, fresh from the conference, how exciting it would have been! However, we shall have his wife.

Wolf has misproned the dining room almost beyond recognition by removing the horrible Phoenician, a sort of American Regain affair, & an enormous oil painting, which he suddenly found he couldn't bear any longer, & misporting an grandfather clock. I don't think I've mentioned that we bought one from a dealer the other day. It has an inlaid mahogany case, & a delightful brass face, & is really very ornamental. There are two in the house already, besides a variety of other clocks, so we are rather overdone in that line!