Diary of Mary Ursula Crowther
22 June to 5 December 1885
Alexander Turnbull Library Reference MSX-4114

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22 June 1885 Monday

This is my sixteenth birthday. It is a lovely day but a little cold. We have been for a walk to George Street. We are going to have a dance tonight in honor of my birthday I suppose, but I should rather go into the sittingroom for dancing is rather hard work, as I do not know much about it. I got four cards, one from Ismene, one from Winnie and two from the little Kemps. Mrs Pharazyn & Miss Annie are going to sail for Nelson at 10 tonight. We shall miss them very much for they will be away about a month. Winnie came back from Mrs Stowe's where she stayed since Friday. I have been very quiet without her. Ethel is rather in disgrace with most of the girls. I scarcely know how to treat her. I must leave off writing now for the girls are going to clear up for the dance. We have had a very pleasant…

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23 June 1885 Tuesday

I got up at 6 o'clock this morning but it was very cold & I should have liked to stay in bed longer but I suppose that it is better for me to have to get up or I should be very lazy. I received a lovely card from Aunt Emma and one from Belle McCulloch. We have had our drawing lesson today. I am painting or trying to paint an old ruin in cepier. While we were having tea this evening Fritz Kemp sang a song. He sings very prettily for such a little fellow. Miss Ellen has gone out tonight so we are going into the sitting room & Miss Kirk will read for us. I have not learned all my lessons tonight so I must stop writing now and go at them properly.

24 June 1885 Wednesday

It has been very cold here today. I got up at 25 to 6 and practised an hour. May, Grace and I went to Mr Patterson's bible class. I like the class very well, but I should rather go to Mr Still's. Nearly all the girls have gone to Church tonight & I am very sorry to…

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…stay at home but I have to finish a composition. This is the first time that I have missed going this year. Mr Still is so nice.

25 June 1885 Thursday

I got up at half past six this morning and practised in the sitting room. Just as we were starting for our walk we saw the funeral of a little boy called Seade who was accidentally shot by B. Fred Vennell last Tuesday. There were a great many people, 9 cabs and about 126 men and boys. It seames so sad, for the little fellow was only 13 years old. We went up Aurora Terrace and down over the bridge onto the Terrace. I learned and said my poetry before dark and then Miss Kirk, Ethel, May and I had a talk over the fire. Dr Hector is going to lecture on the sun next Monday and Miss Ellen has offered to take any of us who wish to go. I intend to go, for there will be an eclipse of the sun in September, and I know so little about it. Poor Lilly has just been struggling through her…

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…poetry and is very much disgusted at having one mistake. I am looking forward to the opening of the Exhibition, for I expect that Auntie and perhaps Uncle will come down. If Auntie comes down I hope that her visit will be in the holiday and then I shall be able to stay in town part of the time. Ethel has gone to ask if we may go into the sitting room and read some of "Old New Zealand" a book which we four elders are allowed to read.

26 June 1885 Friday
I got up this morning at ½ past 5 in rather bad temper, but I soon recovered myself. We did not go for a walk this afternoon for it was too wet. We have had a great romp since tea, in fact it is not over yet. We are going into the sitting room at ½ past 7 or 8. Miss Ellen is reading "The Talisman" aloude, I like the book very much. I should like to go to the Rowdon's tomorrow but I do not know if Miss Ellen will let me. Kate is staying at Foxton, I miss her very…

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…much when I go to Able Smith street, for Edith is very quiet. Fred Rowdon is very anxious to go onto a Station and whenever I am there they generally have a discution about it. I think that if he carries out his intention he will be very foolish but I must not write such nonsense and especially as it is not my affair and I certainly am not very much interested. I must leave off writing now and learn my lessons.

27 June 1885 Saturday
I have been to the gymnasium this morning. It is great fun. M de Mey is very jolly.

28 June 1885 Sunday – 4th after Trinity
The day is very lovely and not at all cold. We went to church and had a very nice sermon from Archdeacon Stock. All Mrs Pharazyn's class came into Miss Ellen's. Mr Still preached a very nice sermon in the evening. We went to a lecture on the sun by Dr Hector last evening. The lecture was very interesting.

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29 June 1885 Monday
I got up at ½ past 5 this morning. It was not at all cold and the moon was shining very brightly. Grace and I went into town in the dinner hour and got back about 10 past 1 p.m. After school we went up to the "Gardens" and had a heir and hound chase. I learned my dictation and watched the hounds. We got home at 5 p.m.

30 June 1885 Tuesday
It has been very cold today, with a rather hard wind from the south. M.. Stowe did not come down as she had a bad cold, as we are going to have our drawing on Friday instead. We went to the top of the Terrace for a walk, but did not have any adventures. We are going into the sitting room this evening, that is, if Miss Ellen does not forget about it for she is correcting Ismene's latin exercises.

01 July 1885 Wednesday
We had an escape from fire last night about half past one a.m. Ethel called me and said that there was a fire at Gear's. She…

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…then went round and woke the other girls and Miss Ellen who told us to get up, dress and pack our boxes. Marion Pharazyn carried all her most valuable things down stairs and Ismene and Miss Kirk took theirs over the way in a blanket. But our precautions were not needed for the fire was soon got under and we went to bed again. Mr Still came down in the afternoon to see if anything had happened to any of us. We went to bible class in the afternoon, that is Grace, May and I. Mr Patterson spoke to me about joining the Scotch Church and I scarcely know what to say, for of course I do not intend to join. Not any of the girls went to Church this evening so we did not have our quiet hour as usual, but as Lillie and I were learning our history, Miss Ellen came out and told us to go into the sitting room. I received a letter from Belle McCulloch last night in which she told me that Kate Rowdon has returned to Wellington.

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02 July 1885 Thursday
We have had a lovely day here. The girls who do not learn dancing went into town for a walk. We went over to see Mrs Kemp's dress which she wore to the ball at "Government House". The dress was black lace and satin. Miss Lowe was drest in white, she looked very nice, Miss Ellen went, but in the same dress she wore last year.

03 July 1885 Friday
This has been the most miserable evening that I have spent this year and it has been all my own fault. I do not think that I shall ever learn common sense, for after tonight I shall give up all hope. I might have been agreeable had it not been for my stupidness. We had our drawing lesson this afternoon, I did not waste as much time as usual. I have had four turned lessons this week and my marks have been very bad all the term. I am sure that I shall go down instead of…
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…up this year. I would give anything if I could only come back for another year, but I suppose that it is impossible.

04 July 1885 Saturday
I went to M. de Mey's class this morning. There were three new girls. We had a few new exercises, one of which was swinging in the rings. In the afternoon I went to Mr Rowdon's. I started off in a great hurry for there was a fancy dress football match in the Mewton Park and I thought that perhaps some of the Rowdons would go. I was however disappointed for although Edith had an opportunity of going she did not go and from what I heard about it I am not very sorry. I came home in the train and then went into the sitting room and Miss Ellen read out of "The Talisman" until past 9 o'clock. Kate Rowdon is at home again. She told me that Auntie and perhaps Uncle are coming to the Exhibition so I shall have a very pleasant time.
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05 July 1885 Sunday – 5th after Trinity
The day was very damp and miserable. We went to Church in the morning and again in the evening. Mr Still's sermons were very interesting, both times. We had a little singing after Church and went to bed about ¼ to 10 p.m.

06 July 1885 Monday
I got up at ½ past 5 and practised for half an hour. Mrs Twiss gave me a new page of my piece and I do not half know the other part and she actually wants me to keep up all the things which I learned last term. We went for a walk to Tinakora Road, but it was very damp and disagreeable.

07 July 1885 Tuesday
We had our drawing lesson this afternoon. It nearly finished my old ruin. Ena and I had a squabble over an atlas before tea and now nearly all the girls are in towering passions over "Epochs of English History". We are going into the sitting room at a quarter to 8.
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08 July 1885 Wednesday
We had a very wet day so we were not able to go to bible class, but it cleared up in the evening and we went to Church. Mr Still preached a very interesting sermon on the "Book of Job". I corrected my French exercises when we came home and I actually did not get one encore. We were going to have a dance in the afternoon, but Ismene and Ena had a sham fight instead.

09 July 1885 Thursday
Another wet day. We are having quite a rest from walks. We are going into the sitting room to hear some more of "The Talisman."

10 July 1885 Friday
I got up at half past five this morning. It was raining and rather cold. We went for a walk into town in the afternoon and some of the girls went to bible class. We have a deadpan composition on "The Envasion of England". I do not know how I shall get through it.
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11 July 1885 Saturday
We went to M. de Mey's class in the morning. There was one new girl and we had several new exercises. I get on a little better than I did the first time. I went to Kaiwara in the afternoon. The Storey's were all well and also Mrs Cameron. I spent a very pleasant afternoon and came home in the 15 to 7 train. G. S. came home with me. I did not half like it but there was no way to get out of it, for I could not come alone of course. I suppose Miss Ellen would give me a lecture half a mile long if she knew. The other girls went round the rocks for a walk and had buns etc. Fannie Anderson came to see Miss Ellen but we had just gone off to our class, so we did not see her.

12 July 1885 Sunday – 6th after Trinity
We had a lovely day only rather cold. We went to Church both morning and evening. The Bishop preached a very sermon in the morning and Mr Still a still…
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…nicer one in the evening. We all went into Miss Ellen's bible class.

13 July 1885 Monday
We went for a walk to the G.F.S. Lodge in Willis Street and tried to catch a little bird with a broken wing on the Terrace. We had a concert in the school room just before 9 o'clock on panio and (violin).

14 July 1885 Tuesday
This has been a very wet cold day. Father came to see me for about three minutes. We had our drawing lesson in the afternoon. I must do my composition now, for I ought to have done it on Saturday and it is sitting room night so I must put my diary away.

15 July 1885 Wednesday
We had a very fine day and a half holiday as it was the half term. I nearly finished my composition, wrote a letter home and then May, Grace and I went to bible class. We went to Church in the evening and…
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…Mr Still preached a very nice sermon on the 6th verse of the 6th chap of Romans and explained the whole of the Epistle for the Sunday before (6th Sunday after Trinity) which we learned.

16 July 1885 Thursday
It has been a fine day here, but very cold. May, Grace, Alice and I went into town for a walk with Miss Kirk and the other girls had their dancing lesson. I learned my poetry in the sitting room said it to Miss Kirk and had a mistake. Ethel heard of the death of one of her Aunts yesterday and she has not got over it yet.

17 July 1885 Friday
I got up at ½ past 5. It was very cold. In the afternoon Miss Kirk and I went for a walk to Mr R. Johnson's.

18 July 1885 Saturday
In the morning Ena and I went and had our hair cut and then to the gymnasium class. In the afternoon we went to Kaori with Miss Ellen and Mrs Kemp. We started at…
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…20 past 2 and arrived at Mr Davise's about half past 3. On the way Mrs Kemp told us about a supper which she went to see at the Bluecoat School. When we arrived at Mr Davise's – which is about a mile beyond the Church – we sat in the garden and had buns and milk. We started off home at 6 p.m. after a very pleasant afternoon. After tea we went into the sitting room and had a few chapters of "The Talisman".

19 July 1885 Sunday – 7th after Trinity
The day was very misty and cold, in fact the gass was lighted at Church in the morning. Mr Still preached a very nice sermon taking for his text St Mark VIII II verse. We learned the last seven verses of the VIII chapter of Romans in the afternoon. In the evening Mr Still preached again, on the 6th verse of the 6th chapter of Romans. I shall miss going to Church when I go home more than anything else. After Church we had a few hymns and went to bed.
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20 July 1885 Monday
We have had a lovely day. We went for our walk along Pipitea and home along Molesworth and Sydney streets. Ismene has gone out to "Merry Thoughts". I must admit that should have liked to be in her place. Miss Ellen has gone to "The Home".

21 July 1885 Tuesday
We had drawing in the afternoon and Winnie came in for the first time. In the evening we went into the sitting room and Miss Ellen finished "The Talisman".

22 July 1885 Wednesday
We had a lovely day. Miss Annie and Mrs Pharazyn returned from Nelson where they have been staying for some time. In the afternoon May, Grace and I went to bible class. I did not go to Church in the evening but next Wednesday the oritoria of "St Paul" will be sung and at St Paul's so I suppose that we shall all go.
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23 July 1885 Thursday
As it was dancing afternoon and there were only a few girls to go for a walk, so as we were passing the Roman Catholic Church Miss Kirk said that we might go in if the Church was open. I have never seen one before and I do not think that I shall ever wish to into that one again.

24 July 1885 Friday
I did not go for a walk as Mrs Stowe gave us a drawing lesson. We had a compo on "The Retreat of the Ten Thousand" not bad after the last one.

25 July 1885 Saturday
I did not go to M de Mey's class for my hands are so bad with chillblains. Father came to see me in the afternoon. We went to the reservoir for a bun walk. It is the first time that I have been there and although it is not nearly so pretty as the Wainui-o-mata reservoir still it was very pretty. We got home about half past four and went into the sitting room in the evening when Miss Ellen…
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began a new story called “Mother Molly” which is very interesting.

26 July 1885 – 8th Sunday after Trinity
We had a lovely evening, but it was rather wet in the morning. We went to Church however and had a very nice sermon from Archdeacon Stock. We learned the epistle for the day and had bible class in the sitting room. It was so nice to have only a few again. We went to Church again in the evening.

27 July 1885 Monday
We went for a walk over Aurora Terrace and down Bowdon street. All the little girls went to Mrs Stowe’s as it was Sylvia’s birthday and came home about 10 p.m. Marion and Nora went to “Government House”.

28 July 1885 Tuesday
We had drawing. I finished my composition and we went into the sitting room. Miss Ellen went on with “Mother Molly”. I think that we shall finish it next time.
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29 July 1885 Wednesday
We did not go to bible class as it was wet. We went to the oratorio “St Paul” at St Paul’s. I liked it very much. Miss Williams sang the solos but she has not a very good voice. We got home about half past 10 p.m.

30 July 1885 Thursday
We went to Tinakora Road for a walk and learned the end of “Wordsworth’s Highland Girl.”

31 July 1885 Friday
As it was wet we did not go for a walk, but it cleared up in time for the other girls to go to bible class. After tea we finished our lessons and then cleared up the sitting room for a dance, but we did not dance much for were were table turning. Marion was the most successful in making the table dance. Nora, however, made it kick and it broke its leg off. The table told Miss Annie’s age exactly and also several others which we asked it. I tried by myself but it would not move so I supposed that I have no electricity.
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01 August 1885 Saturday
I got up just in time for prayers and practised after breakfast for I have given up M de Mey’s class as I have such bad chilblains on my hands. About 11 o’clock I went into town with Miss Ellen. After dinner I went with Mrs Pharazyn, Mary, Mrs Kemp and Ethel to the opening of the Exhibition. We got there about 20 to 2 p.m. but were unable to get into the concert room which was crowded so we went to one side to see the governer come in. At last he arrived and had almost to force his way through the crowd, as we could not hear the singing we started to go round the Exhibition and so avoided the crowd which was in the concert room. We watched the governor come out again and then went into the picture gallery… Monsieur et Madame Stowe, Les tableaux sont plus beaux, ces de M. Gulley et M. Gibb. We came away about 5 o’clock and had reading in the school room where Miss Ellen nearly finished “Mother Molley.”
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02 August 1885 Sunday – 9th after Trinity
We went to Church in the morning but not in the evening as it was wet. We learned the “Collect and part of the Epistle” in the afternoon and had bible class. We had some singing in the evening until nearly 10 o’clock.

03 August 1885 Monday
We had a very cold day with a strong wind. Some of us went up the Terrace and then round by "Young's School. May and Grace went into town, Ethel and Marion went out together.

04 August 1885 Tuesday
We had drawing in the afternoon and reading aloud in the school room when Miss Kirk finished "Mother Molly" and read a few other short stories.

05 August 1885 Wednesday
Grace, May and I went to bible class in the afternoon. Mrs Patterson gave us a new subject to find references of. The prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. In the evening we all went to the Exhibition.
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There was a promenade concert so we went into the concert room for a little while and then walked about in the picture gallery etc. Mr Gardener sang several songs. He has a very good voice. Mr Greenwood (no relation of Miss Ellen's) also sang, but I did like his voice much. I nearly had the great misfortuner to knock a wedding cake over. We stayed until the bell rang about 10 p.m. and then went home.

06 August 1885 Thursday
We went to the Exhibition in the evening to hear the "Elijah". I enjoyed it very much. Mr Gardener took the part of Elijah and sang very well. The oratorio began at half past 7 and we got home about half past 10 p.m.

07 August 1885 Friday
We had rather a miserable day. May, Grace and I went with Miss Kirk to tell Miss Ellen's G.F.S. girls about a meeting next week at St Peter's Church. We had a compo on "The Life of Epaminondas."
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08 August 1885 Saturday
In the afternoon I went to Able Smith St. But I did not stay there long because Miss Ellen said that we might go to the Exhibition but she could not get anyone to take us. I was rather disappointed for the Omaru band played all the evening. Winnie went with the little Kemps. We went into the sitting room and Miss Ellen read a few chapters of "We and the World."

09 August 1885 Sunday – 10th after Trinity
We had a lovely day. In the afternoon we learned part of the Epistle for the day and had bible class in the sitting room. We went to Church again and Mr Still preached a very nice sermon.

10 August 1885 Monday
Another lovely day. We went into the B Gardens but Miss Kirk was in a fearful rage and would not let us go anywhere we wanted.
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11 August 1885 Tuesday
We had another lovely day. Mr Stowe gave us a drawing lesson in the afternoon. There was a military funeral at which the Omarau band played. The funeral was a small one, but it is the first of the kind that I have ever seen. We went into the sittingroom in the evening and Miss Ellen went on with the "We and the Worley" which is getting very interesting.

12 August 1885 Wednesday
May, Grace and I went to bible class. Mr Patterson gave us another subject to find references about. After I had finished my lessons in the evening I went into the sitting-room

and commenced to read "The Old Curiosity Shop" which Miss Annie seemed rather astonished that I had not read.

13 August 1885 Thursday
We had rather a muddy day. We went to Courtenay Place for a walk. We finished learning Wordsworth's "To Joanna" a most improving poem.
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14 August 1885 Friday
A very wet day. Mrs Stowe gave us an extra drawing lesson. The girls started for bible class but as it began to rain very heavily they turned back. In the evening Miss Marsden gave Miss Ellen's G. F. T. girls a lecture in the school room and of course we went in too. The lecture was interesting. Miss Marsden made poultices etc and then called up the girls to do so. We are going to have another lecture next Friday.

15 August 1885 Saturday
The day was lovely. In the morning I went into town with Miss Ellen and Ethel. After dinner Miss Kirk took us to the old reservoir for a walk. A very long long walk and nothing to see when you get there. The reservoir is very small and surrounded by a concreat wall and iron railing. We came back through the town and got home about 4 p.m. Ismene and Ena went to the Exhibition and I think enjoyed themselves very well. Mrs Greenwood arrived here…
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… from Wanganui in the morning Miss Ellen went out to dinner, so Miss Annie & Mrs Pharazyn read aloude in the evening.

16 August 1885 Sunday – 11th after Trinity
We had rather a windy but a very fine day. We went to Church both morning and evening. In the afternoon we learned part of the Epistle. Little Alice was not well so she did not go out at all.

17 August 1885 Monday
It has been very fine today. I had a little dispute with Ethel this morning but I think that she has quite recovered now. We went up into the "Gardens" and read in the afternoon. Ismene and I got into a row with Miss Kirk, because, as she said, we went out of hearing.

18 August 1885 Tuesday
We have had a lovely day here. Mrs Stowe came and gave us a drawing lesson. I am doing my first painting in coulers, not a very grand affair. We had reading in the schoolroom for about half an hour.
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19 August 1885 Wednesday
A lovely day. May, Grace and I went to bible class in the afternoon. In the evening Miss Kirk, Ethel and Ismene went to St Peter's Church. I had a near escape from a conduct mark for making Ismene yell when she came home.

20 August 1885 Thursday
The weather has taken a turn today and there is a cold wind from the south. Dora Greenwood arrived here early this morning; of course May was delighted. I think that I am going to the Exhibition tonight to hear Haydon's "Creation" but none of the other girls seem inclined to go and it will be rather dry by myself, that is without any other girls. The electric light is rather pretty and I want to have a better look at it. ~~We got home about 10 p.m.~~

21 August 1885 Friday
Ismene, Nora and I went to the "Creation" last night. I liked it very much. The chief solos were sung by Mrs Greenwood, Mrs…
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…Parsons, Mr Hill, Mr Widdop and Mr Prouse. Miss Williams also sang but only once or twice. We got home about 10 p.m. Miss Annie went with us so of course we had to be very proper.

22 August 1885 Saturday
We had rather a miserable day. I learned my Geography exam in the morning while the others went to gynnasium class. In the afternoon I went to the Rowdon's and had the pleasure of meeting Mr E. C. Rakes or spades or Hoes, a most idiotic young gent with no more brains than a turnip. Kate and I went to see Mrs Biss, who has a very nice new house. I got home about 5 p.m. In the evening Dora Greenwood, May F., Ismene, Ena, May G. and I went to the Exhibition. The Nelson band played during the evening but as Ena and I had bad headacks we did not stay in the concert room. We had a very interesting walk round the Exhibition. I met Father several times but I did not walk with him for I felt inclined for fun. Ena and I occupied part of our time in watching H. Mc to see if he would admire his own paintings, but he did not.
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We went into the new room of "Home Industries" but it was so crowded that we could see very little so we went into the art gallery. We got home about 10 p.m. and Little Alice was taken bad and had to be poulticed.

23 August 1885 Sunday – 12th after Trinity
We had a fearfully windy day and were nearly blown away going to and coming from Church. We only learned that collect and had no bible class for Miss Ellen had a bad headacke.

24 August 1885 Monday
We went to the B. Gardens for a walk. It was a lovely day and very pleasant. I took a book but I did not read much.

25 August 1885 Tuesday
Mrs Stowe gave our last drawing lesson. We did not go into the sitting room. I suppose Miss Ellen was busy it being the last week of school. We had exam of English grammar which was not much to learn.
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26 August 1885 Wednesday
We did not go to bible class as it was the last Wednesday. I did not go to Church and we had some fun after the others had gone.

27 August 1885 Thursday
May and I went with Miss Kirk to the railway wharf for a walk. It was Grace's last day so we had a jolly tea. Miss Ellen gave us the totals in the evening. May was top and Sarah second. We went to bed about 10 p.m.

28 August 1885 Friday
Breaking-up day. Grace went away at 5 a.m. One or two girls went to see her off. Ethel went off at 12 o'clock for Christchurch. It is raining and very cold. I do not know when I am going home for Mamma has not come into town yet that is I have not seen her. May went to her Aunts about 3 p.m. so we are rather quiet. Miss Ellen starts for Gisborne at 5 p.m. All the girls but Lillie and I went with the Kemps to the Exhibition.
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29 August 1885 Saturday
It was a very windy day. In the morning I went down to Kaiwarra and found Mamma there. Mamma and I went into town and did a little shopping, we then went up to Mrs Munro's but she was not at home so we went to Mrs Biss's where we stayed until time to start for the Exhibition of course we missed the tram so we had to walk. The Dunedin Garrison Band played and the room was so crowded that numbers of people had to stand. The band played very well and was encored several times. As I did not have things I had to go to Miss Ellen's at night so Mamma went to the steps with me and I went up them alone. I found Mrs Pharazyn just going to bed and as my matress had been picked I slept in the Hardings room. Altogether I spent a very pleasant day although I was very tired with walking so much.
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30 August 1885 Sunday – 13th after Trinity
I got up just in time for breakfast after which I started for Kaiwarra again. When I arrived there I found that Clara and George had been to meet me but missed me. Mamma, Clara and I went to the service in the schoolroom. Miss Symns came to Mrs Storey's just before dinner. I like her very much. After dinner we went up the "Old Mill" road for a walk & then up to the fort. I did not care much about going on a Sunday but it is the only chance for there are so many men (A. C.s) about. We went to St Paul's in the evening. Mr Still preached a very nice sermon and we had that lovely hymn "Angles of Jesus". Everyone seems to join in so heartly when we have it. On the way home Clara lost Mamma's… & rushed back to Featherston Terrace to look for it; but we found it before she came back. I think that George was in…
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…rather a temper at having to fly back to town again. We had supper when we got home and talked a little while and then went to bed.

31 August 1885 Monday
Mamma and I went to town in the 9 a.m. train. I went to the barber's and then up to pack my box. Mamma went with me, but both Miss Annie and Mrs Pharazyn were in bed so she went away again. I packed up and saw Alice McHardy and then went down to the Ex to meet Mamma but the Ex was not opened and as I did not M. anywhere I thought that she had gone to the Rowdon's so I went up. When I got there however Mamma was not there so as my leg was so very painful that I could hardly walk and stayed. Mamma came about half past 5 after a day in the Exhibition. After tea Edith played a little while and the M. de Rake's came up and I pretty soon took…
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…leave of the Dining-room and his clatter.

01 September 1885 Tuesday
A lovely day. I went into town after breakfast. Mamma and I went to see Mrs Gandy in the morning. It was a lovely morning after the wind and Wellington looked lovely for once. I was glad to have a really fine day for Mamma as her visits to Wellington are so rare. After dinner we went to the Ex for M had not seen the "Home Industries." I went into the "Concert Hall" to hear the organ but the performer was not up to much so I did not stay but wandered about by myself as Edith was conducting Mamma round. I saw one or two new things and had a better look at others especially x pictures. We got home about quarter to 6 p.m. and had tea after which Edith had to go to a meeting and I played at little while & then looked at pictures.
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02 September 1885 Wednesday
We had another lovely day. We went to Kaiwarra by the 10 past 10 train and then on to the Hutt by the 5 past 2 p.m. Father was not at the Hutt to meet us so we had to come into Wainui-o-mata with T. Wood. We got home about 5 p.m. and I think that Father was not sorry to see us.

03 December 1885 Thursday
My first day at home. I got up about 8 a.m. and stayed inside all day.

04 December 1885 Friday
Father went to the Hutt. Belle Wood came up in the evening and we had a little music. Mr J. Sinclair came in with Father. He is not much altered except in size; he showed us a photo of their home and I think that it is a lovely place.

05 December 1885 Saturday
Mr Sinclair went away in the afternoon and Little Lennie came up.
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06 September 1885 Sunday – 14th after Trinity
I did not go to Church for my back was rather bad. I read and played by twins all day. I intended to leave the "Epistle" but I felt so unsettled that I could not keep long at anything. In the evening Mrs Tompkins came up to stay for a few days. We had a little music in the evening.

07 September 1885 Monday
A lovely day. I did a little gardening in the afternoon, but I soon get tired and gave up. I am rather tired of writing for I have had to write up my diary for nearly two weeks so I shall stop.

08 September 1885 Tuesday
We had a lovely day. Mrs Tompkins & I climbed up the hill in front of our house and had a splendid view of Wellington.

09 September 1885 Wednesday
We saw the Eclipse of the Sun this morning. The sky was very much clouded so we could only see the Sun…
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…at intervals so we lost most of the Eclipse especially about the time of totallity and therefore missed the corona. Father went to town and got home about 10 p.m.

10 September 1885 Thursday
We had a very fine day but I did not go anywhere.

11 September 1885 Friday
Another beautiful day. In the afternoon I went for a ride to get a small bag for Mrs Tompkins. I enjoyed the ride very much and Birdie went very well.

12 September 1885 Saturday
Mrs Tompkins went away in the morning. I walked as far as the Woods with her. It was a lovely day.

13 September 1885 Sunday
We had a very fine day. Father and I went to Church. Mr Garlick preached an awfully long sermon and made use of fearfully long words so I could not understand much of which he was speaking. We had a very pleasant ride home.
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20 September 1885 Sunday
We had a very fine day and we rode to Church. Mr Garlick did not use so many long words as he did the Sunday before.

21 September 1885 Monday
I started for Wellington again for I went to see Aunt Annie at the Hutt. I went to the station to catch the 10.5 p.m. train, but just as I was going up the steps the train went off. I went back to the Hutt and waited until the 25.6 train. I walked up to Miss Ellen's by myself and found several of the girls there. Edith Owen a new girl was there. Marion Pharazyn is staying at the Grange for a few weeks, as she is not well. Ena and May have not come back and the Hardings are not coming this term.

22 September 1885 Tuesday
The day was lovely. Mrs Stowe gave us our first drawing lesson in the afternoon. In the evening Miss Annie…
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…took Edith, Ethel, May, Ismene and me to a concert at St John's schoolroom. We went up in the tram which was so much crowded that several of us had to stand. The concert was very good. Mr Greenwood sang "Adelaide" very well. A quintette panio and strings (Schubert) by Miss M. Williams, Messrs Connolly, Cohen, Schevartz and Butler went off very well. Mr Widdop sang "The Sea Rules All" during which the Orchestra made several mistakes and made Mr Parker angry. Mr Cohen's violin string broke so he had to march out, H. & N. Gore also same but only in the chorus. The second part of the concert consisted of "The First Walpurgis Night" which went off very well; the squarks of the ravens being very good. I saw Kate Rowdon go out just before the concert ended. We got home about half past 10 p.m. and wonder of wonders had cocoa for supper. I enjoyed the evening very much indeed. Miss Annie was very good in hurring out so we got a tram before anyone else came down.
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23 September 1885 Wednesday
We had a lovely day. In the morning when I was practising in the schoolroom someone appeared at the window and turned out to be May Greenwood; A few minutes afterwards Ena McHardy came up and it turned out that May and she had come up in the same steamer and had never seen each other. Although if was Church night Miss Ellen said that as it was such a lovely day she would like us to go for a walk so we went into the B. Gardens and sat down. In the evening we went to Church and Mr Still preached a very nice sermon.

24 September 1885 Thursday
It was a very fine day. We went over the "Terrace" for a walk and then Miss Kirk, Ethel and I went down to the wharf to see about May's bag which she had left on board the steamer and found that it had gone to Dunedin or somewhere. We learned poetry and began our holiday letters, Belle McCulloch came to see me but I was out.
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25 September 1885 Friday
After school I went to Mr Biss's to see Belle, but when I got there I found that she had just gone out with Kate and Edith Rowdon. I stayed a little while and then started to come back. I met the girls on my way and they walked down with me. In the evening we had a dance and I learned to waltze for the first time. Grace came in while we were at tea.

26 September 1885 Saturday
It is a pretty fine day. Father came up just before dinner. He has brought the little Woods into town to see the Exhibition. I was going with them but as the Invercargill Band is going to play in the evening I chose to go there instead. Father took me to the Exhibition in the evening.

Belle McCulloch, Miss Symns and the Storye's were there. I am rather afraid that I offended Belle by keeping up a conversation with George she promised to take me to the Ex next week but perhaps she will not now. The Band played very well.

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…The test piece "William Tell" was encored but they did not play it again. The room was crowded although there are 500 more seats than at first. I got home about 10 p.m.

27 September 1885 Sunday – 17th after Trinity

We had a rather wet day. We were however, able to go to Church twice. Archdeacon Stock preached from a part of the epistle for the day. In the afternoon we learned the epistle, had bible class, Miss Annie taking the little ones. Miss was going to take us to Mr Ogg's in the evening as a Mr Elliotte preached but she changed her mind and we went to St Paul's where a Mr Kirkham read part of the service. Rev Still preached from Ephesians IV part of IV verse "There is one body"; he preached a very interesting sermon. Mrs McKelvie and Grace sat just in front of us at Church they are staying in Wellington – Grace is coming back tomorrow; she looks very well after her holidays.

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28 September 1885 Monday

It is not a very fine day. I got up about 5 o'clock this morning, practised for half an hour, learned Geo & History. Another new girl Rina Palmerston came on Friday; she is 11 years of age and very fat. Edith Owen is 18, so she is the eldest girl in the school. Miss Ellen, however, prefers to consider Ethel as that important personage, rather to Edith's mortification I think. Ethel is the most maddening girl that I ever met. I made her very angry last night by telling her that her figure would be like that of Rev Kirkham if she did not take care. I suppose that I ought not have said it but she makes me so mad. After school we went to the Exhibition to hear the Band again, they played very well. Belle McCulloch was there so I had a few words with her. When I got home I had an attack of rumaticks or something of the sort so I went to bed pretty early.

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29 September 1885 Tuesday

I got up in the morning with a bad headacke and pains in my limbs. I did not practise in the morning so had to do it in the afternoon after drawing. I went to bed about teatime and did not learn my lessons. Dr Kemp came to see me, but I was luckly asleep.

30 September 1885 Wednesday

I got up in time for breakfast and went into school and did nothing. In the afternoon I practised for half an hour and in the evening went into the sitting-room and sat with Miss Annie when the others went to Church.

01 October 1885 Thursday

I went to the Exhibition in the evening to see the flower show which was very pretty; there being a great many flowers. I saw Mr Gower and Annie there but I was not sure that it was them. We had to come away rather early in fact before we wanted to. I was rather mad because just as we came out H.Gr… came in, only for what…

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...earthly reason. I wanted to stay for when I do not know the fellows one bit is beyond my comprehension. I think that I am getting cracked in the head surely. There is however something rather fascinating about one of them although he not very much to look at. The other I consider as a stalky overgrown boy; but I must leave off critising people. I know nothing about except what I have heard and I am sure that I should not like them at all if I knew them. It was a very wet night and Ismene declared that we should be drowned, but Miss Kirk said that she did not care if we were.

02 October 1885 Friday
In the afternoon I went out for a walk with Edith Rowdon. We went into the "Gardens" along a path where I have never been before. I think that Edith is the most sensible of the Rowdons. Alice McHardy came from Blenham in the morning she is just the same as when she was at school. We had a dance in the evening.

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03 October 1885 Saturday
It was very wet in the morning so I should have been unable to go to Paramatta even had I been well enough. I laid down all the afternoon for my head was so giddy that I could not sit up. I got undrest about 5 o'clock and Ismene sat with me until bedtime. The "Bazar Committee" had their second meeting in the dining room, but of course as I was away I did not hear anything; it was, however, very stormy I am told.

04 October 1885 Sunday
I had my breakfast in bed and got up about 10 o'clock. I could not go to Church so I sat in the sitting room and Miss Annie read the lessons. In the afternoon I laid down and May read aloud to me for about an hour. Ethel stayed with me at night, but she does not read nearly so nicely as May so I did not enjoy it so much. Both Miss Ellen and Miss Annie came up to see me.

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05 October 1885 Monday
I did not get up to breakfast and Uncle and Belle came to see me before I was up. Belle came upstairs, she looked very nice. I spent the day in the sitting room. Father came to see me in the afternoon. I had tea in the sitting room and went to bed early.

06 October 1885 Tuesday
I felt better in the morning but I did not get until after breakfast. In the morning I went into town for a short walk… Grace who went to get her specs. Uncle and Belle came to see me, Uncle is not altered, but I was rather surprised to find how little I remember about him. They only stayed a few minutes as they wanted to get back to Kaiwarra early. I went into school in the afternoon and also to drawing. Ismene moved into Ethel's room so I have her for a near neighbour. May was not very much delighted at having to go in with Miss Kirk.

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07 October 1885 Wednesday
I was nearly well in the morning and got up to breakfast. I went into school all day. I did not go to Church so Nora came over and we sat in the school room and had some fun. Alice McHardy returned from Masterton and Fannie came with her.

08 October 1885 Thursday
We have had a lovely day, indeed every day this week has been fine. I am feeling much better but Miss Annie insists on my taking some horrid stuff because I can not eat much. In the afternoon we went to the "Gardens" and learned our poetry. The little Kemps went with us. Kathleen is such a dear little girl. A bobby spoke to some of the girls because they were among the trees and Kathleen held up her fingure at him. Alice and Miss Kirk have gone down to the Exhibition to a concert. I cannot write anymore now for it is nearly 9 o'clock.

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09 October 1885 Friday
We have had a half wet half fine day but it is lovely tonight. Alice McHardy is going to start for Napier at 9 o'clock tonight. We did not go out for a walk today so I have practiced and learnt my geography. I feel very different tonight to what I did last Friday evening. We have a composition on "Malta, Gibraltar and Heligoland" but I felt as if I could not begin it this evening. The girls are having a squabble about the compo because May will not go and ask

Miss Ellen if we may do it in three parts. I intend to go into town with Miss Ellen tomorrow if I can & to Kaiwarra in the afternoon for I want to get my subscriptions from there also from Miss Symns. I must go and have buy bath.

10 October 1885 Saturday
In the morning Ethel, Grace and I went into town. I met Keran Speidy and she stopped to speak. In the afternoon I went to Kaiwarra and when I got there I found…
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…that everyone except Mrs Storey had gone to Parramata. I spent a quiet afternoon. Leonard came in just before tea. I like him much better than George but they are both splendid specimens of New Zealand youth. I did not see Clara because she went to tea with Mr and Miss Symes and then to the Exhibition. I came home in the seven o'clock train. We had reading in the evening.

11 October 1885 Sunday
We went to Church both in the morning and evening. Mr Still preached very nice sermons both times. In the afternoon we learned the collect and read the epistle. As Miss Annie was away at Mrs Stowe's her class joined Miss Ellen's and two new girls (the Coopers) came. After tea we walked in the garden until time to get ready for Church. I felt rather disgusted with myself for do what I could I could not keep my eyes to myself. I made Ethel angry because I laughed when she asked if Mr Lowe was F. Otterson's pater…
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12 October 1885 Monday
We have had rather a wet day here today. I did not go for a walk as my face is rather sore. Miss Ellen informed us that she intends to give us a holiday or a half-holiday at any rate on Thursday as the Mayor has declaired it a holiday for the "Grand Demonstration of Friendly Socieities" to be held here. We have just heard that the Omarau Band has got the 1st prize, the Invercargill 2nd and Christchurch the 3rd in the Band contest. I almost wish that the Invercargill had gained the first prize but I suppose that the other deserved it. The Elijah is going to be performed again tomorrow evening, but I do not think that I shall go, for I heard it last time.

13 October 1885 Tuesday
We had a wet day. In the afternoon we had our drawing lesson. In the evening we had a dance, Miss Annie went to hear the "Elijah" but we did not know that we could go, so of course I did not go. Fannie went and she told us that Mr Waters and Miss Atkins (a…
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…young lady just out from England who is staying with the Kemps) sang the chief solos. I was rather disappointed for although I heard it last time I should have liked to hear it again.

14 October 1885 Wednesday
The day was very fine in the morning but it began to rain in the afternoon and is now pouring (20 to 5 p.m.). A very likely promise for tomorrow which is to be a whole holiday. Miss Ellen is going to take us for a picnic either to Petone or Plymerton. I hope that we shall go to Plymerton for it would be a change. I have learnt my poetry "Close the Ranks" and said it and also finished a composition which I ought to have done on Saturday. Miss Ellen is correcting Grace's Latin exercises and Frizzles has just finished her harmony. I heard from home today and Mamma is recovering from her cough of which I am very glad. Miss Annie came back from Mr Stowe's yesterday. Fannie went home this afternoon.
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15 October 1885 Thursday
We had a lovely day. About half past 10 the people began to collect about the Exhibition building and then went to the railway station where the prossion was formed. We went out on

to the Terrace but we could not see very well so May, Sarah and I went down the steps. First came the Wellington Garrison Band, then Druids, Oddfellows, Forrestiers, Gray's Band, Wanganui Band, etc. The cars and banners were very pretty. After dinner we started for a picnic. Miss Ellen thought that the Plymerton railway would be crowded so we did not go there, but to Even's Bay. We went as far as the Basin Reserve in an open tram which took us as far as Newtown. We then walked over to the slip where we had our picnic, as the wind was blowing very hard from the south. Miss Ellen proposed that we should walk back round the rocks, so after a short rest we started off again. When we got to town there was no tram so we walked right home…

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…and were very tired. We got our own teas as the servants were out. Sarah Turnbull, Sylvia F. and Reggie Stowe and Nora Kemp and Florrie McKeller stayed to tea and after we had a dance. We went down onto the Quay to see the procession which was very pretty. They marched in the same order as in the morning. We then went home, had prayers, and went to bed after spending a very pleasant day.

16 October 1885 Friday

I was very tired in the morning so I did not get up until about 7 o'clock. We did not go out for a walk as it was not very fine but the girls went to bible class. In the evening Ismene's little cousin came over for a little while and afterwards Ismene and… she went to the Exhibition.

17 October 1885 Saturday

It was a lovely day. I learned part of our Geo Exam in the morning and some of the girls went into town. After dinner I went to the Rowdon's calling on my way for Ena's photo. When I arrived at Able Smith Street I found…

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…everyone out except Kate & Lyndia so after I had had a short rest Kate and I went off to the Basin Reserve where cricket matches were going on and the Wanganui Band playing. We walked round the Reserve several times and listened to the Band. I had Annie Gower's parsoll which she had left at Wainui so we thought that as we were so neer we might take it to her, so we went up, but found that both she and Eunice were out, however after we had been there a short time they came in. Eunice is looking very pale, but is very much recovered from her illness. The Rowdons had heard that Auntie was coming from Foxton by the Manawatu railway and so Kate and I determined to go down to the station and meet her. We thought that the train came in at 25 to 6 p.m. so we hurried down with the intention of being back about 6 but the train did not arrive until half past 6 and then Auntie did not come so we started off back at a pretty good pace; we got into a tram opposite to the railway station which did not start until 5 past 7.

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(I ought to have been home at quarter past seven), and then had to wait until some other trams passed so that it was half past seven when I got to Mr Rowdon's. I rushed up stairs and got my things (for which I had returned) and then drank a few spoonfuls of cocoa while Edith was getting ready for Mr Rake's and she came home with me. We came over the Terrace and when I got home I found all the girls in the sitting-room and Miss Ellen rather vexed at my being so late, but, after I had explained she did not say much more and made me drink a cup of cocoa for my supper.

18 October 1885 Sunday

I had a lovely day. Mr Still preached a very nice sermon. In the afternoon we learnt the collect and epistle. In the evening we went to Church and Mr Still preached a very interesting sermon on "The Wedding Garment". It was the first time that we heard anyone preach on that subject and as someone providently put her head in front of me I could listen without my attention flying off.

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19 October 1885 Monday
We had a lovely day. In the afternoon we went up to the Observity & Miss Kirk read a book which Miss Ellen began on Saturday but as I did not hear the beginnings of the book I did not care to listen so I went away and learnt some of my lessons. In the morning we heard that Miss Katie Bethune was dead.

> **Manawatu Standard 21 Oct 1885**
> On the 19th October, at Wellington-terrace, Kate, daughter of J. H. and Fanny Bethune, aged 22 years.

20 October 1885 Tuesday
We had drawing in the afternoon and went into the sitting room in the evening. Miss Ellen nearly finished Constantia Carew.

21 October 1885 Wednesday
We had a lovely day. I received a note from Aunt Emma asking me to go to Kaiwarra and see her but as it was 5 p.m. of course it was too late so I did not ask. We went to Church in the evening and Mr Still preached a very interesting sermon.

22 October 1885 Thursday
A lovely day. After school I went to Kaiwarra to see Auntie when I arrived there I found that she had gone to the Exhibition with…
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…Mr Cammeron. They did not return until a late train so I only saw Auntie for about six minutes. Mr and Miss Symes were at Kaiwarra. I returned to town by the 6.20 train and learned my poetry and then Miss Ellen said that any of the elders might go to Mr… concert with Mrs Kemp so Ethel Atkins and I went. The concert was very good. Miss Atkins and Mr Greenwood both sang very well. It was the first time that I heard Miss Atkins and I like her singing very much. Ismene's father and brother were in Wellington so she had a holiday to go to Plimmerton with them and Winnie (whose birthday it was) went with her. They came back very tired having walked from Paramatta to Plimmerton. All the other girls went to the Ex to see the "Maypole Dance."

23 October 1885 Friday
We did not go for a walk although the afternoon was fine but gardened instead, that is May and Grace did the gardening and I looked on. We had a composition on Canada so did not have any jolification.
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24 October 1885 Saturday
It was very wet in the morning so I did not get up to practise before breakfast. After breakfast I did my comp & practised. I dressed before dinner in case it cleared up that I could go to Kaiwarra. Miss Ellen said that it was too wet at first but she changed her mind and let me go by the 2.5 train. Auntie was looking out for me; she had rather a bad headacke, but we had a nice talk together. Clara was suffering with… in her head. I returned to town by the 7.15 train. G. came home with me. The girls were all in the sitting room when I got home and Edith and Ethel read, for Miss Annie was busy setting bazar work. We finished Constantia Carew.

25 October 1885 Sunday
We had a very fine day. We went to Church in the morning and Grace and N…
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26 October 1885 Monday
Nora was in bed all day. We went for a walk. I finished my composition.

27 October 1885 Tuesday
Nora was still in bed and Muriel Stowe was very ill so we did not have a drawing lesson. We went up the "Observetry" for the afternoon.

28 October 1885 Wednesday
We had a lovely day. In the afternoon Edith, Grace, Ena and I went to the Exhibition. We stole some biscuits and came home about 5 p.m. In the evening Clara came to ask Miss Ellen if I might go to Kaiwarra to spend Thursday evening and Miss Ellen after asking a great many questions said yes. I went to the Exhibition with Auntie for the last time. There was a chess tournament between Mr Keyworth and Mr Benbow which the latter won and "Maypole Dances" under M. Johnson. We looked at the "Home Industries" and Auntie went up to the "Wet Gallery" but it was too warm there for her to stay. We went home about quarter to 10 p.m. Ismene & Ethel went.
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29 October 1885 Thursday
It was a lovely day. After breakfast Miss sent for me and said that after thinking it over she could not let me go to Kaiwarra to spend the evening but that I might go directly after school and return in the 7 p.m. train. I felt rather disappointed but it could not be helped so I had to put on the best face that I could under the circumstances. I started off after school and when I was about halfway between Wellington and Kaiwarra I met the "Heretaunga Light Horse Cavellry." I spent a very pleasant afternoon. Miss Symes came when I had been there a little while but the others did not come before I came away in the 7 p.m. train. We learned some more of The Duke and then went to bed.

30 October 1885 Friday
We had a very fine day. Miss Kirk, Edith and I went for a walk and went into the Museum on our way back to see the mummery which has not long been here. It is a funny looking object, short and like… but a…
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…man. We saw two American suitors from the ship Enterprise which was in the Harbour… Father and brother started off in the Wairapa for Melbourne? Via Napier, Gisborne… They are going to England where… is going to enter the navey. [writing is faint and difficult to read]

31 October 1885 Saturday
A lovely day. Father came to see me in the morning. In the afternoon we went to Petone to Dr Hector's. We got there about 3 o'clock and after resting on the verander for a short time and looking at the sun through a telescope we went up a gully to get ferns. When we returned we found a table set on the veranda for afternoon tea. We washed out hands at a pump and then Dr Hector photographed us… had tea and started for the railway station. We arrived at home about 6 p.m., had tea and then planted ferns until dark. The Exhibition was closed in the evening. Miss Ellen asked if any of us would like to go whereupon May Fraser said No. Miss Ellen and I felt as if I could have flown at her for I wanted to go very much.
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01 November 1885 Sunday – All Saints Day
It was a lovely day. Mr Still preached a very nice sermon in the morning. In the afternoon we learnt part of the epistle and had bible in the dining-room and a long sermon from Miss Ellen and the death of Bishop Paterson. We went to Church again in the evening and sat beside Ismene.

02 November 1885 Monday
It was a windy day. Miss Kirk, May G., Rina and I went to the railway station and then round Pipitea Point. H.J. Stout gave a ball in the evening and we heard the band playing.

03 November 1885 Tuesday
A storm came up from the south last night and it has been very cold. We had drawing in the afternoon. In the evening we went into the sitting room and Miss Annie began "Old Mortality", a very interesting book.

04 November 1885 Wednesday
It is awfully cold here today. We had a fire once but it has gone out now (10 past ten). Miss Annie has been having a twin through…
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…all the rooms and woe betide anyone who has left any thing in an untidy state. Ismene unluckily happened to tapp on the staircase window at Nora just as Miss Annie was passing and so got a great rowing in which Miss Annie accused her of trying to call the attention of some boys in the street. I think that Miss Annie is getting worse every day & I shall not be sorry to get away from this place for a time. If we do not go to Church tonight we are going into the sitting room again but as it is clearing up I suppose that we shall go. I miss the Exhibition v. very much especially the electric light which was very handy for our nightly romps. Winnie has been at Stowe's since Saturday for she has not been well… is better now.

05 November 1885 Thursday
It has been very fine. Winnie came back in the morning. We went into the B Gardens for a walk… [too faint to read]…

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…It is Guy Faux Day today so I suppose that there will be bonfires tonight. Next Monday is the Prince of Wales Birthday so we are going to have a holiday. I do not know what I shall do yet.

06 November 1885 Friday
It was a very miserable day. Marion arrived in the morning from Nelson, she is much better now. Mrs Pharazyn is coming back about the 25th of November. Mrs Stowe gave us a drawing lesson in the afternoon. In the evening we had a dance. We have a compo on the "West Indies."

07 November 1885 Saturday
A lovely morning. I went into town with Miss Ellen. After dinner I went to Mr Rowdon's… & Auntie had not returned from Wainui. It began to rain in the evening and as Mr R. did come up by 7.30 p.m I came home in the train. We went into the sitting room but as Grace was away (at the Tidey's) Miss Ellen did not go on with the "Mortality" but read a few short stories, Ethel was laid up with her…
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08 November 1885 Sunday – 23rd after Trinity
A very lovely day. Ethel was not able to get out for her leg was so painful Dr Kemp came over to see her in the morning but did not say what was the matter with her. Mr and Mrs McHardy came in the morning and Ena went out to them after breakfast but they went away about 12 o'clock. We went to Church and Mr Still preached a very nice sermon… carried the epistle and had bible class in the dining room there were only three of us as Grace was away & Ethel unable to come down stairs. We went to Church again in the evening and Mr Still preached from the epistle Phil III … [some sentences too faint to read]… came to see Ethel in the evening and stayed until rather late. We expected Dr Kemp but he did not come.
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09 November 1885 Monday

The Prince of Wales Birthday and a lovely day. May Fraser went to Crofton with the Kirks for a picnic and did not come home until Tuesday morning. Edith also went out with friends. In the morning I had a headache. In the afternoon Miss Ellen took us to Wilkinson's Gardens. We went onto the hill and Miss Ellen read to us, then we got some milk and eat a cake. We came back to tea and afterwards we went into the sitting room but did not have any reading as Mrs Margoliouth was there. Ethel's leg was bad so she could not go with us.

10 November 1885 Tuesday
I got up about six. It was a lovely morning and I almost wished that it was a holiday. We had a drawing lesson in the afternoon. We did not go into the sitting room as Miss Ellen went to the Bishop's for Mr Hadfield was very ill. Ethel's leg was a little better in the morning but it got worse afterwards.

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11 November 1885 Wednesday
We went to Church in the evening. It was very windy and cold and Marion, Winnie, and Rina did not go. Mr Still preached a very nice sermon.

12 November 1885 Thursday
A rather wet day. We did not go for a walk but May and I went to the Museum to take some baskets to Dr Hector, but we could not see Dr Hector so we marched into M. Gore's office and he looked rather supprised. I said my poetry to Miss Kirk.

13 November 1885 Friday
A fine day. Mrs Stowe gave us a drawing lesson in the afternoon. The girls went to bible class in the afternoon. After we had finished our lessons we went into the dining room and sewed until late. We had several games of forty questions among which were "William Tells arrow", "King Alfred's cakes", "The Big Ben" (firebell) etc. We had prayers in the sitting room and then went to bed. Mrs Mergoliouth went home in the steamer at night.

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14 November 1885 Saturday
A lovely day. Ethel's leg was still bad. I learned my lessons etc in the morning. Father came to see just before dinner and promised to take me up to the Rowdon's to see Auntie so we went after dinner. Auntie was just going out when we got to Able Smith St and so after having a cup of tea we started. Auntie and I went to call upon an old lady near the "Basin Reserve" but found that she had gone out. K. E. & D. Rowdon had gone to call upon another person so Auntie and I had to walk about for some time waiting for them, but they did not come so Aunitie went to some place to tea and I returned to Mr Rowdon's where I found Mr and Mrs Biss and Clara Storey. Kate and Edith soon came in and not very long afterwards Auntie. Auntie was too tired to come home with me so Mr and Mrs Biss, Kate & Lyndia came with me. The girls were all in the sitting room, except Ethel, and Miss Ellen was reading "Old Mortality". The girls went…

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…to Mrs Stowe's for a walk. May and Grace went to Mrs Tait's. I enjoyed my afternoon very much especially my talk with Auntie. I think that she is going to return to Foxton about the end of this week. I wish that her visit had been in the holidays for then I should have been able to go with her more, but I am looking forward to a promised visite to Foxton in a few months, which I expect to enjoy very much but I want Mamma to have her holiday first and then I shall have a clear conscience.

15 November 1885 Sunday – 24th Sunday after Trinity

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16 November 1885 Monday

It has been a lovely day, I got up about quarter past five and the sun was shinging in at my window. I cannot write anymore now for it has struck 9 p.m. Ismene went to bed early with a very bad headacke.

17 November 1885 Tuesday
Ismene was worse in the morning, Rina was not well also and Dr Kemp came over to see them. Ethel's leg was rather bad so she had to stay upstairs.

28 November 1885 Saturday
I have not written in my diary for so many days that it is useless to try to remember every thing that has happened here. Nearly all the girls have been ill more or less. Grace has been very ill and she went over to Dr Kemp's to stay for a little time. Miss Ellen was ill for a few days so we had a half holiday one afternoon. I have just finished reading a story "Six Girls" out of a Chatterbox. All the girls are out either at the baths, having music lessons or something of the kind.

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29 November 1885 Sunday – Advent Sunday
It was rather cloudy in the morning but cleared up during the afternoon (On Saturday afternoon I went to the Rowdons and Father came there to see me. Kate, Edith and Miss Hazelton and I went into town and did some shopping. Mrs Pharazyn came back in the evening so we had sewing in the school room. It was Marion Pharazyn's 15th birthday. Nora Kemp gave her a lovely cake which we had for tea. We had bible class in the sitting room and there will only three of us. Miss Annie took us to church in the evening. Mrs Pharazyn went to the Stowe's to stay the night because Mrs Stowe was not well.

30 November 1885 Monday
It was a cloudy day but very close. We went for a walk up Molesworth St etc. Marion went out for a drive with Mrs Kemp. We had exam of French verbs – Sybile Kirky eyes are very bad so she will not return to school this term. Mrs Pharazyn came back in the afternoon and Mrs Stowe was better.

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01 December 1885 Tuesday
The first day of last month of the year and a lovely one. We had a drawing lesson in the afternoon. Mr and Mrs Stowe are going to England for 6 month next year and I think that Miss Annie will teach the drawing. We had an Exam of Epochs of England History but notwithstanding it I went to a Social Gathering at the Church Room. Edith, Ismene, Winnie and Rina and I went with Miss Kirk and Mrs Pharazyn took Marion. There were some dolls left from the "Doll Show" which were raffeled, but I did not go in for any. Mrs Parsons and Mrs Kemp sang a duet and several other people sang. We had tea with sour milk and things to eat. I enjoyed myself pretty well but the whole affair was rather slow.

02 December 1885 Wednesday
There was a special service at St Paul's connected with the missions so Miss Annie took us. There were a fairly good congregation and the service was very interesting. Mr Still gave his address at the beginning of the service instead of at the end. We had history exam in the morning and I got 8 marks.

03 December 1885 Thursday
It was a very dull day. Went for a walk up Arora Terrace and then past Young's school, up the hill where we got some brier flowers and back down A Terrace. Ethel's leg was too bad for her to go for a walk.

04 December 1885 Friday

Another dull day. May and I went into town with Miss Kirk. The other girls went to bible class. In the evening we had a dance etc and Ismene dressed up as a young lady of the present century. We had a compo on “Hundred Years War”

05 December 1885 Saturday
I overslept myself in the morning so I had to practise after breakfast. I went into town with Miss Annie and had my photo taken.
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