Notes on Charlotte Thorn Lewis’s Diary Entries for 1895

By Douglas Ewbank, Mar. 10, 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.

January 8: “E. & I at the Contemporary Club in evening wear T. W. Rhys Davids, Mr. Jastrow & others spoke of the advantages of the study of comparative religions.”

Note: The main speaker was Prof. David’s of London University. The topic was “The Value of the Study of Comparative Religions.” The other speakers were Dr. H. Clay Trumbull and Dr. Morris Jastrow, Jr. (inquirer, Jan. 9, p6)

January 11: “at Horace Furness’s reading of Julius Caesar – finest of all I have heard him read – the first time he has read this play in public.”

January 17: “after dinner Anna Justice & I went to hear Mr. Shaw on Venice.”

Note: Mr. W. Hudson Shaw of Balliol College, Oxford. See also Jan. 14 entry and following days.

January 18: “Anna Justice & I went to hear Dr. Horace Furness read Cymbeline one of Shakespeare’s last and best plays; tragedy but not so tragical as Macbeth & some others.”

January 19: “Anna & I went to Holy Trinity Parish House to meeting of W. U. I. L. to try to have the Factory laws improved.”

Note: This is the Women’s Union in the Interest of Labor. (*Inquirer*, Jan. 20, p 4)

January 22: “Enoch & I went to hear W. Hudson Shaw’s lecture on ‘The Decline of Venice…’”

January 25: “I went to Social Science class of [New Century Club] at 3, talk and paper on street mendicancy.”

January 28: “Enoch at Hudson Shaw’s lecture after dinner and I to Social Purity Alliance.”

February 1: “… also Miss [?] Forbes came to talk of the amendment to Factory bill…. George, Anna & May to hear Hudson Shaw on the Norman invasion.”

February 4: “… May to Boston Symphony.”

February 20: “I went to the [New Century?] Club room to hear the Halls of Troy talk of Robert Burns & sing his songs – delightful entertainment.”

February 21: “E. & I went to Unitarian Club and heard a fine discourse from Rev. Merle St. C. Wright of Harlem church on ‘Certain Recent Tendencies in French Literature’”

March 11: “A very pleasant Charter Lunch at N. C. [New Century] Club room with unusually good papers. Mrs. Henrotin spoke.”

March 13: “… Heard Josephine Shaw Lowell at N. C. [New Century] Club drawing room on Arbitration and Conciliation Under the Auspices of the Health Protective Association.”

March 15: “…. Finished reading (again) Holmes Elsie Venner – a fine lesson and charity towards character. We know not how much to attribute to inheritance or to physical conditions we cannot control. Enoch is reading to me the Autobiography of Frances Power Cobbe wonderfully interesting. How much one loses who cannot command quiet hours for thoughts: the present custom of entering in so many pursuits leading a life of hurry & excitement must lead to impaired physical and moral health & to superficial knowledge and brusque manners.”

Note: Oliver Wendell Holmes novel *Elsie Venner* was published in 1861. Frances Power Cobbe (1822-1904) “was an Irish writer, social reformer, anti-vivisection activist, and leading women's suffrage campaigner…. She formed a marriage with the Welsh sculptor Mary Lloyd (1819-1896), whom she met in Rome in 1861 and lived with from 1864 until Lloyd's death.” (Wikipedia) The *Life of Frances Power Cobbe* was published in London in 1894.

March 21: “At the Health Protection Association to hear Dr. [Henry] Leffmann and some councilmen speak on filtration of our water.”

Note: talk was given at the New Century Drawing Rooms (Inquirer, March 22, 1895)

March 23: “… E. Read aloud all the evening from Miss Cobbe.”

April 11: In evening E. Anthony Hope’s story ‘The Indiscretion of the Duchess’, like the ‘Prisoner of Zenda’ replete with adventure.”

April 25: “At theater in evening to see Miss Kidder in the English version of ‘Madame Sans-Géne’ Sardou’s play.”

April 30: “May went to Anna’s lunch at the Art Club to meet Miss Kathryn Kidder”

May 5: “… E. Read to me after tea from Miss Trollope’s ‘Domestic Manners’”

Note: Frances Milton Trollope’s book *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, a travel book published in 1832.”

June 4: “In the yard all the morning tying up vines & planting the Ferns from the house Fernery…. After tea called at Dr. Peirce’s: found Dr. Brubaker there & consulted him & Dr. Peirce about reliable names to head our list in Social Purity work…. ”

June 11: “At Miss Bardwell’s school to see the grandchildren’s accomplishments. We were proud of them and grateful to the painstaking teachers. ”

Note: L. Gertrude Bardwell ran a school for several years in West Philadelphia at various locations including 3401 Spring Garden St., 3601 Spring Garden St., and 3606 Powelton Ave. She was associated with the Society for Ethical Culture. Shelburne. In 1886, she opened the first permanent Kindergarten in Worcester, Massachusetts. In December, 1886 she became head of the Ethical School and Kindergarten in West Philadelphia. In 1896, she was nominated for the local school board in Philadelphia by the Civic Club (*Inquirer*, Nov. 22) In 1900, she was back in Greenfield Massachusetts living with her sister and brother-in-law and working as a teacher.

1895: “Miss L. Gertrude Bardwell’s School for Boys and Girls reopens at 3606 Powelton avenue on the 25th of this month. This is the old school of the Ethical Society, and was so ably conducted by Miss Bardwell that the Society’s supervision of it became merely formal, and two years ago it was given over entirely into her hands. There are six teachers. The school begins with the Kindergarten and ends by fitting its pupils for college. A limited number of boarding students are received. The opportunity is a rare one for parents who belong to Ethical Societies – whether in Philadelphia or elsewhere – or for any who wish their children brought up according to modern methods of education.” (*The Cause* (Philadelphia), 1:9, September, 1895 p 42) At that time, Miss Bardwell was a trustee of the Society for Ethical Culture of Philadelphia.

July 27: “Enoch has read to us the pleasant story of ‘the Lilac Sun Bonnet’ and is now reading Ruth Putnam’s ‘William the Silent.’”

*The Lilac Sunbonnet*. Crockett, S. R. (Samuel Rutherford), 1860-1914. London : T. Fisher Unwin, 1894.

*William the Silent, Prince of Orange, the Moderate Man of the Sixteenth Century*. Ruth Putnam. 1895.

August 4: while visiting Shelburne, New Hampshire “We went to call at Miss Whitney’s – the sculptor – her cottage very near us commands a glorious view of a complete panorama of [Mountains] with the river; she & her friend Miss Manning are very attractive.”

Note: Anne Whitney (1821 – 1915) was an American sculptor and poet who is a supporter of abolition, women’s rights and other social issues. She shared her life with Abby Adeline Manning (1836 – 1906).

August 5: “E. & Hattie went by invitation from Miss Manning to the Glen House or the site of the house now no more.”

August 7: Enoch finished reading aloud “William the silent of Orange & Nassau”

August 8: “E. & H. Went to Miss Whitney’s last night to say goodbye to the niece.”

August 23: “Enoch has finished the Children of the Ghetto by Zangiwill & is now reading to us Henryk Sienkiewicz’s novel ‘With Fire and Sword’.”

*With fire and sword. An historical novel of Poland and Russia*. By Henry Sienkiewicz. Translated by Jeremiah Curtin from Polish. 1892. *Children of the Ghetto: A Study of a Peculiar People*. Zangwill, Israel, (1864-1926). 1892.

Israel Zangwill was a British author at the forefront of cultural Zionism during the 19th century, and was a close associate of Theodor Herzl.

October 1: “at Health Protective Association in morning.”

October 5: “heard a fine sermon from Mr. May on the harm done true worship of God by deifying Christ.”

October: on several days she visited or spent time writing for the S. P. Alliance. (see Nov. 5)

October 17: “At the Unitarian Club in the evening where Minot Savage made a stirring address on the great need of religious conviction and faithfulness to edit where it does exist. A full church and parlor filled with the social group after the lecture. Many joined the Club.”

October 20: “we called on Anna Garlin Spencer at Newlin Peirce’s….”

Note : “Anna Garlin Spencer was an American educator, feminist, and Unitarian minister. Born in Attleboro, MA, she married the Rev. William H. Spencer in 1878. She was a leader in the women's suffrage and peace movements.” (Wikipedia)

October 21: “E. & I went to Washington and took room at the Riggs House – a very comfortable hostelry. Went to Metzerott Hall to hear Minot Savage, subject ‘Our Gospel.’”

Note: this is for a three-day conference of the Unitarian and related churches (*Washington Post*, October 22, 1895) On next two days they heard talks by Dr. Furness, John Fiske, Charles Caroll Everett, W. C. Gannett.

November 3: “E. & I went to the Ethical Society to hear J. Keir Hardie on ‘The Labor Movement in England.’ Miss Bardwell & Miss Field [teachers at the school at 3606 Powelton Ave.] dined with us.”

November 5: “finished the Medical Declaration, ready for print.”

November 6: “went to N. C. [New Century] Club this afternoon & heard Miss Hilliard of Buffalo recite. Amusing.”

November 12: “At contemporary in evening – Hon. Oscar Strauss spoke on the growth of liberal thought in the U. S. Dr. Wayland spoke admirably. Geo. [George] Parsons Lathrop lamely – detracting somewhat from the credit due Roger Williams for his tolerance; a very interesting evening. Brought Ida Gilpin & Edith Brubaker home in our carriage.”

Oscar S. Straus (1850 – 1926) was United States Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Theodore Roosevelt from 1906 to 1909. Straus was the first Jewish United States Cabinet Secretary.

George Parsons Lathrop (August 25, 1851 – April 19, 1898) was an American poet and novelist. He was one of the founders of the Catholic Summer School of America.

November 16: “I called on Mrs. Henry McIlvain – poor woman – the struggle to bear with religious fervor the loss of that dear son Randall and suppress all natural, human grief is fearful to see.”

November 17: “Enoch finished reading Sonya Kovalevsky which he has been reading aloud to me.”

Note: this may be her novel *Nihilist Girl*. It was first published in Switzerland in 1892, finally printed in Russia in 1906 and apparently not translated into English until 2001. It

“is the coming-of-age story of Vera Barantsova, a young aristocrat who longs to devote her life to a cause. Her privileged world is radically changed by Alexander I’s emancipation of the serfs. Vera first hopes to follow in the footsteps of Christian martyrs, but a neighboring landowner—a liberal professor fired from his position at Saint Petersburg University and exiled to his estate—opens her eyes to the injustice in Russia.

“A blend of social commentary and psychological observation, Nihilist Girl depicts the clash between a generation of youth who find their lives caught up by political action and a society unwilling to abandon its patriarchal traditions.” (https://www.mla.org/Publications/Bookstore/MLA-Texts-and-Translations/Nihilist-Girl)

From Wikipedia: “Sofia Vasilyevna Kovalevskaya (Russian: Со́фья Васи́льевна Ковале́вская), born Sofia Vasilyevna Korvin-Krukovskaya (1850–1891), was a Russian mathematician who made noteworthy contributions to analysis, partial differential equations and mechanics. She was the first major Russian female mathematician and a pioneer for women in mathematics around the world. She was the first woman appointed to a full professorship in Northern Europe and was also one of the first women to work for a scientific journal as an editor.[1] Her sister was the socialist Anne Jaclard.

“There are several alternative transliterations of her name. She herself used Sophie Kowalevski (or occasionally Kowalevsky), for her academic publications. After moving to Sweden, she called herself Sonya.”

December 3: “E. & I to Contemporary [Club] in the afternoon to hear Julia Marlow Tabor read a paper on ‘Some Women of the Stage’…”

Julia Marlowe (1865-1950) was an English-born American actress known for her interpretations of William Shakespeare. Her first husband was Broadway actor Robert Taber. Their marriage lasted from 1894 to 1900. (Wikipedia)

December 4: “Shopping in the morning: at N. C. [New Century] Club in afternoon. Ms. F. W. White of Boston saying German Folk Songs & told of their history from 15th-century down to our time.”

December 7: “at N. C. [New Century] Guild Fair in the morning.”

December 10: “in the evening at The Contemporary Club where Rev. Tokiro Yokio – minister of the leading independent Christian Church in Japan – now a student in the Divinity School in New Haven – spoke on the Political Future of Japan, and interesting evening. Benjamin Smith Lyman, ex Sen. Edmonds, Dr. McAllister & Richard Shippen took part in discussion.”

December 19: “Evening at Unitarian Club to hear Charles Bonaparte on the progress of religious liberty – a Catholic in a Unitarian pulpit – good discussion afterwards & reception for Mr. and Mrs. Bonaparte in the parlor.”

December 28: “At church. Mr. May gave a stirring peace sermon condemning our Presidents course on the Venesuela [sic.] & Britain boundary line question – his threatening attitude.”