



Journal in England

After my arrival from Australia  
on Aug. 22, 1857,  
up to Oct. 1, 1859.

W. J. P.

Copied April, 1869.

Vabatini - grammatical errors and obscure  
sentences only corrected.

## Journal continued

August, 1857.

Sun: 23. Rose and breakfasted early; starting directly after to call on Mr. Kelly, Chapel Place. His name was still on the door, but no person opened it when I rapped. Fancying they were out for a morning walk, I wandered about a couple of hours or so, looking at the changes which 5 years had made in the neighborhood, and then rapped again. Still, no one answered. Not knowing how or where to find an acquaintance I was puzzled what to make of myself, but being a beautiful clear morning, indeed hot, decided to go towards the river, where I met and passed several Great-Britainites, speaking, however only to one, who was preparing to cross over. He fancied he found the heat here as great as in Australia. Having arranged to dine with R. Thomas and family, I attended at the appointed hour. In the course of the afternoon, Robt., his son, and myself, paid a visit to Calvin, now living, and carrying on his business in Latimer Street. Though seemingly glad to see me, he was evidently in low spirits. Returning to tea, we again sallied out, this time to visit John Clay, painter, who was lying severely hurt at his lodgings, Parron Street. So situated, our meeting was not a bright one. I did not however part from my two guides without the good old custom of a hearty conversation over our beer.

Mon: 24 I worried much for this morning to get my money safely deposited in the bank. One-half I carried about on my person: the other half was in my carpet-bag, lying in R. Thomas' but unknown to any of them. I was very uneasy, indeed, and lost not a moment in reaching the Commercial Bank, where I found Mr. Abercrombie still employed, and with whom I left the bulk of the money, 600 sovereigns. It was a great relief

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to get rid of it. Mr. A. had lifted my money from the Dock office, but he observed the bank was then giving 4 p.c., which would make very little difference to me. I had my bank-book with me, and left it to be balanced up to last July 1.

Returned to Clayton Square, I now waited on Mr. Whitley and the clerks at the offices, No 5, where I also met Cubbin, builder, who has now become what they call "a great man". I next waited on Mr. Marks, Paradise Street, and delivered the little mugget sent to him by Mr. Salek of Melbourne. This accomplished, I bought a pair of spectacles, got my beard shaved and my hair cut; then rounded my way to Chapel Place, where Kelly was so thunderstruck at my appearance as scarcely to credit his own eyes. Mrs. K. was equally so. Here I got measured for a dress suit, of which I stood much in need. I also stopped to dinner, but directly after went again down town to attend to several other matters, during which I was fortunate enough to meet Kelly. He advised me back with him to tea. This discussed, we paid a visit to his brother-in-law, Tom Feare, an old associate of mine, now married, and much altered. We also called on Knirsad, another man's acquaintance; all parties knowing me, but equally astonished at seeing me alive. I was in short like one who had cheated the grave. When at tea with Kelly, I was accidentally looking out at the window, and saw my former landlord, Gile, pass by. Running out for a moment, I overtook him also to his surprise, and received an invitation to-morrow to dinner. Very hot day -

Tues: 25. Yesterday I left my watch at Williams's, and this morning called the first thing to learn how it fared; but the watch had not been taken to pieces. According to arrangement, met the Kelly's at George's Pier. The Mrs., in a poor state of health, was on her way to the Isle of Man. As soon as the boat sailed, I returned to meet Gile at 1 Chapel Place, but was behind time. I followed however to his house, and found him there. We dined, and had the usual conversation of old friends meeting after an absence of several years. Every

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person seems glad to see me. Bidding good-bye here, I made an attempt to find out Mr. Dougall, but no one answered the door to which I had been directed. Returning to Chapel Place, I had tea with Kelly, after which I engaged private lodgings, 30 Salisbury Street. The weather keeps very hot.

Wed: 26 Called on William, and ascertained that my watch was all right; he suggested, however, certain alterations, or improvements to cost 15/ and which I agreed to. At 5 Clayton Sq. I had a long chat with Shelmerdine, after which I called on Mr. Marks, and then on R. Thomas, to whose daughter I made a present of £5. Very few people would have done the like, but having received considerable kindness at their hands, I considered it better to make a respectable present or none at all.

Found Mr. Dougall at home to-day, and dined with him. Called also on the Hamptons, who have built and opened a public house in Smithdown Lane. I saw these two brothers in Australia, from which they returned about a year ago, pretending to have found a nugget, which has set them on their legs again. Having tasted Hampton's ale, I made direct for Clayton Sq., and had my boxes removed to 30 Salisbury Str. This accomplished, I called on Clay, and got lusher, for the first time since my arrival in L. pool.

Thur: 27. Rose this morning in rather a compressed state and found I had plenty of company in the shape of bugs, upon which I made a savage attack, slaughtering some dozens. This gives me some uneasiness, and I do not approve of shifting.

Opened up my boxes, and made some arrangements preparatory to overhauling my Australian seeds, for which I am anxious to find a market.

Had tea, and spent the evening at Chapel Place.

Very warm.

Frid: 28 Commenced overhauling the seeds, cleaning, separating, and arranging them into small parcels, with the names. Spent the evening at Chapel Place.

Although I told my landlady yesterday about the bugs - she

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has done nothing that I can see to abate the nuisance. However I do not think they are quite so numerous as at first supposed, and at any rate I shall carry on a crusade against them for my own comfort.

Sat: 29 Busy at the seeds a.m. After dinner went into town. Calling in at Robert's, I found Dawson lying on the sofa, covered up, and said to be unwell. Subsequently, it turned out - he was drunk - a fine position for the law-clerk to be in at this hour of the day. There he was, however, scarce able even to grumble.

My chief object was to see Mr Leatherbarrow about the Australian seeds I intend presenting to the Botanic Garden. He is to be at the gardens on Monday, and will be glad to see me any day after.

Sun: 30. Spent the day with Mr. Kelly. We had a long walk into the country, going by Clubmoor, and returning by W. Derby; and finally landing at Mrs Ashcroft's, where we had been invited both to dinner and tea. In the evening we made a call upon Feare, but found an empty house, and returned to finish up at Chapel St.

Very warm.

Mon: 31 Busy at the seeds all day.

Removed my fiddle in the evening to 1 Chapel St. It was open in 3 different parts, but we made an attempt to glue it.

On Saturday night, I received my dress suit of clothes, and paid Kelly for them this evening. On the receipt he fixed a penny stamp before signing his name. This is a new dodge for raising a revenue of which I was not aware. Among other new things seen since my return may be mentioned the square iron pillars, 5" x 6" high, placed in the open streets for the receipt of posted letters: Large and lofty lamps are also fixed in all conspicuous places. People, too, may drink at public fountains everywhere about town.

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Tues: 1 Busy at the seeds. I only ventured out in the evening to Chapel St., where I put the fiddle in order, and tried my best to amuse the company, which included Mrs Ashcroft & her niece Miss Callow -

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Wed: 2 Busy at the seeds, A.M. Into town, P.M.

I received my bank-book. The amount is pretty much what I expected - within £15 of £1400; and I have as much about me as would the £1400 complete. To have this properly invested is now the object of my heart, and as soon as I get a little settled shall be on the look-out.

Mr. Leatherbarrow has mentioned my object about the seeds, and wishes me to call at the Botanic Gardens.

While in Clay's shop, his brother from W. Derby popped in, and the result was a sedent in Reynolds, late Roberts' -

Settled with Mrs May for board and lodging. She is an old Irish lady, having seemingly been well brought up, but now very poor and inactive -

Heavy rains this morning. The weather has broken up suddenly.

Thur: 3. Wrote to Mr Mark, Wigton, Salek's father-in-law, for whom I have a parcel. Wrote also to Mr Mann of Peterboro, respecting a parcel of seeds from a friend in Australia. Along with these I posted Dr. Archer's letter, including a few lines from myself, to Tho: Nuttall, Esq. Nutgrove.

Busy with the seeds. - Showery.

Frid: 4. Still busy with the seeds. Sent off the parcel for Mr Mann, Peterboro.

Evening stroll into town. Showery.

Sat: 5 Letter from Mr Mark, Wigton.

Busy at the seeds, A.M. Down town, P.M.

Got my watch once more inside my pocket, ticking as lively as ever, though it has not been in motion for several years. In the "bush" I could do well enough without it, but here I cannot.

While at Clayton Sq. I was invited to dinner tomorrow, both by Denson and Woollicroft, but could only accept that of the former who first asked me. Incl Calvin, Clay, Miller, &c, and got lousy.

Sun: 6 Found my way out to Spellow La. where I dined and spent the day with Stephen Denson, Law clerk to L. & W. His house is well furnished - is altogether snug, with a garden attached to it. At

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the extreme of the garden is a flag-staff, and in commemoration of my visit (being news from Australia) he hoisted the flag. My reception indeed was somewhat flattering. His brother-in-law and a few friends from Chester were present. During the afternoon, D. and I paid a visit to Woolliscroft in Bootle La. W. proved himself quite a brick; but the house he occupies, and the manner in which it is furnished surprised me much. It is more suited for a man with a thousand a year than a clerk with a hundred and twenty. D. tells me that W. got married one day; the next a dowry was settled upon the wife; and on the third - her father became bankrupt to the tune of £20,000, not one penny of which has ever been accounted for. There are strange goings on in this world, and W. seems to have been in luck's way, but no one seems to envy him. To his acquaintances at least, he is every inch a gentleman. Delightful day -

Mon: 7. Yesterday morning, I received a note from Mr. Thos. Nuttall, Nutgrove, requesting an interview to day, and off I started immediately after breakfast, with a box of seeds, for Edgehill Sta. I was half an hour too late for one train, and an hour and half too soon for the next, which left at 11. Reached Rainhill and walked to Nutgrove. On ringing the bell - no one answered, and yet all the doors were open. Going round to the kitchen - I knocked there with no better success. Confounded at this, I made for the parter lodge, the Mrs of which managed to find inhabitants in the seemingly deserted house. Mr. N. himself was in the garden, and when he appeared I was much surprised to see a frail old man with a very slow pace. I could make little out of him, but understood his advice to be - to take the seeds to Sir W. Hooker, Kew Gardens; and also to Mr. Campbell, Curator of the Manchester Bot. Gardens. I presented N. with a great number of seeds; which he will do his best to cultivate. Having dined with him, and seen the garden, I took my leave, returning by rail to Edgehill at 5 o'clock.

After tea, I called on W. Johnson, who I spoke to while passing yesterday morning. Being another old associate of Clayton Square, we had a long conversation on many things connected therewith.



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To sweeten our conversation, we retired into Buxton's, where eventually I left him and made for home.

Very fine day. No rain occurred in Salisbury etc. but a small shower fell while I was at dinner in the country.

Tues: 8 Busy at the seeds.

I wrote to Sir W. Hooker about them, and also called on Mr. Sheppard, Curator of the L. B. G. He is as pleased as Punch, and will do all in his power to raise them; but he seems not a little jealous of my acquainting Sir W. H. about them.

In London Road, on my way home, I bought a shirt and two pairs of pants, the prices of each being specified before they were purchased. They were folded up and handed to me, and the money paid in full. Nevertheless, when nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile off, the shopman tapped me on the back, saying I must go back - that there was something wrong about the price of the pants. If there is a mistake, I replied, the master has himself to blame. I refused to go back, but gave my address and promised to call tomorrow, a next day. Showery -

Wed: 9. Busy at the seeds, and a troublesome job they are.

Down town. Called at the office, where I got a sheet of wrapping paper from Deane. We came up together as far as St. Anne Street, where he took the "bus". Though formerly often at daggers point, we seem at present the best of friends. He is now treating me "like a gentleman".

I saw the shopman from whom I bought the articles yesterday. The pants had been accidentally marked wrong, and I paid him the difference. Showery -

Thur: 10 Busy as usual at the seeds.

Letter from Mr. Mann, Peterboro acknowledging the parcel of seeds. Spent the evening at Chapel Pl. H. told me a strange story about the Roman Catholic priest. Showery -

Frid: 11 Busy at the seeds

Received a letter from L. D. Hooker acknowledging mine to Sir W. but he unfortunately mistakes my meaning, and does not give me a very satisfactory reply -

This evening paid a visit to R. Thomas, Jun. Union Terrace - S. Sta -  
Considerable rain -

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Sat: 12 Made inquiries at the offices of the Whitehaven, and also of <sup>the</sup> Maryport Steam Companies, respecting my anticipated journey to the North.

At 5 Clayton Sq. met Cubbin and Donovan. It appears several old blunders connected with the conveyance of their adjoining properties, have just been discovered. Woollicroft invited me to dinner.

Called on Brieri in the evening, and had a long conversation on old times, as well as my adventures in Australia.

Very fine day.

Sun: 13. Attended at 178 Bootle Lane, where I dined and spent the day with Wm. Woollicroft. Only our two selves and the Mrs in company - met a very good reception.

Remarkably fine day.

Mon: 14 Seeds as usual.

At Chapel Place in the evening. K. starts in the morning for the island to bring the Mrs home

Wed morning, but fine day.

Tues: 15 Seeds as usual

Another letter from Kew on the subject of the seeds. They will be glad to receive specimens, and do their best to rear them. I received also a letter from Manchester, written by a Mr. Leeds, inquiring after the seeds - "had I any left, and on what conditions would I part with them." He had learned about them from Nuttall, and is known to Mr. Sheppard of the L.B.G.

This afternoon, at Winstanleys, I examined a large collection of books for sale, among them several on botany, but none of any advantage to me.

Strolling to the pier-head - there lay the anchor destined for the monmouth ship, "Great Eastern". It is a most ponderous piece of workmanship, far surpassing, I believe, anything of the kind ever made. A crowd of spectators are constantly gazing at it.

The Princes Landing Stage, but lately opened, is another huge piece of workmanship. In comparison, the St. George's sinks into insignificance. It seems admirably executed, and cost, I am told, the enormous sum of - 140 thousand pounds.