

I love to examine the records of former days whether of a public or private nature: they instruct as well as amuse, for they bring us as it were in contact with our ancestors and give us an excellent view of the manners, customs, habits & thoughts of those who have gone before us we may therefore form some idea whether mankind has improved or deteriorated. I have frequently derived great pleasure from the perusal of an old memorandum book or diary; I intend therefore to keep a journal of passing events and altho' few circumstances may arise worthy of being recorded, from the dull monotonous life I at present lead, yet trifles may at some future period be remembered with pleasure. If I am blessed with old age

The Journal of DR. JOHN SIMPSON OF BRADFORD

1825

1825 Jan. 1st

My friend Dr. Orthwaite and I went up in the evening to Field-Hend to play a rubber at whist with Mr. Bates and to eat a barrel of oysters. I was not in good spirits therefore did not much enjoy myself and in coming home we got well wet. Mr. Bates is a very pleasant good hearted man and lives in a very good stile, keeps his carriage &c. Mr. Bates never had any family, they have therefore adopted a niece a very nice pretty girl. The report is that she is going to marry Mr. Pishworth the Banker. For some time past we have been busily engaged with the establishment of a public Dispensary at Bradford, an institution particularly wanted in this town where there is a population of about sixteen thousand people

Feb. 1st. I was to have gone this morning a coursing to Pool with Mr. Oates, Mr. Sharpe & Mr. Rishworth. Mr. Oates called for me at seven o'clock but as it was raining & as I had got a bad cold I declined going. I am particularly partial to a country life and rural sports & hate the bustle of a town, particularly the coarse, rude bustle of a manufacturing town. Nothing would delight me more than to be able to retire into the country where I might live & act independently without being molested by anyone, or subject to the cares & nonsense of the world.

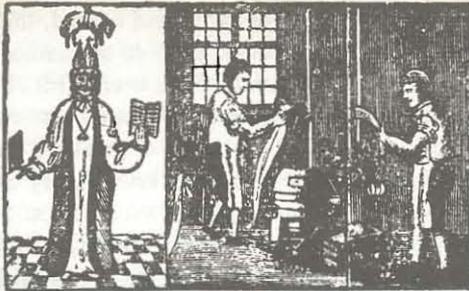
[...] I have always had an inclination to reside at Harrogate because there I might gratify my taste for a country life without interfering with the practice of my profession, which can be done in very few situations. From the celebrity of Harrogate as a watering place & from its proximity to Knaresbrough I consider it a most excellent situation for a Physician, at the same time it has all the advantages of a country residence. If I were there I should purchase a few acres of land on which I should build a neat small house with suitable out offices & surround them with proper shrubs & plantations. If there was only a small supply of water & two or three acres of ground I could make a most beautiful place of it. I have a small estate situated between Harrogate & Knaresbrough which I would take into my own management & indulge my taste for rural pursuits at the same time that I might improve the land and increase the income derived from it. I frequently think of removing there as I am certain I should feel much happier, neither do I suppose I should be a loser in point of professional remuneration. There is only one circumstance prevents me & that is the fear of offending my Uncle; if it were not for that I should not remain one more week in Bradford.

Feb. 2nd. Tomorrow is the day on which is celebrated the septennial festival of Bishop Blaise.¹⁶ For the last two months preparations have been making for it by the different individuals connected with the trade of the place. It has been much talked of lately & noticed in the newspapers, so that we may expect a great influx of strangers, indeed great numbers have arrived already. I wrote to my Sister to permit her eldest son to come over, as I thought it would be a sight calculated to please children, but she thought him too young so begged I would excuse him. I expect however Mr. John Teesdale from Halifax. I hope the day will be favourable, but I very much doubt it as it has been blowing all the day a tremendous gale of wind attended with heavy rain. I had to walk up to Bolling Hall in the morning and in coming back got well wet. I called to see the pretty little Miss Heineken¹⁷ who lives at Bolling Hall. She has been threatened twice with consumption & I have arrested it each time. She is now quite well, but keeps the house during the winter. Miss H. is a very intimate friend of Miss Oates and she told me today as a secret that, she should not be very much surprised if the match between Miss Oates & Rishworth was broke off, for she thought the latter was a great flirt. Miss Heineken is a sensible & amiable girl. She cultivates her mind as much as possible, in which she is greatly assisted by her father who is a man of great literary attainments. She has very few of the fooleries of her sex, but is quite a rational being, at least as much so as a female can be. She finds great fault at my being fond of hunting and shooting & says they are only amusements for barbarians.

Feb. 3rd. The wind has been blowing most tremendously all night attended with snow and rain. I looked out of my chamber window about five o'clock. It was then very cloudy & raining. I returned to bed & fell asleep. About 8 o'clock I awoke. The morning was beautiful. The wind had ceased, the clouds had dispersed & the sun was shining most beautifully. It seemed as if the weather had taken up purposely for the celebration of the Blaise. Mr. Teesdale came about 9 o'clock. The different members of the cavalcade were repairing from their respective mustering places attended by bands of music to the grand parade which was in Westgate. Mr. Teesdale & I went into Darley Street to Mr. Lister's to see the procession pass. They moved from Westgate at 10 down Kirkgate, then came up Darley Street & from thence into Rawson Place. The sight was most beautiful & I had not the least idea that it would be so interesting and imposing.

A Herald came first supported by two constables. Then a band of music. Afterwards the Woolstaplers on horseback riding on fleeces ornamented with sashes. Then the Spinners on horseback, with sashes & slivers of wool, blue coats & white stuff waistcoats: their horses covered with white worsted nets. Next a band of music & the Masters' Sons & Apprentices on horseback most gaily dressed in scarlet stuff coats, white waistcoats, blue pantaloons, blue sashes & most beautiful caps ornamented with ostrich feathers, artificial flowers, gold chains, beads & various other trinkets. Several of these caps cost ten or fifteen pounds and some it was said even thirty. Next came the Merchants on horseback; blue coats, white stuff waistcoats & crimson sashes. Music. King & Queen with Guards on horseback with drawn swords: the horses of their Majesties led each by two grooms richly dressed. Then Jason & Medea with Guards likewise on horseback and grooms. Afterwards came Bishop Blaise with Mace-bearer, Chaplain, and Guards as before; the horses of the Bishop & Chaplain led by grooms. Next the Shepherd & Shepherdess, surrounded by a troop of Shepherd Swains, all beautifully dressed in green jackets, white trousers & ornamental caps. The horse of the Shepherdess was led by grooms & she supported a fine lamb on a fleece. The Swains on horseback carrying crooks. Then came the Combmakers on horseback with combs & rams' heads with gilt horns. A band of music & Wool-Sorters on horseback with red & white slivers & ornamental caps. The charcoal-burners on horseback. Afterwards Wool-Combers on foot, ornamented dresses, wool wigs and caps. Another band of music. Master Diers on horseback with sashes & coloured slivers, their horses covered with coloured nets. Diers on foot with coloured sashes, slivers & caps. There were several flags carried in the procession with appropriate devices.

After seeing the procession in Darley Street I went to Miss Preston's in Kirkgate. I there heard Mr John Rand¹⁸ speak the speech when the procession passed. I went afterwards to Mr. Fawcett's to see the men take refreshment at the Holme. There was beef and ham for them also about a hundred gallons of punch. Some of them got very tipsy. The crowd in Bradford was immense for people came from all parts of the country & in all kinds of conveyances. The windows of those houses situated where the procession had to pass were all filled. Our windows were filled. We had Mr. Field & his two daughters, Mr. Rawson¹⁹ the Lord of the Manor & Miss Eliza Rawson, Mr. & Mrs. John



*May the Trade of the Staple flourish around,
And Britain with Commerce for ever abound,
May Combers act firmly in union and love,
Be guided in justice with truth from above.*



*As friendship, love, and unity,
Compose the bond of peace,
In them may our community,
Join hands and thus recreate.*

**THE ORIGINAL AND CORRECT
SPEECH,**

TO BE SPOKEN AT THE

GRAND SEPTENNIAL FESTIVAL

At Bradford,

On THURSDAY, February 3rd, 1825,

IN COMMEMORATION OF

BISHOP BLASE,

With the Order of Procession, &c.

THE SPEECH.

HAIL to the Day, whose kind auspicious rays,
Deign'd first to smile on famous Bishop Blase!
To the great Author of our Combing Trade,
This day's devoted, and due honour paid,
To him whose fame thro' Britain's Isle resounds,
To him whose goodness to the poor abounds;
Long shall his name in British annals shine,
And grateful Ages offer at his Shrine!
By this our Trade are thousands daily fed,
In various forms our trade its work imparts,
In different methods, and by different arts,
Preserves from starving, indigents distress'd,
As Combers, Spinners, Weavers, and the rest,
We boast no gems, or costly garments vain,
Borrow'd from India, or the coast of Spain;
Our native soil with Wool our trade supplies,
While foreign countries envy us the prize,
No foreign broil our common good annoys,
Our country's product all our arts employ;
Our fleecy flocks abound in every vale,
Our bleating lambs proclaim the joyful tale,
Solet not Spain with us attempt to vie,
Nor India's wealth pretend to soar so high;
Nor Jason pride him in his Colchian spoil,
By hardships gain'd, and enterprising toil,
Since Britons all with ease attain the prize,
And every hill resounds with golden cries,
To celebrate our Founder's great renown
Our Shepherd and our Shepherds we crown;
For England's Commerce, and for George's sway,
Each loyal Subject give a loud HUZZA.

HUZZA!

S. BLACKBURN, PRINTER

PROCESSION.

Herald bearing a Flag.
Woolstaplers, on Horseback, each horse caparisoned
with a Fleece
Worsted Spinners and Manufacturers on Horseback
in White Stuff Waistcoats, with each a Silver over
the Shoulder, and a white Stuff Sash; the horses
Necks covered with Nets made of thick Yarn.
Merchants on Horseback, with coloured Sashes.
Three Guards, Masters' Colours. Three Guards,
Apprentices and Masters' Sons, on Horseback, with
ornamented Caps, Scarlet Stuff Coats, faced with
Bright Mazarine blue, white Stuff Waistcoats,
and blue Pantaloons.
Band.
Mace-bearer, on Foot.
Six Guards. King, Queen, Six Guards.
Shepherd and Shepherdess.
Shepherd's Swains.
Guards, Jason, Princess Medea, Guards,
Woolsoners, on Horseback, with ornamented Caps,
and various coloured Silvers
Bishop's Chaplain
Bishop.
Comb-Makers.
Charcoal Burner.
Cowbarns' Colours.
Woolcombers, with Wool Wigs, &c.
The Procession to be formed in Westgate, process
down Kirkgate to the bottom of Darley Street, up
that Street and Rawson's Place, round by Manor
Row down Skinner-Lane, then along Well-street and
High-street to Mr. Garnett's Mill, return to Vicarage,
along Vicar-Lane, up to Mr. Duffield's, return down
Bridge-Street, on Tyrryl-Street, to Manville, and
back to the Holme, there to partake of Refreshment,
then to Little-Horton down Bowling-Lane, on
Tyrryl-Street, and Market-Street up Kirkgate
own Ivegate, to the gun-Inn, and there to dismiss.

WESTGATE, BRADFORD.

Horsefall, Miss Cooper of Bingley, Miss Lister of Morton etc. etc. There was a public dinner at the Courthouse in the evening. I was to have been there, but as Mr. Teesdale was with me I declined dining at it. All passed off very well.

Feb. 4th. The Town still in motion and very full. Mr. Teesdale and I went this evening to the Blaise Ball. There was a very full attendance being about one hundred & forty. Nothing particularly interesting occurred. I only danced one quadrille for there was such a dust arose from the chalked floor²⁰ that I could not breathe. The company was very mixed, but all went off well. There was such a dust from the chalk that we were all coughing & sneezing during the whole of the evening. I got to bed about 3 in the morning.

Feb. 5th. The town still busy. I was to have dined with the Stewards of the Blaise dinner & ball but was prevented. I went in the evening to them & found them very merry. There was also Dr. Outhwaite & Mr. Rishworth. I supped off a Baron of Beef which was cooked for the public dinner. It weighed 187 pounds. I afterwards took some tea and then went home leaving a party playing at whist. We have long felt at Bradford the want of public rooms. We have no regular assembly rooms, a very bad news-room, a wretched room for the public library²¹ & no decent billiard room. A paper was drawn up by Outhwaite & brought forward the night of the ball, proposing to build a set of public rooms by subscription in shares of £25, each person taking what shares he thought proper. The thing was well received & twenty four names were got in the room. Today Outhwaite produced the paper & the names already down amount to thirty six. The plan seems to be well liked & there is little doubt but sufficient names will be got to carry the thing into effect. It is supposed the money wanted will be about four thousand pounds.²²

Feb. 6th. I was prevented going to church today & also not able to dine at Heaton where I was expected. I went in the afternoon to see Field who has got a very bad cold, as have also the young ladies & Mrs. Field. I took tea there & then came back, being engaged.

Feb. 7th. I and my groom Paul went this morning to a fair at Adwalton to look out for a horse but there was nothing worth looking at. The day exceptionally cold & unpleasant. In this part of the country decent horses are very scarce so that it is a matter of great difficulty to procure one. I almost regret having sold my own; at any rate if I had known that I should have had such trouble in procuring another I should have bought one before I had sold.

I dined today at Mr. Rishworth's of Boldshay. There was a large party: Col. Bennet, Col. Skelton,²³ Mr. Oates, Mr. Paley, Capt. Priestley,²³ Dr. Outhwaite, Mr. Mann, Mr. M. Horsefall, Mr. Jos. Pollard,²⁴ Mr. Moulden, Mr. Sharpe. We had a good dinner & a very pleasant party. Dr. Outhwaite got too much wine & as usual made a great fool of himself. Outhwaite has no command over himself, but indulges in his favourite propensity to jokes & satire; but his jokes & his anecdotes are perfectly disgusting, they are so abominably filthy & indelicate: he certainly disgusted everyone present. I fully intend at some convenient season to lecture him on his conduct & warn him from taking too much wine. After coffee we sat down to cards. I played at loo & won ten shillings. Outhwaite won six or seven guineas. We did not get home until four o'clock.

Feb. 8th. I was this evening at a large rout at Mr. Whitehead's to meet Mr. & Mrs. Martin. The party was a very stupid one. I played four rubbers at whist