

Notes on Charlotte Thorn Lewis's Diary Entries for 1891

By Douglas Ewbank, Mar. 18, 2018

These notes provide a guide to the topics mentioned in the diaries. See the main website (<http://poweltonvillage.org/Lewis-Diaries/>) for a key to persons named in the diary.

July 25: "I took tea at Henry Justice's road through the Park on our way. It is greatly improved in front of Memorial Hall – a winding lake on which small sail boats in summer and skating in winter."

August 2: in Littleton New Hampshire. "Sunday. Went to the little Unitarian church and heard a good discourse from Mr. Cochran on the superiority of reverence to love suggested by Drummond's title 'Love the best thing in the world.' 'Love is life...' true says Mr. Cochran but there is something higher than life – reverence. His wife preaches at Bath and some other town each Sunday...."

August 23: "an hour's reading in the parlor from the Mulford Papers as on Saturday."

August 25: "read again or heard Miss Richardson read from Prentice Mulford's papers."

September 10: "Went to Rosemont on the 9:45 train to lecture at Mrs. Converse's house given by Miss Lucy M. Salmon Prof. of History in Vassar College subject Domestic Service from the economic point."

Number 29th: ".... Attended Suffrage meeting in the afternoon."

October 5: "downtown to-day with E. selecting a wedding present for E. B. J. from May & William."

October 11: "E. & I heard Newlin Peirce's admirable paper on Cremation at St. George's Hall – then called at the Guild to see Clay Hutchinson."

Nov. 11: "The Board of the Neighborhood Guild met here and pronounced the Guild defunct. If we could give our money & strength to make our public schools what they should be – lift them out of politics we should not need Guilds or Toynby [Toynbee] Halls but in the primaries taught wisely we should train as nowhere else can be done to advantage."

Note: The Neighborhood Guild Association was founded in 1887. It opened the Guild House No. 1 at the corner of 22nd and Vine streets. It was organized to "[act] for the instruction of the working classes." *Inquirer*, 12/17/1889) It also sponsored lectures by prominent experts on education. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported in February 1890 that the "Neighborhood Guild, located at 2034 Vine street, will shortly move into more spacious quarters at Spring Garden and thirteenth streets, which is been offered by Mr. Burnham, of the Baldwin Locomotive Works." (*Inquirer*, 2/27/1890)

In 1889, the *Inquirer* reported that “The guild work is being reorganized and systematized, and a number of new workers in various departments have volunteered assistance. A debating club of all the members of both sexes has just been formed to meet weekly – the debate coming off next week to discuss whether there should be a law to prevent boys under 16 years old from smoking cigarettes. A course of weekly lectures on political economy is to begin next week. There is a class in history and literature every Wednesday evening, besides other new enterprises. The guild has recently been supplied with the beginnings of the gymnasium. The work is carried on by no sect or religious body, but by representatives of all.” (*Inquirer*, 12/4/1889)

November 22: “came down to hear Lady [Henry] Somerset on Temperance.”

This was at a meeting of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Association of Philadelphia.

December 9: “Wrote to Miss Deacon about garments for the Montana Indian school.”

December 10: “wrote to Mrs. Sturgis about Indian work.”

December 17: “Enoch & I went to the opening of the Drexel Institute – find music & a good discourse from Chauncey Depew – over 1500 people in the auditorium. Good ventilation, acoustic properties good all harmonious in decoration. Bishop Potter & Whitaker made prayer & benediction. Wayne McTeague conveyed the deeds for house worth 500,000 and 1 million the interest of which is to meet the expenses of the instruction & a [et. al?].”