

January 1795, Bodleian, Wilberforce MS., c. 34, pp. 43-46 and c. 41, ff. 28-31

[Thursday] January 1st 1795. Up so late that no time for private Prayer – Politics rush into my Head when wake in night & prevent my *getting* to sleep again – Lock Scott – Head full of politics – *Battersea* Rise wrote Letters – din'd Grant – chatted &c – (this waste of time) & intended this a day of more than usual Seriousness but altogether wasted – Venn's *Evening* – Expoundings I sadly sleepy time wasted after $\frac{3}{4}$ of an Hour – Home late.

Friday 2^d January. Morning discuss *Breakfast* time – to town & dinner (I believe friendsⁱ House – talk afterwards.

Saturday [3rd]. Walk'd – Din'd Home Henry – discuss about what held {...} us.

Sunday [4th]. Scott Lock – then *Battersea* Rise Sir *Charles Middleton* din'd after Church – made an unprofitable Sunday of it; worldly talk – *Evening* Venn expounded – Grant's family &c but bad Talk *Evening*.

Monday [5th]. *Breakfast* discuss protracted – To Town – din'd alone before House which very late on Sheridan's *Habeus Corpus Suspension Business* – Mr & Mrs Robert Smith came to me.

Tuesday 6th. Up Late – Had a party after House to dine with me Mr & Mrs Smith &c – sat late *Evening* devotions curtail'd &c.

Wednesday 7th. Morning fritter'd – & much taken up in Calls, which necessary – Had a party to dine before House & people came from it & discuss'd.

Thursday [8th]. Much the same in morning – din'd with Speaker *tete a tete* – Let out no Religion – too free firms – staid late.

Friday [9th]. Mr & Mrs Smithⁱⁱ went away – I sadly worried foolishly all morning about *getting* people to dine with me (what weakness) at last *Muncaster* & Stephen only came – I did no good with them.

Saturday [10th]. Morning as usual – But little Reading & Calls – din'd Duncombe's with *Muncaster*, too freeⁱⁱⁱ eating &c call'd *Balgonie's* & Home – latish.

Sunday 11th January. Scott Morning – then din'd Grant's *Battersea* Rise – sleepy Church afternoon immediately after dinner – Somewhat more serious in *Evening* – & at Venn's expounding at Home – on Parable of Talents.

\ January 11th 1795. This last 10 days have been sadly fritter'd away: nothing done^{iv} – no thought – nothing but talk – & civilities, concerning real Effect^v of which I greatly doubt –

Oimoi – my mind, my understanding^{vi} &c are in a sad state – I have been^{vii} sadly too free as to Mensa Regulations – ferms &c &c O may I now be enabled to reform & to lead a Life of more Self denial & humble diligence both in the discharge of my daily work, & above all in Spirituality – vide Book.

In general for last 10 days up about \rather before/ 8 Bed about \rather before/12 for meditation.\

Sunday Evening January 11th 1795. *The last ten or twelve Days have gone on sadly – one \almost/ unvaried Course of Distraction, Vanity, & Worldly Cares – and now my Heart is in a sad Condition – carnally not spiritually minded – I have been frittering my Time away (more than I need have done though in a great Degree 'tis almost unavoidable in London \except my system quite chang'd/ in fruitless Talking, discussions, civilities – careless of my friends Spiritual State, & with no serious Sense of invisible Things weighing on my own Heart – Also sadly too free Mensa & ferms – careless of all Regulations – Vain &c &c oimoi. Remember O my Soul! “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his” & “Take Heed lest at any Time &c &c” My Path is indeed difficult & dangerous, but if I wait on God humbly & diligently, he will support me – To try for –*

More Temperance & Mensa Regulations Talk &c. Evening Devotions less curtail'd &c. More continual Sense of God's presence & universal Reform – vide supra.

I was so much hurried last Sunday by Sir Charles Middleton here (being up late & no prayer before Church) dining after Church & talking with him – Then Venn & Grant supping till late, &c on that I foreboded this last week would go on ill – I have this day had more Opportunity for Reading & Reflection – O may they be bless'd to me.

Monday 12th January. Had a Cold – so kept House all^{viii} Day – fritter'd time with Henry political Talking Morning, & spent all the Afternoon from dinner to Prayers in Discuss Henry & Grant which not profitable enough.

Tuesday 13th. Morning not enough improv'd – To town – gave dinner to Jays – Adair, Attorney General, Montagu, Bob Smith, Muncaster – Staid long & Bankes came in – Night – Unprofitable Day – God forgot.

Wednesday 14th. After 11 to Battersea Rise – Little done in Morning – & meaning to devote Evening to Study Political & a good^{ix} deal of serious Reflection Eliot came, & I chatted 3 ½ or 4 Hours with him – wastingly – yet now alone, have been reading Baxter on Hell – Saints Rest & my Mind a little a solemniz'd – found Eliot serious & I a good deal so – Grant came

Wednesday Evening Battersea Rise January 14th 1795. *Though I have been interrupted by Eliot's coming having designed to devote this Evening chiefly to serious Reading & Exercises, (my own fault still that I have not) yet this is Solitude compar'd with London, & how serious a thing is it to look into one's own Heart – to think of Heaven & Hell – & Eternity – How cold & callous am I, who can think even of these Subjects with little Emotion: But excite in me O God more lively Sensations, & enable me to awake to Righteousness – These Two Days have been spent without the Sense of God's presence, & much, too much as before, yet I would humbly hope for good, that God has not quite forsaken me, from the Seriousness of Spirit I now feel – It seems favor'd by this Solitude, & I will try the Effect^x of often retiring from the world, to commune here with my own Heart – I go to Prayer.*

Thursday^{xi} [15th]. Morning – wasted time Eliot Breakfasted (my fault) To Town where several friends to dine before House – Business put off & they Staid – Evening wore away – little done – I pained though better today London Home yet bad.

Friday [16th]. Morning whittled away, as happens in London – Half thought of coming to Battersea Rise in Evening if House up – many friends to dine before House – Business again put off & they staid – I afraid of Cold &c did not go – (the severest frost known for many Years – Providential in Holland's case) – I too vain, & unkind to Montagu – call'd Bankes's, Time! Time!

[Saturday] January 17th. Ditto & Ditto Cold intensely Home – I get little done.\

Saturday 17th January. Bob Smith went away – I meant to be off soon, but detain'd by one thing & another till 3 o Clock – Battersea Rise Dinner – Henry & John Unwin came – Talk'd politics Henry till past 7 – & nothing worth speaking of done in Evening – Had intended devoting it to^{xii} Religious offices, if alone – But tonight remaining dull & unspiritual – Sam & Henry call'd – Some little religious talk with Muncaster this Morning.

Sunday 18th. Chelsea Church to hear Shepherd with Grant & Henry – Common Calvinist – Brought him home – I too free dinner – Church sleepy – He expounded at night – rambling &c & in prayer voluble & familiar – yet serious &c.

Sunday Evening Battersea Rise January 18th 1795. *I have since lived in a Crowd & much as usual. Today I have been sleepy at Church both times, (extremely cold) – & little Spirituality – now dull & cold – O may I be renewed in the Spirit of my mind!*

Monday 19th. Queen's Birth day – I avoided St James's meaning to be diligent & religious at

Battersea Rise yet little done & mind unspiritual^{xiii} – Venn din'd with me – Henry to come back but call'd to Croydon by Miss Shuttleworth's death. Tete a tete Venn^{xiv}; yet too little done – He staid late with me – I too free ferms &c.

Tuesday [20th]. To Town \Society met – morning^{xv}-expecting Milner – He came & He, Henry Thornton & I din'd after House call'd – Long political discuss exceding &c – Little fruit of it.

^{xvi}**Wednesday [21st].** Several friends to dine before House, which unexpectedly up – They staid – I exceded – little done at night – Discuss waste of time.

Thursday [22nd]. Much same as Wednesday – in all Respects – many friends before House, which sat till^{xvii} 10 o Clock.

Friday [23rd]. Same as before friends before House which sat Habeas Corpus Bill till 3 – & Bed about 4 – too free mensa & ferms dinner.

Saturday [24th]. Up late – Discuss – middling – din'd Barclay, Jay, Bayard &c &c &c – exceded sadly mensa – Return'd Palace Yard – to^{xviii} put off projected middle men meeting – Shuckburgh, Sinclair &c.

\[**Sunday] January 25th 1795.** The weather for the last week intensely cold – Thames froze \over/ at Battersea Bridge Sunday last – Sadly free Mensa &c this week – eating House unfit by & unable to take proper part – Little done – & Devotions curtail'd – Evening where bad – O may I reform – Less company & more Temperance before House.\

Sunday 25th January. Slept sadly & but poorly Bowels – intensely cold – (lower than 2 degrees below nothing) – Lock & brought Milner to Battersea Rise – Clapham Church – din'd late – exhausted – & fit for nothing – quite sleepy & cold unconquerably so – affected this morning – but sadly stupid now.

Sunday Evening Battersea Rise January 25th. *This has been a very hurrying week, seeing many People at Home, &c Milner & Bob Smith with me; today much affected. Morning I received the Sacrament, but fasted till late & so overcome by Dinner that invincibly cold & sleepy this Evening – \ (NB found afterwards that ill at this time)/ I have sadly exceded Mensa & Ferms this Week – I have been sensual selfish; Self denial forgot – Evening Devotions extremely curtail'd, sometimes almost \quite/ omitted – Scripture little read – oimoi – oimoi – I humbly resolve on Reform, universal – yesterday exceded Mensa – disagreed with me & very poorly today – O how am I asininal by Excess when so many are Starving from Cold & want.*

Monday 26th January. Too much trifled away morning – To Town – din'd before House Milner

& Henry Thornton – Grey’s motion spoke well – Up^{xix} in House till ½ past 5 – & till \almost/ ½ past 8 – preparing what after all thrown away – oblig’d to get up again soon after 11 about Society Meeting – Din’d Home – Milner & a few friends – Samuel Hoare &c Lords Debate – Sadly flurried – & felt from Laudanum &c as if drunk at Night – Bed too late.

Wednesday 28th. Up latish – indifferent friends before House – Debate went off – they staid long – Milner & I discuss’d.

^{xx}**Thursday [29th].** Much the same as *Wednesday* – friends at Dinner Bentham’s – Attorney General &c – still very poorly – they staid talking till ½ past 10 – Too late in Bed.

Friday [30th]. Indifferent – din’d Sir Richard Hill’s – Mr Woodd spiritual – otherwise how but from Restraints, would it appear that amongst *Christians* who bound to redeem the Time {...}^{xxi} But very poorly still.

Saturday [31st]. Milner went away – I din’d Lord Bathurst’s – He & Lady Bathurst & I – I no spiritual Conversation Oimoi – nor conscious of God’s presence – Call’d Sir Charles Middleton’s & home.

ⁱ Deletion: ~~before~~ and an illegible word.

ⁱⁱ Manicule inserted here.

ⁱⁱⁱ Deletion: Ferms.

^{iv} Manicule inserted here.

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^{vi} Manicule inserted here.

^{vii} Manicule inserted here.

^{viii} Manicule inserted here.

^{ix} Manicule inserted here.

^x Manicule inserted here in left margin.

^{xi} Manicule inserted here.

^{xii} Deletion: serious.

^{xiii} Manicule inserted at the start of this line.

^{xiv} Manicule inserted at the start of this line.

^{xv} Deletion: illegible.

^{xvi} Entries for Wed 21 to Sat 24 January are written in reverse order, following the entry for Sun 25 January.

^{xvii} Deletion: illegible.

^{xviii} Manicule inserted at the start of this row.

^{xix} Hash symbol (#) inserted at the start of this line.

^{xx} Entries for Thu 29 to Sat 31 January are written in reverse order, following the entry for Sun 1 February.

^{xxi} Deletion: illegible.