

Journal of

Wm. J. Proudfoot

Continued.



Journal Cont.

October, 1859

Sat: 1 I have caught cold, a trouble to which I am more liable, since my return from Australia, than I formerly was. Remained at home A.M. - walked into town P.M., meeting my acquaintance "Boniface" (W.S.) Went into "Happy Land," where I sometimes go, to read the news - Went A.M.

Sun: 2 Photographing most of the day. I have partly succeeded, but cannot make a picture sufficiently complete to please me -

Mon: 3 Collecting rents - got all but nos. 4 & 6 Blythe St. I expected no success before starting - Called on Astick, plumber - Called also on Davies, and settled his account. After squar<sup>ing</sup> up my acct. I spent the rest of the day with Clay. Birds of a feather -

Tues: 4 Photog<sup>y</sup> - made one beauty of Fr. D. but spoiled it in the varnishing. In town, ev<sup>ing</sup> listening for some time to the religious squabbles in Stington old market -

Wed: 5 Called at Blythe St. for rents of nos. 4 & 6, but got within in the ev<sup>ing</sup>. it was the same - No. 2 was papered. With Lowe hunting up Clay - found him in Porter's, but he continued to give d. the slip - Had an ev<sup>ing</sup> stroll listening to the Stington Squabbles -

Thurs: 6 All day, photographing, but did no good - Ev<sup>ing</sup> strolled loafing among the religious disputants, as a listener only - I never interfere. It is amusing sometimes to hear the reasons which an individual will give for his belief, a particular theory. Occasionally however, a good observation is made

Frid: 7 Photog<sup>y</sup> A.M. - in town P.M. - Free Library, ev<sup>ing</sup>

Sat: 8 This morn<sup>ing</sup> got the rents of Nos. 4 & 6 B. St. - Found the plumber and painters at work. Called on Hoag respect<sup>ing</sup> a new pair of trousers - In town unable to find C. or get his bill - In the Free Home where I met Smoker & Davies with the Ev. Collectors - In town ev<sup>ing</sup> -

Sun: 9 Rectify<sup>ing</sup> my acct. A.M. I always like to see how the pros and cons tally - I am partly annoyed when I am short of money that I cannot account for - Photog<sup>y</sup> P.M. I expect<sup>ed</sup> a visit from Galt my tenant of 6 B. St. but he did not come -



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Mon: 10. Waited on Lark; and also Hoey who meas. me for a pair of trousers. Got mine collodion and spent the afternoon photog. -

Tues: 11 Rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M. Hiddleston say<sup>g</sup> that Ann is willing to come to L'pool - Her address is sent - In town w<sup>o</sup> -

Wed: 12. Photog<sup>y</sup> as usual to little purpose - nor would filtering do any good. If one defect is removed, another succeeds - I am sorely puzzled. Out w<sup>o</sup>. Got my new trousers from H. Polig dispart<sup>d</sup> as usual

Thurs: 13 Photog<sup>y</sup> a little; then cleaned the Camera, &c. Strolled out for a walk, P.M. and found Clay's shop locked up - Went to the Lib. and got Barrow's Africa, vol 1. This also seems full of humbuggery.

Frid: 14 Tried the Photog. but the pictures were miserably muddy. Into town P.M. looking out for frames - i.e. Mats & preservers - Attend<sup>d</sup> the Reliq. meetings, which were unusually noisy. The police took charge of two - I have frequently wondered why they did not interfere before -

Sat: 15 Tried photog. once more, but my attempts seem to get worse and worse - I shall therefore give it up for the present. Long into town P.M. met Mrs. Dodson, an old landlady, who invited me to tea on an early Sunday - Wrote and posted letters to Ann, and also to her Mother - M. H.

Sun: 16 Wed day - remained in perusing Haveland

Mon: 17 In my way into town this forenoon, I met Joe Hampton an old L'pool acquaintance, whom I had also seen in Australia - He is an outrageous Irishman, and begged a shilling of me which I know I will never get - In such trifling sums, I have lent pounds, which now are non est - And yet I never remember borrowing myself under similar circumstances. Purchased a quantity of Mats and preservers -

Tues: 18 This is my own real day - I fancy it would look quite a well to be in one of my own homes. Finish<sup>d</sup> and fix<sup>d</sup> photo<sup>s</sup> in frames

Wed: 19 Looked at the books on sale, Giffith's works - Shopping w<sup>o</sup> -

Thurs: 20 Securing the yard door with bolts, hanging window blinds, and making other arrangements both for security and comfort. In the w<sup>o</sup>. I attend<sup>d</sup> a sale in Whitechapel, but found it was a regular Mock Auction. At these auctions "Sweeteners", as they are called, keep bidding purposely to encourage the honest and unwary. I detected the rascality at once, but remained some time to watch how it got on - Considerable rain

Frid: 21 Letter fr. M. Hiddleston begging a little longer time for Ann. Made some further arrangements in the house. Ev<sup>o</sup> Snow

Sat: 22 Sudden change in the weather - The ground is covered



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with snow, and snow showers have been falling all day. What is not a little remarkable thunder followed in the evening. I remained inside all day till the ev. when I was compelled to go out shopping.

Sun: 23 Snowing all morn<sup>g</sup> - it is several inches deep. I was to have drunk tea with Mrs. D. but did not go. Per<sup>d</sup>. Paul's Epistle, &c.

Mon: 24 Early this morn<sup>g</sup>, just as I wakened, a smart knock came to the door which made me spring out of bed, but while drawing on my trousers, a sudden sickness came over me and I fainted. Recovering my senses I rose up with great difficulty, suffering from pain and bleeding profusely. My face was covered with blood, and more lay spread on the floor. Dressing, and reaching the door with my best ability I found Mrs. H. of No 2 Polythe Ch. with a letter to me from the insurance office, but more particularly to say the water-pipe was burst, and the scullery flooded. As soon as I was able I called and left word for Astick to attend to this at once. I was so feeble that I was glad to manage home again and get to bed, where I lay with scarcely power to eat a morsel of food.

Tues: 25 Still in a state of much distress, suffering from sick-fits all day. Besides I feel so feeble that my knee-joints will barely support me. Notwithstanding my condition, I ventured into town in the ev<sup>g</sup> to purchase a pair of new shoes, &c.

Wed: 26 Considerably better - Rec<sup>d</sup> a letter fr. Hamman observ<sup>g</sup> that the plumber had never been near the house, and that he (H.) will give it up if not attended to at once. I called on and took Astick to the house, which was truly in a mess. After doing what he could pro tem, I smuggled st. to heart's content in the hopes he would attend to the business.

Thurs: 27 Forenoon, very wet - afternoon, so so. out shop<sup>g</sup> in the ev<sup>g</sup>. I wandered into Lord. St. where I met Clay, who was in the humor to stand Sam, because he wanted his bill paid.

Frid: 28 Mat C. accord<sup>d</sup> to promise, in Baker's, and paid his bill. Fielding was there, and it ended in a jolly blow-out - Showery

Sat: 29 This morn<sup>g</sup> I looked over the press and lines of the past week. After dinner, laced again at B's Among another jolly bit, but did not remain very long

Sun: 30 Dined with Astick: I also spent the ev<sup>g</sup> with him - Dull, but good day

Mon: 31 This has been a stormy day, and I restricted myself within doors, till the ev<sup>g</sup> when I ventured a shopping

November, 1859

Tues: 1 Collect<sup>d</sup> rents - all but 4 R. St. - very showery

Wed: 2 Very wet all day - only out in the ev<sup>g</sup> shopping.



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Thurs: 3 Called on Astick respect<sup>s</sup> repairs to be attended to at Spike<sup>s</sup>.  
Rt. - afterwards I looked at the books to be sold this w<sup>o</sup>. at Thrifts. In  
the w<sup>o</sup> I attend<sup>d</sup> the sale, but made no purchases.

Frid: 4 Only out in the w<sup>o</sup>. shopping - purch<sup>d</sup>: a pair of drawers

Sat: 5. Called at 4 B. St. but got no rent. Took a stroll to the  
Steam-boat docks, to make some inquiries about the Piloth and a  
return ticket. On my way met S. Barnes, an old Amherstian, and  
mugged him for a little conversation. Return<sup>d</sup> home I purchased  
a pound of pork chops for dinner, and, as it happened on a previous  
occasion, at another shop however, the butcher was designed to play the  
rogue, by return<sup>d</sup> me sixpence less than my change. I was on the  
look out, and brought him to his senses. It is a practice with some  
dishonest shop-keepers to throw down change in a hurry, and turn  
to some other business leaving the customer to pick up his money and  
walk out. If the customer is thoughtless - he will sometimes find out  
afterwards that he is nine or ten minus in his change, or that he  
has a bad piece among it. I have found it not infrequently so.  
And, what is also a little curious, that a shop-keeper seldom or never  
cheats himself.

Sun: 6 Sried a few photog<sup>s</sup>. - Read Taylors Dieg: and drank tea  
at Mrs Dodson's. Her two sons and some grandchildren in company.

Mon: 7 The rent of No 4 still in abeyance - whether could I  
get any satisfaction - Wrote to Mr. H. respect<sup>s</sup> the day to meet in Damp<sup>n</sup>.  
I made some inquiries respect<sup>s</sup> the journey by rail.

Tues: 8 Having little else at present to amuse me, I tried the  
Camera this forenoon. - In the afternoon I took a round at the old  
second-hand book stalls. Met Cubbin & Woodcroft in No 4 St. C. had  
just been treat<sup>d</sup> W. to his dinner, and now insisted on mugging me. I  
had no great fancy for it - but it was only at the counter, and I was  
glad to find he himself was in a hurry. My Dapton Sq. associations  
are things of the past, and my position is now such that I have  
no desire to renew them.

Wed: 9 Photog<sup>s</sup>. A.M. the usual stroll P.M.

Thurs: 10 Photog<sup>s</sup>. A.M. In the afternoon I called on Kelly, and  
got measured for a new great coat, &c.

Frid: 11 Housekeep<sup>r</sup>. A.M. Into town P.M. Put £10 into bank,  
and purchas<sup>d</sup> a new stock of pho. chemicals - Read the News in Bakers - old

Sat: 12 I made another attempt at No 4 B. St. Instead of my  
rent I rec<sup>d</sup>. much sarcasm, and was actually told - "What, if you don't  
get it at all, like other people?" This quite confounded me, but I took  
it quietly, and waited at once on Newton, the so-called uncle and reference  
of Miss W. I rec<sup>d</sup>. no satisfaction, but Monday, I hope shall settle the matter.  
- Prep<sup>d</sup>. some chemicals.



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Sun: 13. Photos<sup>g</sup> but unsuccessful - A funeral directly oppo. my home.

Mon: 14. Called at No 4, and unexpectedly got the rent. The attitude I assumed before it has no doubt had its effect; the rent however, was paid with a great grudge, and a sulky savagery. If it had not been for the coming I was bent on mischief.

Tues: 15. Paid my own rent, which I always do with the greatest punctuality - Rec<sup>d</sup>. a letter from Mr. H. to say that Ann Cornwell come till the 30 - In the afternoon down town, purchased<sup>g</sup> Matts. &c.

Wed: 16. Wrote to Mr. H. that it would not suit me to be in Quincy on the 30th - In all day - I'm getting sick of house-keeping. Shop<sup>g</sup> w.

Thurs: 17. Writ<sup>g</sup> for Astick this morn<sup>g</sup> with his wife - Settled do. w.

Frid: 18. In all day - In the w<sup>g</sup> walked out to look for a paraffin lamp, which I intend to buy - being tired of Candle light.

Sat: 19. In all day - out in the w<sup>g</sup>. Shops very busy, as they always are on a Saturday w<sup>g</sup>.

Sun: 20. Letter for Mr. H. to say the 26th would answer.

Mon: 21. Answered to Mr. H. that I had concluded to be in Quincy on the 30th - Called on Kelly, who arrang<sup>g</sup> me down town. Met and bought H. Thomas in Peabody. He had got a letter from his son Edward. I purchased a paraffin lamp, oil, &c. I also purch<sup>g</sup> a new cap, and some other articles for my journey. In the w<sup>g</sup> try<sup>g</sup> on my new coat.

Tues: 22. Busy all day as a house-keeper - shopping w<sup>g</sup>. Unintentionally I pd the rent collect<sup>g</sup> a week in advance, and it afterwards struck me he, also, did not know - The amount pd, however, is regularly cut<sup>g</sup> in the rent book, and easily enough with honest people correct; but with design<sup>g</sup> knaves would beed a bother, however clear. It is difficult indeed, to get your own fun a stranger who has the whip hand.

Wed: 23. Attend<sup>g</sup> to house arrang<sup>g</sup>. Shop<sup>g</sup> w<sup>g</sup>.

Thurs: 24. Purch<sup>g</sup> a woollen shirt, &c for the journey -

Frid: 25. Further arrang<sup>g</sup> for the journey - Purch<sup>g</sup> an umbrella, got and pd my great coat - Study<sup>g</sup> a pastoral epistle to Clay, who I have sought for several days to no purpose. His shop is neglected, and himself nowhere - a what some people would call "under a cloud."

Sat: 26. Further arrang<sup>g</sup>. Shopping, w<sup>g</sup>.

Sun: 27. Finish<sup>g</sup> & wrote my epistle to Clay - Completed my home arrangements -

Mon: 28. Post<sup>g</sup> my epistle to Clay forney<sup>g</sup> it will be more successful in find<sup>g</sup> him than I have been - Made a few additional purchases for my journey, which I have decided on by sea - At the proper hour in the w<sup>g</sup> I started all alone for the boat lying in the Clarence Dock. Having no company, I went straight on board, and very soon to bed.



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Tues: 29 We sailed at midnight, and I rose as soon as it was light somewhat disagreeable, for the sea was rough - There was much sickness on board. Eventually the day turned out fine, if sharp, and we reached Lilloth at noon. Being now transferred to the boat for Dumfries I was landed there about 3 P.M. - I took up my abode at Mr. Lodi's, paid a visit to the new railway station, and called on my friend Jas. D. of Irish Street, spend<sup>d</sup> most of the eve<sup>n</sup> with him -

Wed: 30 I had an early visit from Tho<sup>s</sup>. Edgar, and while we were enjoy<sup>g</sup> our crack, Ann and her mother called. We entered into particular and settled about starting by the steamer to day - They then left to make some arrangements - I was very much disappoint<sup>d</sup> in the appearance of Ann - she had a wish a vacant look, and not a word to say; however I attributed some portion of it to the novelty of the situation she was in, trusting that a little encouragement would brighten her up. It was the market day, and I met with many of my acquaintances from Temple & Holywood, altho. I had little time to spare upwards of a dozen of us adjourned for a convivial repast, where I was introduced to Her, my brother's successor at Colleyhead. He visited me out to Colleyhead, and made several inquiries after Lorus, &c; but, believing as I did that he had used his efforts to get Jas. turned out of the farm I had no great relish for his favors - Johnston of the Knave was there, and on complimenting him on his green, old age - he very helpfully observed - "I hope I shall live to see you out." The reply was very characteristic of the man. I was compelled to leave the company to meet Ann and her mother at the King's arms - Welch, formerly of the Pine was with me to see us off. At half past one, Ann and I left Dumfries in the omnibus for Couheath, where we got aboard the Green, which, in its turn, conveyed us to the Lilloth, at Lilloth. We soon set sail, and a most delightful passage it was - The Lilloth moved as calm as on a lake. Besides Ann & myself there was only another cabin passenger, a provincial Merchant from Wigton, C. He was good social fellow, and we passed the greater part of voyage in conversation brightening up our ideas over a good glass of whiskey toddy. About 3 in the eve<sup>n</sup> the Lilloth was in L. pool; and engaging a coach right off, I was soon after in my own home in Paterson etc. The Coachman made a stiff charge, which I was inclined to dispute, but at length submitted to - Tea was prepared, and we went to bed -

December, 1859

Thurs: 1 Getting Ann to work, I set out to look after my rents, and got all but No 6 as usual, and a part of No 6. I find I have not been far wrong in my estimate of Ann, who seems exceedingly stupid. While cleaning the parlor window she broke a square of glass, and committed other faults. Her



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eye-sight is evidently not worth a damn.

Sund: 2 Got, and put in the Sq. of glass, and put up new blinds on my bed room window. In the ev. I went out to give A. a lesson in shopping, but I seem to fancy her more stupid than ever - one thing is certain, she is sadly near sighted - keen frost.

Sat: 3 Superintend. house matters - In the ev. gave A. a further lesson in shopping, and how to find her way from & back to Pat. St. I fear she will only be a bother at best.

Sun: 4 overhaul. the pros and cons

Mon: 5 I tried a photograph of Ann, the first I ever took from a sitting. Though not great rate, it is not the worst I have made. She simply being had out the least idea what I was doing, and on showing her the finish. picture, she asked with surprise - "judicake! are ye snatching pictures with me."

Tues: 6 Attend. Sale of furniture, Chatham St. but saw nothing to suit me. My house is yet very bare of furniture, particularly the parlor which contains nothing but boxes on the floor and the pictures on the walls. It is, in short, my office or studio. Met W. Dodson and nudged him in Hampton's - Painted the knocker of the door, &c.

Wed: 7 Morn. visit fr. Mr. H. 2 B. St. The water-pipe has bursted a second time. Gave notice to Alick, and then looked at a furniture sale in Harper St. where there was nothing my way. A. called, and I accompany him to Polythe St. The dwelling of No 2 was flooded, sure enough. By good luck, I got the rent of No. 4. after which I went down town - at home ev.

Thurs: 8 At home all day. Ann has committed herself in a manner which can only be accounted for in the supposition of a certain degree of insanity. While I was dusting the Camera, casing the slides, &c, she picked up the Camera cap, and began scrubbing it with brick dust to clean it - notwithstanding it was lacquered and shining beautifully. It was spoiled, before I detected her. The eyes that could not see that such a piece of shining metal did not want cleaning, must be deplorable indeed, but the wonder is she should have done such a thing without asking. I am afraid she is a hopeless case. In the ev. I went by herself she went out thro' ev. but found her way back, committing however a blunder at the very door - she mistook the house.

Frid: 9 Looked at W. & A. sale, and seeing nothing to induce me to stay went to Cornwall<sup>St</sup> about the water rents. I ascertained there would be no em- position this season which will fall heavy on me. Tried the Camera a few times - took a turn out in the ev. to see what furniture sales were advertised. I am particularly anxious to have my house furnished. Called in at Kelly's for some time.

Sat: 10 Called at 6 B. St for the bal. in arrear, but not yet prepared



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Took a walk into town, and attend<sup>d</sup> the Glacendon News room for the first time - It is only lately started, and still later since I heard of it. I do like cheap news-rooms, and shall be glad if it succeeds - I was out in the w.<sup>d</sup> and caught a severe cold.

Sun: 11 Suffering badly from the cold. In a scheming mood, however, all day.

Mon: 12 Attend<sup>d</sup> Mr. Allan's sale, Bennett St., and purchased a dresser, a wash-stand, and toilet table. After the sale, came home to dinner; and then returned, engaged a cart, and had my furniture removed to Paterson St. - Very damp day.

Tues: 13 Looked at sale St. Ann's St., - nothing my way. Various stalks - Rent-collector called during my absence, but on being reminded about the rent in advance, observed - "It's all right!" - so my beauty says. - Bitter cold day, inclin<sup>d</sup> to frost.

Wed: 14 Attend<sup>d</sup> T. & H.'s sale, Lime St., but made no purchases. In Parkie's, I learned that my friend Clay is in Limbo, and his shop is to let. The news does not take me by surprise; still it seems wonderful that a man in a good business, and possessed of a good share of common sense should run headlong to the devil. The man's parting of the whole lies unquestionably in some private intrigues - I am sorry for him - In the ev.<sup>d</sup> I went into town, and being a piece of bacon purchased it. When I got home I found a bad penny among the change. - Keen frost.

Thurs: 15 Very keen frost - Got additional coals laid in - water-pipe frozen - The spring of my watch broke - This spring was put in by Moore, London, over 14 years ago, for which time, if I remember right it was warranted. Took the watch to William's, or rather his successor -

Frid: 16 Frost remarkably severe this morn<sup>d</sup>. - the water-pipe is frozen solid - so is the water in the wash-stand jug. There has been a deal of running about among the neighbours for water.

Sat: 17 The jug, contain<sup>d</sup> the frozen water, has cracked in a curious manner, but not a single piece has fallen off. It was indeed with difficulty that I could separate the broken jug from the ice, which melted to produce water. - Went into town for my watch, which is to be ready on Wednesday. - Called in at Pat's and had something warm to drink. - Found Clay at his lodgings.

Sun: 18 Perusing Barrow's Travels - I have resumed my domestic duties into the China Embassy, which I hope to prosecute to completion.

Mon: 19 At Barrow - The ice on the Loos pits is 4 or 5 inches thick. - Attend<sup>d</sup> a sale in Boundary La.

Tues: 20 Frost seemingly severer than ever, but there are symptoms of a change, which cannot come a minute too soon. The want of water is causing great distress. I have hoarded our small supply till it has run out and left us in as bad a fix as some of our neighbours. After spending the most of the day at Barrow, I ventured into town, land<sup>d</sup> at Nygø.