

THE JOURNALS OF MRS PHILIP LYBBE POWYS  
(1738–1817)  
A HALF CENTURY OF VISITS TO BATH

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I INTRODUCTION

Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys, née Caroline Girle, travelled extensively, as far afield as Devon, Staffordshire, Norfolk, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Kent and the Isle of Wight, often staying with her family and relations, and she visited Bath with great frequency. She recorded these tours and visits in her Annual Journal and in several accounts of individual tours, as well as in letters to her father and to friends and relations.<sup>1</sup> Extracts from these were published in 1899.<sup>2</sup> The interest and extent of this output is all the more remarkable in view of the conventional attitude to the education of women in the eighteenth century. Caroline was well aware of the limitations which this imposed, observing that her ignorance of a scientific subject was 'more for want of instruction than capacity'. She asked:

... is it any thing surprising the sex shou'd amuse themselves with trifles when these Lords of the Creation will not give themselves the trouble, (in my conscience I believe tis for fear of being out shone) to enlarge our minds by making them capable to retain those of more importance (BL vol. VI: Plymouth Journal, 1760, ff.28–9)

Despite these disadvantages, it is clear from two recent studies that her observations are highly regarded: praising her as a witness of prevailing tastes in country houses, one author concludes that 'None excel Mrs Lybbe Powys, not as an appraiser of architectural niceties but as a typical representative of the gentry class'; the other finds that the consistent interest in the interiors of a house shown by Caroline and the earlier traveller Celia Fiennes 'make particularly rewarding reading'.<sup>3</sup>

After an introduction to Caroline and her family, and to the journals themselves, there follow accounts of the visits to Bath from the original manuscripts. To give the full flavour of these visits, rather than to simply select 'interesting' passages, several accounts for the later years are transcribed in full.

### Caroline Girle and her family

Caroline Girle was born on December 27th 1738,<sup>4</sup> the daughter of a prosperous surgeon, John Girle, and Barbara Slaney, an heiress. Her father's

memorial tablet in Beenham Church, Berkshire, records that his death on July 5th 1761 occurred in his fifty-ninth year. He had retired, having made his fortune, and was planning to leave the house in Lincoln's Inn Fields in London into which the family had moved on September 14th 1754.<sup>5</sup>

According to Caroline, he died when he had 'just purchas'd' a house in the Circus at Bath (AJ, July 5th 1761), where building had begun in 1754.<sup>6</sup> His daughter would thus have become a resident in the newest and most fashionable part of Bath. Girle's purchase of a substantial house demonstrates that he must indeed have 'early in life acquired an ample fortune, the just reward of superior eminence, and unremitting diligence in his profession', as his memorial tablet informs us.<sup>7</sup> It is evident from Caroline's comments and her frequent visits that she was very attracted to the city, but Bath was not to be her future home. She and her mother moved instead to live in Caversham, Berkshire, near to a previous home. This was also close to where Philip Lybbe Powys (1734–1809) lived at Hardwick House, Oxfordshire;<sup>8</sup> his mother was Isabella Lybbe, sole heiress, whose family had owned Hardwick for many generations. The Girle and Hardwick families had been previously acquainted.

Caroline was married to Philip Lybbe Powys on August 5th 1762, and Hardwick became her much-loved home for twenty-two years. All her four children were born there; the first daughter died before she was a year old, the occasion of a consolatory visit to Bath, but the other three grew up at Hardwick. This house was, Caroline wrote in a letter to a close friend soon after her wedding, 'a large old House about twelve rooms on a Floor with 4 Staircases, The situation delightful on a declivity of a Hill y<sup>e</sup> most beautiful woods behind, and fine views of the Thames and rich meadows in Front' (BL vol. XIII: letter of October 24th 1762) (fig. 1 overleaf).

Philip Lybbe Powys's widowed father, Philip Powys, lived with the couple until he died in 1779. In 1782 Caroline's mother, Mrs Girle, moved to live at Hardwick House. She had planned to buy a house in Bath, but instead in 1783 and 1784 she took a house for the winter for herself and the young couple. In 1784, with most of the family gone, Hardwick House became too big, so Caroline and Philip, with their daughter Caroline, moved to live with his bachelor brother, Thomas Powys, Rector of Fawley, some 13 miles distant, leaving Hardwick with 'the utmost regret' (AJ, Summer 1784). Fawley Rectory was the home of Caroline and Philip for 25 years till the death of the latter in 1809; Caroline's last years till her death late in 1817 were spent in Henley. Their son Philip took over Hardwick in 1792 after a short period of letting. When they left Hardwick, Caroline's mother lived first in Reading and then in Henley.



**Fig.1** Hardwick House, Oxfordshire, engraved drawing by Skelton and Willis, 1827. The Philip Lybbe Powys in the title is the elder son of Caroline Powys. The drawing shows the rear of the house, looking entirely sixteenth- and seventeenth-century in character, and probably little changed from how Caroline would have seen it. (*reproduced by courtesy of Timothy Powys-Lybbe*)

## The Journals

The journals are a valuable source of material on local customs, manners and celebrations, and on the architectural development and interior decoration of the grand house in the late eighteenth century, when Caroline was both tourist and private visitor. They give a first-hand impression of the country life of the English upper classes at a time when rapidly increasing wealth gave rise to the building of new country houses everywhere, and the passion for entertainment was spreading from the town to the country. Caroline was clearly well read and extremely observant.

Caroline herself reduced her pocket diaries, which have not survived, into the three volumes of the Annual Journal, which runs to more than 500 pages; for example, in 1793 she wrote:

here ends my sort of journal for y<sup>e</sup> year 1793, for though in my Annual pocket Book I always set down the visits of each day, yet that would take up too much room here, as in so excellent and agreeable Neighbourhood as this is it would be a constant repetition of dinners in each mansion within 7 or 8 miles round. (AJ, Dec. 28th 1793)

We know, therefore, that Caroline intended the surviving journals to be her record for posterity.

For whom was she taking the trouble to write up her journals from her letters and pocket diaries? The very first account, of a trip of several weeks to Norfolk in 1756, is in fact based on letters to her father. It was he who enjoined her to write about her journey and thus started her off in the diary habit. Caroline certainly took a long view, when she wrote of Holkham 25 years later, 'I shall say nothing of this place as in a journal in 1756 in a letter to my father, I've given a description of it' (BL vol. X: Second Norfolk Journal, 1781).

### Survey of Visits to Bath, 1759–1808

The first described visit occurred in 1759, when Caroline was 20 years old; it was part of a tour with her family which included Oxford and Bath. In Oxford they saw in one day Trinity College, the Ashmolean Museum, the Bodleian, New College, the Clarendon, Sheldonian, Schools, Radcliffe Camera, All Souls, the Physic Garden, Magdalen and the Walks, and then went off to lodgings in Woodstock. They arrived in Bath on August 21st:

... this is a place of great Antiquity, lying in a valley surround'd with an Amphitheatrical view of Hills from which Hills spring y<sup>e</sup> waters so fam'd and which are of such advantage to this City, a City in my opinion more worth seeing than any I was ever at, the Grand Metropolis except'd. twice I have been there before, but tis infinitely improv'd by the building y<sup>e</sup> Circus, and y<sup>e</sup> noble street by which tis approach'd from y<sup>e</sup> Square. they seem to fear y<sup>e</sup> formers ever being finish'd its progress is so extremely slow 9 houses only are yet erect'd. there is intend'd to be 3 times that number, and y<sup>e</sup> openings between give a fine view of y<sup>e</sup> Country. those that are Compleat'd give one an idea of y<sup>e</sup> elegance of y<sup>e</sup> Whole they being in a magnificent taste in y<sup>e</sup> Doric Ionic and Corinthian orders, and indeed tis so fine a design twou'd be great pity if it fail'd in y<sup>e</sup> execution. there are many other fine Buildings in this City as the Parades &c, but y<sup>e</sup> Bath Stone affords a fine opportunity to embellish and give an air of Grandure to y<sup>e</sup> whole. we employ'd our morning as

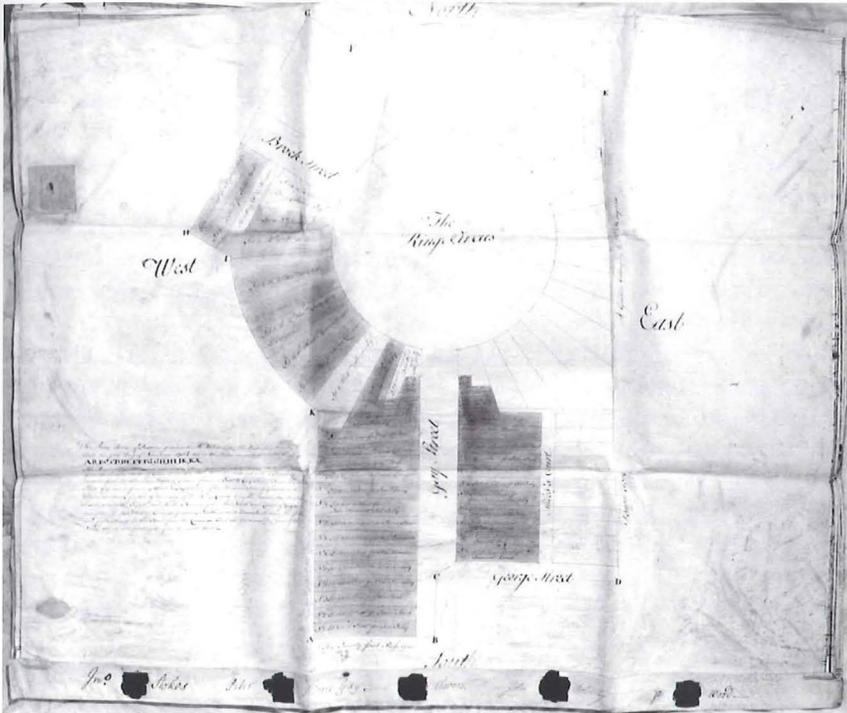
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 re proceeded we employ'd over Morning as is usual at Bath, in going to y<sup>e</sup>

Fig.2 Folio 20 of the tour journal of 1759.  
 (reproduced by permission of the British Library from Add. Mss. 42164)

is usual at Bath in going to y<sup>e</sup> Pump, y<sup>e</sup> Abbey Church and y<sup>e</sup> Rooms tho each were but little frequent'd there being but two or three families besides that of y<sup>e</sup> Duchess of Marlboroughs. the heat of y<sup>e</sup> waters is very extraordinary and People attribute it to different causes but most to its passing thro' certain Sulphurous veins of y<sup>e</sup> earth, in taste tis not so agreeable as those at Bristol. Thursday afternoon [August 22nd] we went to M<sup>r</sup> Busbys at Walcot; we had paid in the morning a visit to M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Pierce, and early on Friday we quitt'd this agreeable Place. (BL vol. V: Oxford etc, 1759)

This was a brief visit perhaps, but particularly interesting for her comment that she had been there twice before, 'but tis infinitely improv'd by the building y<sup>e</sup> Circus'. She and presumably her father must have visited Bath before the Circus, on which work began in 1754, was building (fig.3). When her father died on July 5th 1761, he had 'just purchas'd a house in the Circus



**Fig.3** Portion of a deed of 1768 showing the south-west segment of the King's Circus, approximately what Caroline would have seen in 1759. (reproduced by courtesy of Bath Record Office)

Bath, and our Goods were packing to remove there' (AJ, Jul. 5th 1761). It may be that the visits of 1759 and earlier mentioned by Caroline had shown how attractive Bath was. Forty years later it still had its enchantment: at the end of the visit in 1796–97, 'we walked about y<sup>e</sup> whole morning to take leave of our favorite place' (AJ, Jan. 12th 1797). It is perhaps not surprising that Bath was so congenial, since Caroline clearly disliked open landscapes: 'Suffolk ... one of y<sup>e</sup> most horrid Countys I ever beheld' (BL vol. X: Second Norfolk Tour, 1781); Osterley Park's 'situation dreary and unpleasant' (AJ, May 22nd 1788); in the New Forest 'you ... see your Straight Road for many Miles, which to me is ever a disagreeable View' (BL vol. XI: Isle of Wight, 1792). In Derbyshire, on the other hand, she found that 'what adds beauty to this county is the parks and forests, and inequality of hills and dales that so diversify the landscape' <sup>9</sup> – she was truly a devotee of the picturesque.

The next visit was in April 1764 after the death of her first daughter, born the previous June. Caroline, her husband, his brother and her father-in-law went to Bath because they thought 'a little Tour might be of service to my spirits at that time very indifferent' (AJ, Apr. 26th 1764). The next few years were occupied by the birth and childhood of her two sons, Philip Lybbe (1765) and Thomas (1768). The next visit to Bath occurred in 1773 when she and her husband went to Bath for five weeks 'for M<sup>r</sup> Powys health, and the waters were of infinite service to him' (AJ, Jan. 6th 1773); she observed that 'The celebrated Miss Lindley [M<sup>rs</sup> Sheridan] was now a capital singer at Bath, we heard her in "Acis and Galatea" and nothing but y<sup>e</sup> elegance of her figure can equal her voice.'

In 1775 another daughter was born, and the next Bath visit did not occur till in April 1780 they went again 'for M<sup>r</sup> Powys health, but he soon received Benefit from the Waters, and having numbers of our Acquaintance there made us pass 6 most agreeable weeks.' We do not know if they planned other visits between these dates, but the weather could make the journey impossible: one year their six-week visit was delayed a fortnight by snow (AJ, Mar. 15th 1786). In another, the weather was so bad that they could not use their horses, and fuel ran short (AJ, Feb. 2nd 1795).

After 1780 the visits became much more frequent. Caroline's mother, who had moved to Hardwick House in the middle of September 1782,

had long talked of ... taking a house at Bath, but we could not reconcile ourselves to her being at so great a distance, or to her living there at all in Summer, so in the end we fixed on a scheme agreeable to us all, that of living with her at Bath in Winter if she would consent to be at Hardwick the other part of the year. (AJ, Sep. 1782)

There followed a pattern of nearly annual visits by the couple until the record ceases at the end of 1808. In 1783 and 1784 they went to Bath in February for three months accompanied by Caroline's mother who had taken a house, but she seems not to have come to Bath again. Thereafter, the couple took lodgings in many parts of the city, except in 1796–97 when they were invited by friends who had taken a house in Laura Place.<sup>10</sup>

On the penultimate visit in 1807 Caroline and her husband had their portraits done by Jacob Spornberg.<sup>11</sup> These were miniatures, that of Caroline being the only known representation of her (fig. 2). We do not know if Caroline ever visited Bath again, but as her husband died in April 1809, and as she was herself then 70, she may well have not felt the urge or had the energy to undertake a journey of two days, staying in Bath on her own, after more than fifty years' acquaintance with that city. In the 23 years from 1786 to 1808, there were 17 visits in all, usually in late winter running into spring; they lasted anything up to three months. From 1796 they truly became 'our annual Bath tour' or 'Excursion' (AJ, Feb. 17th 1803, Jan. 12th 1807). In total, Caroline's visits to Bath accounted for three years of her life.



Fig.4 Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys, 'Etruscan profile' silhouette by Jacob Spornberg at Bath, 1807

The distance from Hardwick to Bath was less than 70 miles, a journey which it was possible to accomplish within a day. From Fawley, where most of the journeys started, the distance was some 12 or 14 miles longer, making an overnight stay unavoidable. The couple broke their journey most often at Marlborough, occasionally staying another night at Hardwick (where their son was in residence from 1792) or at Reading on the way.

The accounts of the visits to Bath reproduced below from the Annual Journal show the intensity of social life for those in a position to enjoy it, but evidently it could take its toll. In 1798, at the age of 60, Caroline wrote, 'we were so old Fashion a couple, as to enjoy ourselves (by ourselves), sometimes of evenings, rather than always in such immense crowded rooms.' (AJ, Mar. 10th 1798)

## II THE LATER VISITS TO BATH IN THE JOURNALS OF CAROLINE POWYS<sup>12</sup>

- 1796 *February 25th* – Thursday y<sup>e</sup> 25 M<sup>r</sup> Powys and myself set off for Bath which we intended sooner as M<sup>r</sup> P health had long wanted those waters, but I was too ill to go sooner and then very indifferent. We lay that night at M<sup>rs</sup> Micklems, Reading, and set off y<sup>e</sup> next morning at <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> past seven.
- 26<sup>th</sup> – got to y<sup>e</sup> White Lion Bath by six. we had sent about Lodgings, but it was so full none were to be had a week before, but luckily a family went out of N<sup>o</sup> 9 George St y<sup>e</sup> next morn after we arrived, and we went into them in the Evening, liking that Situation, as we were tired of the high ones, having the last Time Lodged in Landsdown Place, and found the distance very Inconvenient.
- 28<sup>th</sup> – on Sunday the 28, I was much disappointed at not being well enough to go out, as D<sup>r</sup> Randolph told me it was his last Time of Preaching, and I had never heard him, but I was so fortunate y<sup>e</sup> next to find he had staid that week, and then had that pleasure. Text fifth Jeremiah 4 & 5.
- March 9th* – on The Fast day my Brother[-in-law], D<sup>r</sup> Powys came from Bristol to preach at the Octagon, whose Sermon was so generally admired, he was much desired to print it and a most excellent one indeed it was, I seldom before went to the Octagon and those two Sundays thought it more than ever like being at an Assembly, for being a Friend of y<sup>e</sup> one D<sup>r</sup> & related to the Other, we were placed in the highest Seat in the Synagogue, and of course one of the most uncomfortable places to perform ones Devotions In.

I think tis unnecessary to write down a daily journal during our stay in Bath, only that I had the pleasure of seeing M<sup>r</sup> Powys health mend daily, as to myself I was very indifferent the whole time I was there. as to y<sup>e</sup> Amusements, we partook but a few of them, two very good Plays, and as usual amazingly well perform'd 'The Jew' (one of Cumberlands) and 'A Bell Stroke for a Wife', we were only at one dress Ball, but Parties tis impossible to escape, at Bath or London, though as diversion I believe so prejudicial to health from the intense heat of crouded rooms, one poor young Lady was a martyr to imprudence too common at Bath y<sup>e</sup> walking if only a few doors from one Card Assembly to another, She was perfectly well, and I had met her at a Friend of mine in the morning, where she was talking of the many places she was to be at that evening, the next day but one She died of a most violent Cold caught by not taking a chair because it was only a few Doors She had to go, the wind was amazingly high and the Physician said that this

was literally the cause of her Death, though quite unknown to her till two days before. I think I was hardly ever more shock'd.

15th – I forgot to mention being much entertain'd one Evening by Breslaus, who we had not seen for some years, indeed it appears very surprising, at one time he made Five or six of us not take up y<sup>e</sup> same Card that I've often seen done but each of us think of the same Card, then he desired from different Gentlemen each to take a peice of money from their own pockets, mark them as they liked, then lay each down on y<sup>e</sup> Table themselves under a Card, he never came near the Table, but in a few minutes desir'd them to look for their own peices under some lids of boxes on another table, and see if their marks were what they made, two of the Gentlemen were our own party, which proved the Trial fair, as wonderful how he could deceive one.

April 4th – we left Bath at ten in the morn [...] forgot to mention the Elegant new pump room being finish'd since we were last at Bath, which renders the croud in meeting there much more Comodious than it used to be.

1796 November 22nd – went to The White Lion Bath y<sup>e</sup> next day where we dined and then luckily got the same Lodgings in George Street for one week as we were in the last year. The Shrimptons had sent us word from London, they had taken a large house in Laura Place and we must come to them y<sup>e</sup> 28, though they knew it was not y<sup>e</sup> Time of year we generally went to Bath. This being all fixed, and M<sup>r</sup> Powys being far from well, we thought of setting out, and taking Lodgings till they were ready to receive us, without telling them of our intentions and luckily we were quite settled before they knew we were around.

26th – The Duke and Duchess of York came to their House in the Crescent the Center one, which they have just purchased, and y<sup>e</sup> next day the Prince of Wales came to them. We were that Sunday at Queen Square Chaple,<sup>13</sup> the Duchess had taken a seat there and was handed in by one of the Gentlemen, her attendants, and the beautiful M<sup>rs</sup> Bunbury was with her Royal Highness

28th – On Monday the 28 we left our Lodgings and went to the Shrimptons who had taken a large house N<sup>o</sup> 7 Laura place, M<sup>rs</sup> Norman with them.

30th – at the Concert new rooms to hear Signora Storacé

December 3rd – at the play 'The Dramatist' and 'Agreeable Surprise', y<sup>e</sup> Duchess there, who was at all y<sup>e</sup> public Amusements.

4th – Sunday at D<sup>r</sup> Randolfs new Chapel, Laura place, where we had taken a recess, being acquainted with him, it was not near so full as the Octagon used to be, and is at present a very cold one indeed, but the

weather was remarkably severe at that time.

- 6<sup>th</sup> – at a party M<sup>rs</sup> Hankles.  
 8<sup>th</sup> – to dinner M<sup>rs</sup> Eyre Miss Purvis S<sup>r</sup> George Colnebroke M<sup>r</sup> Eyre and M<sup>r</sup> Purvis, a party in the evening as usual.  
 10<sup>th</sup> – a large company to dinner  
 13<sup>th</sup> – a party at M<sup>r</sup> Badderleys  
 15<sup>th</sup> – M<sup>r</sup> Shrimpton & M<sup>r</sup> Powys dined at the Marquis of Lansdownes. among many other Gentlemen The Archbishop of Bordeaux was there a very agreeable man, he could not talk english, he now lives on a pension from our Government, though formerly of such state and magnificence at Beaudeau, as to have treated two Regiments in his Court Yard.  
 18<sup>th</sup> – Dr Randolf preach'd his Charity Sermon for y<sup>e</sup> Bath Hospital and got a larger Collection than any other Church.  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Company to dinner  
 20<sup>th</sup> – party at M<sup>rs</sup> Eyres  
 22<sup>nd</sup> – at the play to see Miss Wallace in 'Beatrice' with 'y<sup>e</sup> Lock & Key', Miss Wallace perform'd it amazingly well indeed, and as I had often seen M<sup>rs</sup> Pritchard in the same Character, I think I must say more in praise of this Favorite Bath Actress, who was come from London, to act for a week as usual  
 25<sup>th</sup> – being Sunday and Xmas day, the places of Worship were (as I must say they generally are at Bath) as full as possible but the service being very long and the weather colder than has almost ever been known, it was hardly possible to bear the severity, at Bath having been generally there only in Spring I never felt any thing like it, but it seems in London and Country it was at that time very remarkable.  
 28<sup>th</sup> – at the play to see Miss Wallace act 'y<sup>e</sup> Jealous Wife', which She performed Incomparably.  
 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> – each a large party at home. [visit continues into 1797]
- 1797 *January 2<sup>nd</sup>* – Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, was M<sup>r</sup> Tysons Ball at the Upper Rooms, and I fancy never any Master of the Ceremonies had a fuller or one more magnificent from the number of persons of Quality then at Bath, of whom I will set down a list of those I can recollect seeing there, we were obliged to go an hour before it began to get a tolerable place, but by that means were fortunate to get very good ones, near the Throne, Sopha, so call'd, plac'd there for the Royal family, when they entered, the whole company rose up, and continued standing while 'God Save y<sup>e</sup> King' and 'The Duke of Yorks march' was play'd. The Duchess of York, and Princess of Orange was first led up the room

and seated on the Throne, next all the Ladies of quality and placed on benches on each side. the Gentlemen none of them set down, but the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, the Stadtholder, Prince of Orange, and many noblemen stood and talked to y<sup>e</sup> Ladies till the Ball began, when they mixed with the croud, which was immense, above fourteen hundred, indeed it was allow'd by all to be a most pleasing sight in so fine a room as that is. I will now put down the names of the nobility I remember to have been there, tho I've no doubt I shall omit many.

Prince Wales, Duke & Duchess York, The Stadtholder & Princess of Orange, The Prince of Orange, Lord & Lady Harcourt, The Chancellor & Lady Loughborough, Lady Mary Howe and her sister, Lord and Lady Clifden, Earl of Sussex, Earl of Galloway, Earl Miltown, Earl of Strafford, Lord Molesworth, Viscountess Down, Earl of Peterborough, Lord Ashbroke, Lady de Clifford, Marquis & Marchioness Blandford, Duke and Duchess Beaufort, Duchess Rutland, Marquis Bute, Earl & Countess of Inchiquin, R<sup>t</sup> Hon Lord Caledon, Lady Mary Knox, Earl & Countess Altamont, Countess Ormond, Lady E. Butler, Lady G. Sutton, Earl Milton, Lord J. Thynne, Marquis Worcester, Lord Malden, Lady Eliz Chaplin, Lady C. Johnstone, Count Travinville, Earl & Countess of Cork, Duchess Newcastle & two Daughters, Duke Newcastle, Earl of Peterborough, Earl of Plymouth, Lord & Lady Hood, Lord Coleraine, Marquis Landsdown, Countess of Ely, Countess of [blank], Lady Malmesbury, Lord George & J. Beresford, besides Baronets & their Ladies innumerable.

*3rd* – at the play 'The Duce is in Him' The Royal Family there, and when Signora Storacé sang 'God Save the King' I do believe half the Audience shed tears, as her manner voice and Action, was beyond anything one could imagine.

*5th* – a party at home

*6th* – Kings Ball the master of the ceremonies lower rooms a very full one, but nothing like Tysons, indeed, many of the nobility were gone and the Prince Duke and the Stadtholders family, and those Rooms being so much smaller, made the croud very disagreeable indeed so that people being sever'd from their own parties most left y<sup>e</sup> Ball very early, as did the Duchess of York.

While we were at Bath M<sup>rs</sup> Norman had her post Chaise weigh'd, and it was Thirteen hundred [weight] & a half and 5 pounds, without y<sup>e</sup> Coach Box Trunk chaise Seat, or Imperial, we none of us imagined it would have been so much.

The pump woman gives a Thousand a year for the place and to mend the road two mile y<sup>e</sup> London way costs Twenty two pounds a week.

- 11th – we walked about y<sup>e</sup> whole morning to take leave of our favorite place, the pump room very full of Company many Emigrants there, and one among them with large Gold Earrings, to us in England this appear'd extraordinary, but I believe common in France.
- 12th – we were to have set off on our journey this morning but it snow'd the whole day,
- 13th – but we went the next morning [...]
- 1798 *March 2nd* – got to Bath about 3 to M<sup>r</sup> Shrimptons Lodgings N<sup>o</sup> 15 Gay St, they wish'd us again to be with them, as the house was a large one but we sent them word we would not only till we got Lodgings.
- 5th – Company to dinner, and large party evening.
- 7th – The Fast day D<sup>r</sup> Chapman preach'd, D<sup>r</sup> Sedley y<sup>e</sup> Sunday before at Queen Square Chaple.
- 8th – a party at home evening
- 9th – dined at M<sup>rs</sup> Cassalets, large party in the evening.
- 10th – we went into our Lodgings N<sup>o</sup> 34 Gay St, at which our kind Friends were very angry with us, but we really told them the truth, that we really wish to live a rather quieter life than theirs when we were at Bath, but would certainly see them every day as long as they stay'd but beg'd to be excused so many dinners and parties, as M<sup>r</sup> Powys riding and I constantly walking all y<sup>e</sup> mornings, we were so old Fashion a couple, as to enjoy ourselves (by ourselves), somtimes of evenings, rather than always in such immense crouded rooms.
- 12th – we called on M<sup>rs</sup> Munster y<sup>e</sup> sister of old Lord Camden, who we had not seen some years.
- 14th – The Shrimptons to dinner a small party evening
- 16th – Lady & M<sup>rs</sup> Williams to dinner
- 17th – at a party Shrimptons evening
- 18th – M<sup>r</sup> Smith (late of Prior Park) preach'd at Queen Square.
- 19th – we dined at Shrimptons party evening
- 20th – at The Play Biggs Benefit 'Inkle & Yantias', a Farewell address and 'y<sup>e</sup> Blanders of Bingley'.
- 21st – The Shrimptons left Bath, at the pump room that morning we met Lady Eliz. Pratt and Lord Londonderry, who were on their journey to Bristol, with his Lordships Daughter who was very ill.
- 24th – at a party at Miss Cresswells in the evening, Miss Sally More Sister to Miss Hannah More, was there.
- 25th – M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd at Queen Square.
- 26th – we dined at M<sup>r</sup> Lutwyche<sup>s</sup> 17 of us, S<sup>r</sup> James Fitzgerald Coll<sup>n</sup> Burgoyne

& Lady, Coll<sup>n</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Northy a young Lady with them two M<sup>rs</sup> Strouds Miss Cholmondley Miss Waller M<sup>rs</sup> Ann Northey the two Miss Mayos Neices to M<sup>r</sup> Lutwyches, went up to Coffee y<sup>e</sup> Gentlemen very soon after, and we then were most highly entertain'd by the Miss Mayos Singing and playing on y<sup>e</sup> Harpsichord. I think no one can hardly equal Miss Clementina in both, y<sup>e</sup> eldest only Sings. after y<sup>e</sup> Ladies had entertain'd us some time, almost y<sup>e</sup> whole Company adjourned to the Dress Ball upper rooms.

30th – In the morning we went to see the exhibition of Ivory Work, most exceedingly curious indeed, Windsor Castle, Greenwich Hospital, Eddystone Lighthouse, &c &c &c, most ingeniously carved from solid pieces of Ivory. Likenesses of their Majesties &c most astonishing well done, any device carved for Locketts, Bracelets, Rings, or toothpick cases, in as small peices as I did y<sup>e</sup> Cherry-stone Baskets, and done with something like y<sup>e</sup> same Knives, and must be equally trying to y<sup>e</sup> eyes. tis done by Stephany and Dresch, y<sup>e</sup> only Artists in this Line, and by whom is taken y<sup>e</sup> most striking Likenesses in Ivory.

April 3rd – M<sup>rs</sup> Fanshawe to Tea, and at about 9 we all went to M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwyches party (who is always at home on Tuesdays). we thought there was numbers of people, but that discovered our ignorance in these affairs, as M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwyche express'd herself quite hurt, two or 3 times, that M<sup>r</sup> Powys and myself should be there y<sup>e</sup> first time, when she had literally hardly any company, 'only seven tables, and that is so very few, you know, Ma'am', I really was ignorant, for I did not know it, and rather thought it a squeeze; but how unfashionable I am in disliking these immense parties I kept secret to myself.

7th – [?]-M<sup>r</sup> Powys and myself went to Bristol [...]

8th – Sunday we went to y<sup>e</sup> Octagon Chapel with y<sup>e</sup> Badderleys to hear y<sup>e</sup> famous D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner, successor to y<sup>e</sup> no less famous D<sup>r</sup> Randolph, indeed he is a very good preacher, and not quite so pompous as his predecessor which is certainly what makes him more pleasing to most of his congregation.

9th – at Tysons Ball, which appeared to be so thin of Company, though not reckon'd so, but we could not help comparing it with his last years in Jan: which was so crowd'd, and such numbers of high rank then present

10th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrughs

11th – we went in the evening to the Fantochini, the whole is in French and entertaining for once. [...]

12th – paid our visits of taking leave

13th – we set off from Bath by 7 [...]

- 1799 *March 29th* – [...] to Bath, where we got by half past six, to Woodleys at y<sup>e</sup> White [Lion] where we lay, had enquired after Lodgings long before but none to be had for some time even for single Gentlemen, and y<sup>e</sup> next morning
- 30th – M<sup>r</sup> Powys and myself walk'd about for 4 hours before we could meet with any, and at last were forced to be in Bond S<sup>t</sup> where I never before could have an Idea of taking any, but fortunately it was very Cold weather, or certainly, tis as much too low in the Town as we have often before been too high, but we were obliged to be content and indeed can except y<sup>e</sup> above objection there was no other, as most excellent dining rooms and very civil people at Viners N<sup>o</sup> 13, we went into them on Satt evening.
- 31st – arrived the first news of the Austrians having beat y<sup>e</sup> French.
- April 2nd* – amazing cold weather even at Bath, I consulted D<sup>r</sup> Mapleton who had formerly been a near neighbour to us, and was now y<sup>e</sup> second Physician at this place.
- 4th – at a party in the evening at M<sup>r</sup> Vanbrughs.
- 7th – M<sup>r</sup> Falkner, son of D<sup>r</sup> Falkner preach'd at Queen Square Chapel, where we as usual had taken a pew.
- 9th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Lutchwedgs party in the evening (always at home on Tuesday) 10 tables six to each, and numbers who like us did not play.
- 11th – at the play 'Laugh while you can' and 'Blue Beard'
- 12th – terrible cold weather and constant rain every day
- 14th – Sunday M<sup>r</sup> Clark preach'd, I went to Church at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  past ten. M<sup>r</sup> Powys was just then taken with a bleeding at the nose, but as much used to it he desired Id go and he would follow me, but having staid out y<sup>e</sup> Service in great anxiety, I return'd home and found it still bleeding, and had never seaced. I sent to the apothecary, who gave him something without effect, I then sent for M<sup>r</sup> Gaunt, y<sup>e</sup> Surgeon, who advised me to send for D<sup>r</sup> Mappleton as acquainted with his constitution, y<sup>e</sup> D<sup>r</sup> being out, it was between 4 and 5 in the afternoon before he came, poor M<sup>r</sup> Powys was near fainting, and I from my fears could hardly support it, but the D<sup>r</sup> beg'd me not to be so alarm'd, as he was almost certain he could stop it by Ruspinis Styptic, which was directly sent for, and almost as soon as applied stopt y<sup>e</sup> bleeding, and most thankful was I, as he was really nearly exhausted, and y<sup>e</sup> loss of blood must have been immense. The D<sup>r</sup> told us he knew not what it is, but though a quack medicine, it was wonderful y<sup>e</sup> cures he had known by it, in wounds, inward bruises, or bleeding at the nose, and he advises every one to keep some in their house, which I certainly always shall, for if we had been at Fawley or any place where this remedy was unknown, the consequences might have been fatal.

- 15th – Tysons, y<sup>e</sup> Master of y<sup>e</sup> Ceremonies Ball at y<sup>e</sup> Upper Rooms, we were to have been there, but of course after y<sup>e</sup> fatigue & anxiety of the day before, we did not think of it. M<sup>r</sup> P was better than could be expected, though extremely weak for a long while.
- 18th – at a party at M<sup>r</sup> Vanbrughs.
- 19th – having been very indifferent ever since M<sup>r</sup> Powys illness, and too low & nervous to be blooded I was by D<sup>r</sup> Mapletons advice cupt by M<sup>r</sup> Grant (Charles Street, Bath)
- 20th – M<sup>r</sup> Cookes family and Miss Warnford to Tea.
- 22nd – Miss E Powney dined with us, at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrughs night in y<sup>e</sup> Evening 8 Tables, from thence I went to the Dress Ball upper Rooms
- 24th – drank Tea at D<sup>r</sup> Mapletons
- 26th – at a party at M<sup>r</sup> Purvis 6 tables, went from thence to a party at M<sup>r</sup> Leigh Perrots,<sup>14</sup> 8 tables, 90 people.
- 27th – The few days we staid after this was spent in taking leave of our Friends there, as we now wished to return home as we had receiv'd a Letter lately from our Son Thomas to inform us he was going to add another Daughter to our Family, and indeed our excursion this Spring had not afforded us our usual pleasure, from M<sup>r</sup> Powys illness, my apprehension on his account having made him unwell, and terrible cold wet weather y<sup>e</sup> whole time, so that neither of us were so sorry as we often had been to quit that agreeable place, which we are both partial to.
- May 4th – On Saturday we left Bath at half past 7 after having breakfast'd [...]
- July 11th – Bath anecdotes omitted

I forgot to mention the Prince of Wales being at Bath when we were. he was not very popular, from the company he brought with him M<sup>r</sup> Sheridans Son, and another Gentleman whose name Ive forgot whose great merit seem'd to be that he could drink at a setting two bottles more than any one else. A Miss Fox, a very beautiful Girl whose Sister lives at Major Marsacks, was of y<sup>e</sup> party but kept quite invisible. indeed His Royal Highness was almost constantly at M<sup>rs</sup> Carrs, attracted by the beauty of her two Daughters, y<sup>e</sup> Miss Gubbins, though it was said y<sup>e</sup> most beautiful Miss Honor was not y<sup>e</sup> Princes favorite, but both play'd & sang to him every evening, and he generally supt there, poor girls are really to be pitied, as tis not their, but the mothers fault, to be in such a constant round of dissipation, and playing very deep at Cards, from y<sup>e</sup> same bad example. I think y<sup>e</sup> Prince look'd in better health than y<sup>e</sup> year before, but they said he was not, and though he came to drink y<sup>e</sup> waters, from his manner of living they certainly could not be of much service. Bath always abounds in drole anecdotes, & on its being thought y<sup>e</sup> Prince

look'd very dull, it was given as a reason, that a few days before he left London he had had his Fortune told. The manner of it is the person puts in his hand to a person that is invisible, who having observ'd it a little while said 'Youll not live long' the Prince not liking I suppose this observation, came again the next day in quite a different dress. When on again putting in his hand, y<sup>e</sup> voice said 'Youll not die a natural death', this still it was said discomposed him more, indeed it was no wonder, and we all could not help wishing it might be a warning to him to behave more proper to his high station. The Duke of York was fearful he might not be graciously received, & sent to y<sup>e</sup> Mayor before he came, that he might. however, y<sup>e</sup> lower class cannot always be led, and as he got out of his Carriage, call'd out very vehemently 'Where's your wife? Why did you not bring your wife, as your Brother does?' he did not stay long, and carried M<sup>rs</sup> Carr and her Daughters to London, where it was said y<sup>e</sup> former was to set up a faro Table, how true these Bath reports time may discover.

The famous M<sup>rs</sup> Maccartney left Bath this Spring, and is gone to a house her Nephew, M<sup>r</sup> Greville, lent her in London. says she 'must come to Bath for her health sometimes, but had rather live in Hell than on y<sup>e</sup> Queens Parade, where y<sup>e</sup> families were so shockingly impolite as not one to visit her.' She offer'd her hand lately to Colonel Mckenzey, who refused it & kindly gave notice to her Nephew Greville, to look after his curious Aunt.

M<sup>rs</sup> Dunn died at Bath this year on the 16 of April at 80 years of Age, she was a Miss Holman, and married when very ancient M<sup>r</sup> Dunn a Young Militia officer.

The once celebrated Beauty Miss Wroughton, still keeps up her consequence by her large parties, and fine Concerts every Sunday evening, where Rauzzini and many amatures sing & play. the Prince always attended to hear Miss Mayo M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwyche's neice, sing & play, and indeed I never heard any one so charming. Not that I ever attended Miss Wroughton's Sunday Concerts, as I quite agreed with the two amiable Duchess<sup>s</sup> of Newcastle and Hambleton [Hamilton] who never would appear there on those evenings. The amiable Lady Nelson, who as usual was then at Bath with her Father in law, had some music sent her from Russia endeavouring to be expressive of her Lords Victories. She sent it to Rauzzini, and some of the opera musicians came from London to perform it. the Great Ball room was y<sup>e</sup> place fixt on and there were above 1300 people, but the amateurs were disappointed as the 'Battle of the Nile' as one might suppose, was only a monstrous continued Noise, but however every one was grateful to her Ladyship. I think I never saw any one more altered in y<sup>e</sup> course of one year than Lord Nelson's Father, a most worthy

old man with long grey hair, but seems now so broke which he says is literally being overcome with joy, so much so that he can hardly bear it.

D<sup>r</sup> Randolph, y<sup>e</sup> celebrated preacher, had y<sup>e</sup> Living of Bradford given him, but does not reside there, which The King when he heard that he was constantly at Bath, said y<sup>e</sup> Chaple there was no cure of Souls.

M<sup>r</sup> Day [*in margin*] Ive now recollected y<sup>e</sup> Name of the Gentleman who came with y<sup>e</sup> Prince, for being so famous a man at the bottle. The Prince once said to him, 'you are a jolly Fellow Day. When I am king, Ill make you a peer by the title of my Lord Cinque Port.' Not a bad pun of his Royal Highness.

Coals in April 1799 were only 10<sup>d</sup> a Bushell in Bath, when 5<sup>s</sup> in London, viz., £9 a chaldron.

- 1800** *March 7th* – We [...] got to Bath at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  past 7, to M<sup>r</sup> Shrimptons Lodgings, N<sup>o</sup> 36 Melsom Street, as they were so kind as to insist on our going to them, for a few days, till we got Lodgings to our mind, but we walk'd about y<sup>e</sup> next morning for many hours and none were to be had, Bath was so full. *8th* – [...]
- 9th* – went to The Octagon heard D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner
- 10th* – morning return'd visits (Snow)
- 11th* – at The Play Diamonds Benefit 'The Stranger' & 'Shipwreck'
- 12th* – The Fast Day at The Octagon D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner preach'd an excellent Sermon (Rain)
- 15th* – we left our kind Host & Hostess as we had at last got Lodgings, N<sup>o</sup> 32 Gay St rather too small but very airy & comfortable.
- 18th* – at two Parties that evening M<sup>rs</sup> Cazalet and M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwychts y<sup>e</sup> latter she told me a very small party only Seven Tables
- 19th* – a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Shrimptons
- 21st* – at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrughs party
- 22nd* – at M<sup>rs</sup> Shrimptons party
- 23rd* – we had taken a pew at Queen Square Chapel chusing that as y<sup>e</sup> most private place of Worship. M<sup>r</sup> Bowen preach'd
- 25th* – at M<sup>rs</sup> Shrimptons party
- 26th* – M<sup>r</sup> Powys at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrughs party, I was not well enough to go
- 27th* – I went with M<sup>rs</sup> Shrimpton to Charltons benefit 'The School for Scandal' and 'y<sup>e</sup> Chimney Corner'
- 28th* – at M<sup>rs</sup> Henkles party.
- 30th* – M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth preach'd
- April 2nd* – a party at home, the Shrimptons & Miss S Nicols had dined with us. As usual when y<sup>e</sup> weather permitted walk'd all morn
- 3rd* – M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Shrimpton left Bath. *4th* – [...]

- 6th – M<sup>r</sup> Ricards preach'd  
 8th – M<sup>r</sup> Powys at M<sup>rs</sup> Henkles party, I was not well.  
 9th – Miss S Nicolls to Tea. (Constant wet weather) 11th – [...]  
 13th – M<sup>r</sup> Falkner preach'd, incessant rain and high Winds  
 15th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrughs party.  
 19th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwydges party staid Supper, the two Miss Mayos & M<sup>r</sup> Maddox (who married Lord Craven Sister) and M<sup>r</sup> Walsh Porter sang after Supper, we did not return home till near one.  
 20th – D<sup>r</sup> Davis preach'd a Charity Sermon for The Bath Hospital  
 21st – began my visits of taking leave  
 23rd – drank Tea at Bloombergs. The Marquis & Marchioness De La Peire and all my young Cousins met us there & M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Fane.  
 24th – call'd on Coll & M<sup>rs</sup> Schutz. [...]  
 25th – we set off from Bath at half past 8, [...]
- 1801** *March 13th* – we [...] got to Bath by half past two to N<sup>o</sup> 34 Gay St  
 14th – [...] it rain'd all day, M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman who had been at Bath some time on account of poor M<sup>rs</sup> Winford her Sisters illness call'd on us, and M<sup>rs</sup> Fanshawe drank tea with us  
 15th – at Queen Square Chapel M<sup>r</sup> Spry preach'd a very good Sermon, we walked after Church to M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman and M<sup>rs</sup> Winford.  
 16th – call'd at y<sup>e</sup> Fanshawes Eyre Masons, Vanbrugh Mapleton.  
 18th – ditto on Badderleys, Perrot Lillingston Page Freeman.  
 22nd – we had taken a pew at Queen Square Chapel, a M<sup>r</sup> Wood preach'd a most pompous discourse but not pleasing, call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> A Northy, who had been to see us as well as y<sup>e</sup> above mention'd Families  
 23rd – call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman, it rain'd almost every day some could not get out, and wind amazingly high, I began y<sup>e</sup> waters but left them off as had some fever.  
 24th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Lutchwidges party Tuesday evening being her Night, Sixteen Card Tables 156 people.  
 25th – walk'd up to M<sup>rs</sup> Winfords, Sommerset Place, I was <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of an hour getting there and found her very poorly indeed. in y<sup>e</sup> Evening at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrughs party, 4 Card Tables  
 27th – return'd visits of Miss Nicolls Ricks and M<sup>rs</sup> Freemans we drank tea.  
 28th – morn M<sup>rs</sup> Tubb Henkle and Piggot.  
 28th – M<sup>r</sup> Ogle Preach'd, we drank tea at M<sup>rs</sup> Badderleys.  
 30th – call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Stead and y<sup>e</sup> Masons and Weggs.  
 31st – at M<sup>rs</sup> Northys party evening, had walk'd up to M<sup>rs</sup> Winfords morn  
 April 1st – we had to dinner y<sup>e</sup> two M<sup>rs</sup> Sherwoods M<sup>r</sup> S: jun M<sup>r</sup> Pettman and M<sup>r</sup>

Manisty sen: in y<sup>e</sup> Evening at M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwydges stay'd Supper M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman there, and Lady Fermanagh & M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Wright who we had met at M<sup>r</sup> Wheatleys at Lesney. 24 staid supper, we had singing after and as usual highly entertain'd by Miss Clementinas fine voice, her Sister Miss Mayo too sings vastly well, we did not get home till one.

3rd – Good Friday M<sup>r</sup> Sibley and two other Clergymen gave y<sup>e</sup> sacrament.

4th – a M<sup>r</sup> Townshend read prayers most exceedingly well.

5th – Sunday a M<sup>r</sup> Pinnock preach'd, walk'd up to M<sup>rs</sup> Winfords & M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman.

6th – went to see The Model of Rome, at Tysons Ball in y<sup>e</sup> evening, The Duke and Duchess of York at it, 'God save The King' play'd as they walk'd up The Ball Room [...]

7th – we dined with M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman at M<sup>rs</sup> Winfords.

8th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Tubbs Ricks Freemans Nicolls Fanshawes Weggs T.T.L. [?To Take Leave]

10th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Eyres party 11th – [...]

15th – a party at M<sup>r</sup> Weggs.

17th – at the Play, M<sup>rs</sup> Siddons Benefit 'Lady Macbeth', She perform'd certainly very well, but I think her gone off in manner as well as person. M<sup>rs</sup> Freeman left Bath.

18th – morn at M<sup>rs</sup> Henkles Badderleys Perrots Vanbrughs T.T.L.

19th – M<sup>r</sup> Wood Preach'd, we walked afterwards to take leave of M<sup>rs</sup> Winford, y<sup>e</sup> last time we ever saw our kind and beloved Friend.

20th – we set out from Bath about 12, [...]

1802 February 4th – [...] we went to [...] Bath. we went to Woodhouse's The White Hart where we dined and lay.

5th – we went to get Lodgings, and got very Elegant ones at Halances N<sup>o</sup> 11 Henrietta St, to which we went that evening. [...]

6th – I was not well or able to walk out, that day or y<sup>e</sup> next,

7th – M<sup>r</sup> P went to The Abbey Church. M<sup>rs</sup> Fanshawe and M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Austin.

8th – call'd on the Austins Fanshawe Eyre and Masons, y<sup>e</sup> latter and D<sup>r</sup> Mapleton on us.

9th – call'd on Capt & M<sup>rs</sup> Hardy, Pages, Mapleton, Perrot, Lillingston.

12th – Lord Pembroke M<sup>rs</sup> Eyre Pages.

13th – call'd on Badderleys Pages Bennet

14th – went to D<sup>r</sup> Randolfs Chaple where we had taken a Seat as in our S<sup>t</sup>, his Sermon <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of an hour.

15th – call on y<sup>e</sup> Hardys, Miss Emily Hardy, Pages, Austins, Fanshawes, M<sup>rs</sup> Pigot & Pages call'd on me when out.

16th – M<sup>rs</sup> Powys of Shropshire morn, we drank Tea at M<sup>rs</sup> Pages Catherine Place, The Miss Pages there.

- 17th – call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Powys and her Daughter Lady Feilding.  
 18th – we were both very ill with violent colds M<sup>r</sup> P did not drink y<sup>e</sup> waters [...]  
 20th – call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Cazalet.  
 22nd – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Northys  
 23rd – at the upper Rooms which were open this Season on Tuesdays, as they used to be formerly, but never had been since M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwidge parties on that day, but that Family had left Bath, 25 Tables.  
 26th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Steads and Eyres morn, in the evening at M<sup>r</sup> Austins  
 March 2nd – Tuesday at the Upper Rooms, 27 Tables.  
 3rd – The Pages to Tea and Cards  
 6th – The Austins to Tea and Cards 8th – [...] 13th – [...]  
 15th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Vanbrugh's party.  
 19th – went to Bristol in the morn, call'd on Miss Nicolls's Boices Buildings N<sup>o</sup> 3, and dine with my Cousin Wheatley who was with one of their Sons very ill, at Duncan House, at home by 8  
 20th, 21st – this day and the following one paid morning visits and took leave of our Bath acquaintance.  
 22nd – Set out from Bath a little before 12, [...]
- 1803** February 17th – M<sup>r</sup> Powys and myself set off for our annual Bath Tour, [...]  
 18th – [...] we got to Bath to a late dinner at the White Hart Woodhouse's where we were obliged to stay three nights as no Lodgings were to be got though we had tried to procure them by our Friends who were there for more than three weeks who all advised us to come as if any empty one day they were taken the next, and they knew we liked to see them ourselves but not one board could we see out, when most fortunately I went to buy some things at Cowards Bond Street and beg'd her to enquire every where for us, 'La Ma'am if our Lodgers are not going to night and if the appartments would but suit you how happy I should be.' I know it was not a time to be difficult and we got into them y<sup>e</sup> next evening.  
 23rd, 24th – return'd visits to M<sup>rs</sup> Eyres Hodges Fanshawe Bennet Austin Badderley Lillingston Tubb M<sup>rs</sup> A Northy Lady Cotton & Dormer  
 27th – at Queen Square Chapel where we took Seats in the Gallery, as we always do y<sup>e</sup> other Churches being so like going to public Assemblys. The weather was so alterd y<sup>e</sup> last week that we set with one of our Windows open 2 or 3 evenings.  
 March 1st – return'd visits to M<sup>rs</sup> Jenkinson Stead Perrot Page Manley Masons Townshend Pigot & Powys Paynes.  
 5th – Snow'd a little and very Cold, such alterations is there in our English Climate.

- 7<sup>th</sup> – I Baythed in the Warm Bath  
 8<sup>th</sup> – we went to the Tuesday Card Assembly which are very pleasant indeed, 23 Tables [...]  
 9<sup>th</sup> – I was at Miss Candelis Concert with y<sup>e</sup> two Miss Paynes.  
 10<sup>th</sup> – many visitors most mornings  
 12<sup>th</sup> – we were at The Cotillon or Fancy Ball [...]  
 13<sup>th</sup> – M<sup>r</sup> Sibley preached we staid the Sacrament 14<sup>th</sup> – [...]  
 15<sup>th</sup> – at the Tuesdays Card Assembly.  
 16<sup>th</sup> – returnd visits to M<sup>rs</sup> Bullock &c &c  
 17<sup>th</sup> – saw the Wax Work, & returnd visits to M<sup>rs</sup> Beedon &c  
 19<sup>th</sup> – at the Fancy Ball.  
 22<sup>nd</sup> – at the Card Assembly, 26 Tables  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Saw the Panarama of London.  
 25<sup>th</sup> – went to see ‘The Invisible Lady made Visible’, a foolish thing  
 26<sup>th</sup> – at the Fancy Ball.  
 27<sup>th</sup> – M<sup>r</sup> Jackson preach’d.  
 29<sup>th</sup> – I was at Miss Daniels Benefit ‘The Cabinet’, M<sup>rs</sup> Eyres got me 2 Tickets in Miss Broughtons Box, I gave one to Miss Payne who went with me.  
 April 1<sup>st</sup> – at the Dress Ball Lower Rooms. 3<sup>rd</sup> [...]  
 4<sup>th</sup> – we dined at M<sup>rs</sup> Powys (of Shropshire) in the Crescent, 13 to dinner and a large party in the evening  
 10<sup>th</sup> – M<sup>r</sup> Bowen preach’d.  
 11<sup>th</sup> – at Tysons Ball. [...]  
 12<sup>th</sup> – at the Card Assembly  
 14<sup>th</sup> – we dined at M<sup>rs</sup> Paynes N<sup>o</sup> 70 Pultney St [...]  
 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> – paid our visits of T.T.L.  
 18<sup>th</sup> – ditto [*reference to later entry*]  
 19<sup>th</sup> – we set out from Bath at Ten, [...]

[*Additions in journal for December 1803*] In March 1803 M<sup>r</sup> Dutton Brother to Lord Sherbourne, married at Bath the Celebrated Beauty Miss Honoria Gubbins, settled on her in case of no Children Five Thousand pounds & 3 hundred a year in pin money and 15 Thousand on younger Children if any. We were then at Bath. [...]

Coll Coterel drove four Cream Color’d Horses this year at Bath, which he bought of the King, who met him one day, when his Majesty told him he was quite happy they were in such good hands.

When The Influenza was so violent this Spring at Bath D<sup>r</sup> Parry visited a hundred & 20 patients in two days; and M<sup>r</sup> Crook, y<sup>e</sup> apothecary only wish’d he could have a Lease of this same Influenza for 8 years, he should not desire a better fortune.

Oberne, The Bishop of Meath, preach'd an Excellent [sermon] this season at Bath, against Card parties and Concerts on Sunday Evenings. His wife, M<sup>rs</sup> Oberne, went the day after to pay a morning visit to an Old Lady, who told her She was very angry with her husband, as She had just received 28 Cards of refusals to her next Sundays party. 'Oh, how glad I am' says M<sup>rs</sup> Oberne, 'to hear this'. The Lady Bridled up and replied, 'however, it shall not hinder my parties', and Miss Wroughton declared She would always have her Sunday Concerts, for all The Bishop. This Latter Lady formerly one of the first of The Bath Beauties, was lately Stiled by Wit at that Place 'A proof print of Former Times'.

M<sup>r</sup> Whaley, a fine Travelled young Clergyman, a Widdower who has spent already two good Fortunes a great Taste for Virtu, was married this year, after a 3 weeks Courtship, to a Miss Heathcote, aged Sixty with a fortune of Fourscore Thousand pounds in her own power. She had the finest dresses made for the Occasion I ever heard of, her Gowns Laced to the highest expense of fashion, and all jewels that was possible. She has an elegant House in the Cressant, and he has one in St James Square Bath, which, though most Elegantly furnish'd, after he returned from Paris, finding paper hangings were there call'd vulgar immediately took all down and hung all with Sattins.

- 1804** *January 12th* – M<sup>r</sup> Powys and myself set out on our Annual Bath Excursion [...]
- 13th* – [...] we got to our Lodgings at Bath to dinner, at Balleys No 11 Milsom Street, very good ones indeed at 5 Guineas a week and no other Family but their own in the House which makes it much more comfortable, but we were obliged to pay one week before we went, as they never keep them even a day or 2, nor indeed would one expect it.
- 15th* – M<sup>r</sup> Guise, Son of S<sup>t</sup> John Guise read prayers M<sup>r</sup> Drought preach'd, rain y<sup>e</sup> whole day y<sup>e</sup> 14 and this. [...]
- 16th* – morn, at Scotts Northys Fanshawe Eyre Masons, M<sup>rs</sup> Fanshawe had left our Neighbourhood of Shiplake Hill and now lives at Bath.
- 17th* – at a small party at M<sup>rs</sup> Northeys
- 18th* – called on us M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Powys of Shropshire M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Badderley, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Austin, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Mason M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Scott M<sup>rs</sup> Stead Bennet Eyre
- 19th* – return'd the above visits
- 20th* – call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Arden, Scot, Lady Cotterel, M<sup>rs</sup> Beedon, Cazalet Lillingston. [...]
- 22nd* – M<sup>r</sup> Guise read Prayers, M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth preach'd a Charity Sermon for the Boys and Girls Schools, rain'd most part of every day the last week, but so warm we set with the windows open (I began y<sup>e</sup> Waters)

- 23rd – call'd on S<sup>r</sup> Tho & Lady Williams and M<sup>rs</sup> Pigot  
 24th – at the Card Room only 7 Tables went  $1/4$  after 7  
 25th – at M<sup>rs</sup> Fanshawes and M<sup>rs</sup> Tubbs morn, evening a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Northeys, morn Lady Williams M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Cazalet M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Badderley  
 27th – I was at The Ladies Catch Club, M<sup>r</sup> Badderley was so obliging to get me a Ticket, a difficult thing to get one. About 372 mostly Ladies, no Supper, but Cakes Ices Jellies &c carried round between y<sup>e</sup> Acts.  
 29th – M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd at Queens Square Chaple where we always take seats for ourselves and Servants.  
 February 1st – we had M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Powney and M<sup>r</sup> Bennet to dinner.  
 2nd – I call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Arden &c &c &c  
 3rd – ditto ditto & this morning visitors when out y<sup>e</sup> 3d ditto & 4  
 5th – a M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd not the same as last Sunday, drank Tea at M<sup>r</sup> Badderleys, Snow & hard Frost y<sup>e</sup> 4th and the first day we had no Rain since we came to Bath. [...]  
 6th – at the Dress Ball upper Rooms, I Took my Goddaughter Charlotte Powney. it was very full. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and Family, and the French General Boger, who dined at her Grace's most days, he was permitted to come to Bath, though not to London and we rather wondered he had leave to come to such a public place as that, but he pleaded his health. Major and M<sup>rs</sup> Plunket, his Lady, the Famous Novel Writer, Miss Gunning, an extremely plain woman were at the Ball just arrived at Bath.  
 7th, 8th, 9th – walk'd as usual all the morn, and p<sup>d</sup> visits  
 10th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Cazalets Evening about 40, 5 Tables, walk'd and paid visits  
 12th – M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth preach'd, we staid The Sacrament.  
 13th – at the Dress Ball evening, walk'd all y<sup>e</sup> morning & p<sup>d</sup> visits 15th – [...]  
 19th – M<sup>r</sup> Salvador (Curate of Queens Square Chapel) read prayers, and preach'd a most excellent Sermon, he was Son of M<sup>rs</sup> Salvador, The Jew but suppose he was not brought up to that Religion. A very fine Prayer for the King then ill  
 20th – at the Dress Ball, with D<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Ord M<sup>rs</sup> Lillingston, and I took Miss Arden who danced with M<sup>r</sup> Oakes.  
 21st – At a party at D<sup>r</sup> Ords Evening, The next four mornings walked and paid visits, and general had many call'd on us when out.  
 26th – did not set down who preach'd, think D<sup>r</sup> Sibley.  
 March 1st – we had a party at home, walk'd and paid visits [...]  
 3rd – a small party at M<sup>rs</sup> Masons, the last time we saw her as She died soon after we left Bath.  
 4th – M<sup>r</sup> Richards preach'd

- 5th – at the Dress Ball. 8th – [...]  
 11th – M<sup>r</sup> Drought did y<sup>e</sup> whole duty, we drank tea at M<sup>rs</sup> Lillingstons  
 12th – at the Dress Ball 14th – [...]  
 16th – Friday morn after breakfast we set out at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  past Ten from Bath [...]
- 1805** *January 15th* – [...] we got to Bath to dinner by 5 to our Lodgings at Cowards N<sup>o</sup> 17 Bond Street.  
 16th – called on Miss A Schutz in the Grove.  
 17th – D<sup>r</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Ord call'd on us we on them on y<sup>e</sup> next morn  
 20th – M<sup>r</sup> Sibley preach'd a Sermon for the Charity Schools, Queens Square, rain every day this week.  
 21st – died M<sup>r</sup> Austin Uncle to our Son Cooper. as the mornings at Bath are always past in Walking and calling on ones Friends, I shall not each day set down y<sup>e</sup> visits received & paid.  
 24th – we went to the Cotillon Ball, Miss Talbot y<sup>e</sup> best Dancer and next her y<sup>e</sup> two Miss Freemans West Indians and Capt Miles a capital Cotillion Dancer. Snow in the night and lay on y<sup>e</sup> Ground, and intensely Cold  
 26th – at a small party at M<sup>rs</sup> A Northys, but as evening parties are as general as morning visits, I shall not mention them.  
 27th – one of the Three M<sup>r</sup> Ogles preach'd, a very good Sermon.  
 28th – at the Dress Ball upper Rooms, immensely crouded at ten, but the number of Card parties quite spoil the Balls, as tis fashionable to attend 5 or 6 before you go to the Rooms, it was endeavour'd to alter the hours, but fortunately for y<sup>e</sup> old people, and those who drink y<sup>e</sup> Waters, it was not permitted, and at eleven, if in the middle of a Dance, y<sup>e</sup> Music stops, but as I suppose tis reckon'd vulgar to come early, one sees nothing of the Dancing or Company for y<sup>e</sup> crouds, in short The Rooms are not half so agreeable as they were some years ago, when y<sup>e</sup> late London hours were not thought of, and how prejudicial must they be to y<sup>e</sup> health of all, is very visible in y<sup>e</sup> young as well in Old. formerly youth was seldom ill, now, from thin Clothing and late hours you hardly see a young Lady in good health or not complaining of Rheumatism as much as us old ones.  
 30th – The Snow hinderd us from walking out, hills & streets cover'd and every body violent Colds, seem'd a sort of Influenza. Sixteen Thousand Strangers at Bath in y<sup>e</sup> Seasons 1805
- February 3rd* – I was too ill to go to Church, had never been out since Monday and attended by M<sup>r</sup> Sloper Apothecary.  
 7th – The Cotillion Ball.  
 10th – the same M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd, stay'd y<sup>e</sup> Sacrament, Snow & frost gone. [...]  
 11th – at the Dress Ball vastly full after Ten.

- 15th – I began the Waters, could not sooner as my Cold continued  
 17th – Revd M<sup>r</sup> Richards preach'd  
 20th – The Fast day D<sup>r</sup> Godfrey preach'd  
 24th – The same M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd  
 March 2nd – at the Cotillon Ball, very full.  
 10th – M<sup>r</sup> Sibley preach'd [...]  
 15th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Fiennes Trotmans Ten Tables, and so great a croud, that from y<sup>e</sup> numbers besides card players though very large Rooms, one could not stir about or procure a Chair to set down, and y<sup>e</sup> heat of the appartment was not bearable. Our Neighbours Coll & M<sup>rs</sup> Inness came to Bath for his health, he has long been very ill.  
 17th – The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Richards did y<sup>e</sup> Duty.  
 18th – at the Dress Ball, 23 at y<sup>e</sup> Cotillon 25 at the Dress Ball.  
 26th – and y<sup>e</sup> two following mornings were employ'd in seeing or leaving our T.T.L. Cards with our Bath Acquaintance.  
 29th – Friday we left Bath after Breakfast, [...]
- 1806** January 17th – [...] [we got] to Bath by 5 very luckily as it dark night and terrible stormy the whole day, went to our Lodgings Ballys No 11 Milsom Street.  
 22nd – returned many morning visits. 23rd – [...]  
 26th – M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd an excellent Sermon we took a pew for ourselves and Servants at Queens Square Chaple.  
 27th – at the Dress Ball, M<sup>r</sup> King was now master of the Ceremonies at the Upper Room, as Tyson had given it up. Snow  
 28th – Morn M<sup>r</sup> Capper Miss Payne M<sup>rs</sup> Powney and M<sup>rs</sup> Bennet.  
 30th – at a large party at M<sup>rs</sup> Hansleys. Snow. on this Evening died M<sup>rs</sup> Lillingston<sup>15</sup> a very old acquaintance of ours, She was vastly well y<sup>e</sup> week before
- February 1st – Snow'd very hard  
 2nd – M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth preach'd, Snow thick on y<sup>e</sup> Ground.  
 5th – M<sup>rs</sup> John Gisborne morn and other visitors [...]  
 6th – at the Cotillon Ball.  
 7th – at a party of Miss Masons.  
 9th – M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth preach'd, we staid the Sacrament  
 10th – I began the Waters at y<sup>e</sup> Cross Bath. we drank at M<sup>r</sup> Daniels and went with their party to y<sup>e</sup> Dress Ball <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> before Nine. Lady Hugh Smith Lodged opposite. She was Miss Wilson Daughter to y<sup>e</sup> Bishop of Bristol.  
 11th – The only day without Snow or Rain since we came to Bath, near 4 weeks.  
 13th – at the Cotillon Ball.  
 14th – rain all day.

- 16th – M<sup>r</sup> Richards read prayers and preach'd, my Servant Jones taken very ill in the night, sent for a nurse.
- 22nd – at the Play 'The School For Friends', the first time I had seen the new Theatre, a very nice one which was much wanted. I sat in M<sup>r</sup> Bests Box.
- 23rd – M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth perform'd y<sup>e</sup> whole duty
- 24th – I call'd on Miss Best morn and She on me. at a large party at Miss Mason evening and a Dance for y<sup>e</sup> young people
- March 2nd – S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Broughton preach'd
- 6th – at the Play M<sup>rs</sup> Didiers Benefit 'To marry or not to Marry', and The Farce 'a Tale of Mystery', a very fine day, only y<sup>e</sup> second without rain or Snow.
- 9th – M<sup>r</sup> Stafford Smyth preach'd, we stay'd the Sacrament.
- 10th – at the Dress Ball with M<sup>rs</sup> Wild & Miss Powney.
- 13th – at the Cotillon Ball with M<sup>rs</sup> Charles Eyre
- 15th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Charles Eyres.
- 16th – M<sup>r</sup> Richards did y<sup>e</sup> whole Service
- 20th – at a very large party at M<sup>rs</sup> Daniels.
- 23rd – a Stranger preach'd, we dined at M<sup>r</sup> Trotmans a M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Johnson, and a M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Horseley. rain all day.
- 24th – at the Dress Ball.
- 26th – M<sup>r</sup> Wilkins & Miss Devereause Sister to Lord Hereford married at y<sup>e</sup> Abbey Church
- 27th – at The Cotillon Ball.
- 29th – at the Play to see Cooke perform Sir Pertinax Macsycophant in 'The Man of The World', written by the late Charles Macklin Esq, and y<sup>e</sup> Pantomime of 'Harlequin Esop or Hymens Gift'.
- 30th – M<sup>r</sup> Bowen did y<sup>e</sup> Duty
- 31st – paid a vast number of T.T.L. visits as were to leave Bath y<sup>e</sup> next day
- April 1st – we left Bath at half past ten, changed Horses at Chipenham took on y<sup>e</sup> same chaise, dined and lay at Marlborough.
- 2nd – after Breakfast set out and changed Horses at M<sup>r</sup> [blank] Speen Hill, our own coach met us at Reading and we got to Fawley to a late dinner. we had been much afraid Jones would not have been well enough to have come home with us, but fortunately after a six weeks Rheumatic fever, She was just able to Travel. I most luckily was charming well all y<sup>e</sup> time I was at Bath notwithstanding y<sup>e</sup> anxiety I was so long in about her illness, but no sooner were we returned to Fawley than from y<sup>e</sup> Intense Coldness of y<sup>e</sup> weather, or the Illness now every where term'd The Influenza, M<sup>r</sup> Powys & myself were taken both very ill, his not his usual complaint of Bile, but a seizure one could hardly describe in short such a lowness and debility, it was most unpleasant. M<sup>r</sup> Powys thank God, in

about a week got Better, but I who have terrible Rheumatics was seized with such a violent pain in my face, I could get no sleep for many nights but at last by a Blister was perfectly cured of the most dreadful I think of all pains, but still felt very low and weak. and it seem'd a very general complaint round our neighbourhood.

- 1807 *January 14th* – [...] we got to Bath to dinner to our old Lodgings Ballys N<sup>o</sup> 11 Milsom Street. had very fortunately a beautiful day, though
- 15th – the next we had a deep Snow. The Streets and Houses cover'd, lay thick on the ground and intensely cold. [...]
- 16th – it thaw'd and got warmer, I got out and call'd on some of our Friends and we had many tickets left for us.
- 17th – Master Betty acted for his last night at Bath, and though we had no very great desire to see him, thought it would be foolish to lose y<sup>e</sup> opportunity. he acted in The Play of 'Mahomet', and was just the thing we had expected, for though he certainly acts well, yet his Youth and Manner could never make one suppose him the character he represents, and his voice now is quite horrid. The Company at Bath did not seem the least sorry at his departure, and The Actors as one may suppose were much rejoiced. some years hence, I dare say he will be an excellent performer.
- 18th – on Sunday at Queen Square Chapel we heard an excellent Sermon for the Bath Charity School by M<sup>r</sup> Ogle, we had many visitors after Church and we call'd on several & walk'd in y<sup>e</sup> Cresant.
- 19th – This and several following days rain & Snow, but when possible to walk about received & paid visits as usual, had y<sup>e</sup> pleasure of seeing my old Friend Lady Jane James, the present Lord Camdens Sister who was come for some weeks and 3 of her Daughters.
- 23rd – began the Waters at the Pump room after having been blooded, as usual one small Glass twice a day.
- 26th – at the Dress Ball with Lady Jane James her Daughters and Miss Ramsden.
- 27th – call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwidge who was return'd to their House in Bath from abroad.
- 29th – at The Cotillon Ball with a party. M<sup>rs</sup> Marriot & her Sister Miss Harris call'd on us as they went through Bath
- February 2nd* – I was at a morning Subscription Concert for the benefit of Miss Randal at the New Room York Hotel. She is only 6 years old and is indeed the most wonderful little creature. plays on The Piano in a most wonderful manner, and has a sweet voice; She is accompanied on The Harp by her Blind Father, and by her Uncle M<sup>r</sup> Parry on the Flageolot, both reckon'd to perform each vastly well. It was a pleasing

sight to see the little performer lifted on the Platform by her Uncle and placed at the Piano-Forte, and as She walk'd up and down the room She was spoke to by all She pass'd near and met with general applause. before she was 3 years old she could play 3 tunes.

*2nd* – at a party at Miss Masons in the Evening.

*3rd* – was at the procession of M<sup>r</sup> Walter Longs Burial, which went from his House in Gay St and pass'd ours in Milsom St, he was buried at his Estate at Wrexham [Wraxall Manor], Wiltshire. The Cavalcade was very magnificent. first, seven men on Horseback then men with plumes of Feathers, his own mourning chaise & 4, Herse & Six, 1 Coach & Six Lord Hoods, 1 post Chaise & Six, 6 Chaises & pair and the concourse of people that follow'd were not to be number'd. he was 96 years of Age, and died worth Eight Hundred Thousand pounds, which he left to his Sister, then Ninety one, at her death to his Nephew John Long and at John's death to a Brother of M<sup>r</sup> John, and at his death to a M<sup>r</sup> Jones. he left above Fifty hundred pound Legacys. *5th* – [...]

*6th* – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Charles Eyres

*9th* – at a party of M<sup>rs</sup> Daniels.

*10th* – at a small party at Lady Jane James.

*11th* – I call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Moore, The Late Archbishop of Canterburys widdow, who was just come to Bath.

*12th* – at The Cotillon Ball evening, every morn received & paid visits

*13th* – M<sup>r</sup>P went to M<sup>r</sup> Daniels to meet The Bishop of Ferne D<sup>r</sup> Clever in the evening.

*14th* – I went to The Play (of 'Adrian and Orilla' and 'The Forty Theives') with M<sup>rs</sup> Charles Eyre, we sat with Lady Wilmot in her Box. we were much entertaind as tis a good Play, and The Romance as tis call'd very amusing for once.

*16th* – we dined at M<sup>r</sup> Lutwidges 12 of us M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Cooke of Worcestershire, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Maccellan, M<sup>rs</sup> Cookes Brother, M<sup>r</sup> Collens related to M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwidge and another Gentleman.

*17th* – M<sup>rs</sup> Moore and M<sup>rs</sup> Shafto paid visits morn.

*19th* – at The Cotillon Ball, with M<sup>rs</sup> C. Eyre M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Eyre & Miss Ramsden

*21st* – we had a party in the evening, S<sup>r</sup> Walter & Lady Jane James and their 3 Daughters & a Lady with them M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Pottenger M<sup>r</sup> Marrel.

*25th* – The Fast day M<sup>r</sup> Richards preach'd

*26th* – paid visits morn, at The Cotillon Ball evening with Lady Jane James & Family.

*28th* – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Daniels The Bishop of Ferne & his Lady M<sup>rs</sup> Clever &c &c.

*March 3rd* – at a small party at M<sup>rs</sup> Moores, M<sup>r</sup> Libinston M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Benson M<sup>rs</sup> Shafto &c.

*5th* – at The Cotillon Ball with Lady Jane James & Family and Miss Ramsden.

- 7th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Daniels The Bishop of Ferne M<sup>rs</sup> Clever &c.
- 15th – The Bishop of Ferne preach'd at Queens Square Chapel, a most excellent Sermon, indeed he is a most amiable character, and his Lady equally so. We could not help feeling for what they sufferd in Ireland every time one was in their Company – their House tore down, all their furniture taken, and every place ransack'd, his loss above Ten Thousand pound, by the Irish Rebels; and what must have caus'd them infinite distress, most of their Servants were concern'd in the whole [...]
- 17th – I went with Miss Cooke to The Play. we sat in M<sup>rs</sup> Hollands Box, a most entertaining Play of Murphys 'All in the Wrong'.
- 19th – we dined at The Bishop of Fernes, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Daniel Miss Hotham M<sup>r</sup> Stroud. a party in the Evening, and we were highly entertain'd by the Miss Clevers who play and Sing with y<sup>e</sup> greatest Taste.
- 23rd – call'd on the Daniels left Bath y<sup>e</sup> next day. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Cooke Miss Ramsden to Tea.
- 26th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Cookes, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Stafford Smith, The Bishop of Ferne, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Trotmans, The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> [blank]
- 28th – began to pay my T.T.L. visits
- 29th – we dined at M<sup>r</sup> Trotmans, M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston M<sup>rs</sup> [blank] D<sup>r</sup> Fletcher M<sup>r</sup> Foster
- 30th – at M<sup>r</sup> Kings Ball, master of the ceremonies at The Upper Rooms. many Hundred people, though Bath was reckon'd rather thin all The Season, owing as was supposed to the rise of every thing, but more particularly to the extravagant price of Lodgings, as numbers went to Bristol instead of taking them. I never saw so many to Let, and it was hoped, it might be a Lesson for them in future.
- 31st – paid all my visits as we were to leave Bath y<sup>e</sup> next day but one; had staid a week longer than we intended on account of the Cold Weather, as we were to go to so very bleak a situation at Fawley.
- April 2nd – we set out from Bath at half past eleven a very fine day but terrible Cold morning and about two it begun to Snow. [...]
- 1808 *January 15th* – [...] we got to Bath about 4 to our Lodgings at Leedhams N<sup>o</sup> 1 New Bond St Bally did not Let his and Cowards were full, but we found these very and well Furnish'd. M<sup>r</sup> Horne died at Bath, desired no expensive Funeral, was at Walcot, the Coffin carried by 8 men, no Herse or Coaches, M<sup>rs</sup> Horne has taken M<sup>r</sup> Waley's House in the Cresant.
- 20th – I call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Stirling Willm Gregory Grote Bennet &c &c, all return'd my visit the next day.
- 21st – walk to M<sup>rs</sup> Powney Caroline Buildings and she to me so did not meet.

- 23rd – I walk'd up to Richmond Hill Landsdown to see my old Friend M<sup>rs</sup> Pigou [? Pigot], a very long walk all up Hill, but I was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, and was happy to find her much better in health, for her long residence in Cornwall.
- 24th – at Queen Square Chapel M<sup>r</sup> Rudge did the whole duty a Charity Sermon for the School. Snow'd
- 25th – many morning visits as usual. I call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Bloomberg\* Eyre Fanshawe Hervy Stead Smith. \*M<sup>r</sup> Bloomberg made Clerk of the Closet. M<sup>rs</sup> Powney Badderley and M<sup>r</sup> Townshend call'd we were very much concern'd to hear M<sup>rs</sup> Townshend was ill and at Bristol
- 31st – I had so very bad a Cold could not go out, M<sup>r</sup> Bowles preach'd.
- February 4th – I walk'd up to Camden Place to see Miss Nicolls 5th – [...]
- 6th – had been rain night and morn for many days a sad thing for Bath Walkers, particularly to me who never feel well if I cannot walk about all y<sup>e</sup> morning.
- 7th – M<sup>r</sup> Ofee preach'd.
- 9th – I call'd on M<sup>rs</sup> Moore y<sup>e</sup> late Arch Bishops Lady. continue rain.
- 10th – a frost, had many visitors
- 11th – Snow
- 13th – a great fall of Snow Intensely Cold.
- 15th – at the Dress Ball with Miss Ramsden.
- 16th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Stirlings
- 17th – The Fast day M<sup>r</sup> Oliver preach'd a very good Sermon, S<sup>r</sup> Henry Rivers read Prayers. The frost & Snow gone.
- 18th – at the Cotillon Ball. immensely crowded
- 20th – D<sup>r</sup> Oliver preach'd
- 23rd – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Lutwydges.
- 25th – at the Cotillon Ball, very full, many came  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 8.
- 28th – M<sup>r</sup> Ogle preach'd a very fine Sermon. we dined at M<sup>r</sup> Trotmans. The Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Greenhill Miss Thomson Miss Wills.
- 29th – The Dress Ball, but very few went to them this year.
- March 1st – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Charles Eyres.
- 3rd – at The Cotillon Ball, immensely full; many came very early and numbers from Parties at half past 10
- 4th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Moors. Lady Davis, M<sup>r</sup> & two Miss Bensons and M<sup>rs</sup> Wood, who we had met at Canterbury, &c &c. 5th – [...]
- 8th – we had to dinner M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Daniel, Miss Roles and her Aunt M<sup>rs</sup> Jenkenson.
- 9th – I went to Rauzzinis Concert to hear Madame Catalani, but was disappointed with numbers, as She came from the Opera in London all night, caught a violent cold & sore Throat. above a Thousand had been

in the Concert room hours, some they said by 3 o Clock. we did not go till Six & had not a very good Seat; when at 8 when it was to begin Rauzzini came on y<sup>e</sup> platform, to say how shock'd Mad: Catalani was at disappointing the Company but she was really too ill to Sing y<sup>e</sup> Songs given out but She would try some others. we began to fear a riot as some hisses begun, however, Madame came, and I dare say did what she was able, but was quite unable to Sing & retired with numbers of apologies. The next morning hand Bills were given out that She could not sing that night as She had intended, as there was to have been two, but that she would come down y<sup>e</sup> next Wednesday to Rauzinis Concert, and to those who had been on y<sup>e</sup> evening before, She would Sing on the next Thursday morning so every one seem'd satisfied, till y<sup>e</sup> Tuesday morning following, when Bills were again circulated, that She was still too ill to come down was impossible. so here it finally ended except to poor Rauzzini who behaved uncommonly generous desiring every one who was at the first concert or those who had Tickets for the second, to call to the Rooms, where each would be return'd their half Guinea for Either Night. so those on the first night (of which I was one,) had somthing of a Concert and the Sight of Madame Catalani at least.

10th – at The Cotillon Ball, The Lower Set, a remarkable good one, a French Emigrant who was permitted to be at Bath was reckon'd a remarkable good Dancer, and certainly was so, he had not been lately, as some Gentleman had said one night 'No wonder he Dances fine, why he was a Dancing Master', but they say that was only a joke.

13th – M<sup>r</sup> Olive preach'd, we staid the Sacrament.

14th – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Willm Gregorys Poultney St

17th – at the Cotillon Ball, took Miss Powney, our man John Cornel taken ill of y<sup>e</sup> Gout.

22nd – at the Play Mallinsons Benefit 'The School of Reform', I took Miss Ramsden.

23rd – had many morning visitors and paid many. The weather was Cold, and bad that hardly any body was well all the time we were at Bath, as to myself I was particularly Rheumatic of which every one complain'd.

24th – at the Cotillon Ball.

28th – call'd on M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Masons

April 2nd – at a party at M<sup>rs</sup> Daniels.

4th, 5th – paid all my T.T.L. visits, rather warmer, the last week had been so cold we postponed our journey to the Cold Hills of Fawley, but I never remember Bath so Cold as this Time we were there.

6th – we set out after Breakfast, [...]

### III CONCLUSION

Caroline's accounts of her visits to Bath are largely concerned with the constant round of parties, concerts, plays, cards, and dances, the occasional visits of royalty, and other diversions of daily life, in late Georgian Bath long after the end of the strict régime of Beau Nash who died in 1761. We read of places of assembly for social, religious and theatrical purposes, such as the newly built Theatre Royal, opened in 1805; this was, she writes, 'a very nice one which was much wanted' (AJ, Feb. 22nd 1806). If Caroline makes little comment on the elegant architecture of Bath – other tour journals are ample evidence of her critical faculties – we should remember that here it provided the backdrop to the unremitting social round which was the primary purpose of the long visits.

Collectively, the day-to-day accounts give a vivid impression of the sometimes overwhelming crowding of activities, as when, for example, she reports on the young lady who died because she was rushing madly from one event to another without protecting herself from the elements (AJ, Mar. 9th 1796), or when Caroline herself pleads with her friends to let her and Philip follow their 'old Fashion' ways (AJ, Mar. 10th 1798); the heat in the Rooms can be unbearable (AJ, Mar. 15th 1805); and young ladies nowadays look ill because they don't wear sensible clothes as they used to (Jan. 28th 1805). We need to remember, too, that almost all her visiting is done in late winter and spring, once even over Christmas, which was not her usual time for visiting Bath – perhaps she acquiesced to an invitation against her better judgment (AJ, Nov. 22nd 1796). Walking is most important to her: she does not feel well unless she can get out for long walks in the morning (AJ, Feb. 6th 1803), and yet, although she is apparently a country woman, Bath is her 'favorite place' (AJ, Jan. 12th 1797). Bath could be bitterly cold, with rain, wind, frost and snow, but these privations may have seemed more tolerable in this company than in the relative isolation of a country house.

Yet lodgings in Bath could be a serious problem: sometimes they seem to have been able to get in where they lodged the previous year, but one year they 'walk'd about for 4 hours before we could meet with any' (AJ, Mar. 30th 1799); in another they had to stay at an inn for three nights before they were lucky (AJ, Feb. 18th 1803). Their lodgings were all over the city, and not always convenient, such as Lansdown Place because of the distance.

Although Caroline's husband apparently benefitted from the waters, the cure was not the first priority; nevertheless, they could rely on finding professional medical help if necessary (AJ, Apr. 14th 1799). Illness could also strike their servants: one year, a maidservant was so ill that they feared that

she would not be well enough to travel home, and when they did get home, both Caroline, who had been 'charming well' for the whole of her stay in Bath, and her husband were dreadfully ill (AJ, Apr. 2nd 1806).

It is surprising that there is only one mention of Caroline herself taking a warm bath (AJ, March 7th 1803), but not infrequent references to taking the waters which are found to be beneficial. The company of friends was, of course, vital to their enjoyment, and many of the same names recur from year to year, and at the end of a visit there could be several days of the formal leave-taking, the 'T.T.L.' visits. Whatever trials there were, Caroline would not have spent three years of her life here in all her visits unless she had enjoyed the long periods away from home. This full transcript of selected later Bath journeys should help us to a better understanding of her pleasure, shared by so many other visitors over the years.<sup>16</sup>

#### Notes

- 1 Fourteen volumes of the manuscripts of Caroline Girdle, Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys, are preserved in the British Library (Add. Mss. 42160–42173). These comprise the following works: three volumes of her Annual Journal with dated entries from May 1st 1757 to December 31st 1808 (vols I, II, III); nine volumes of journals of individual tours, the first in 1756, the last in 1800 (IV–XII); a small volume containing copies of two letters to friends (XIII); and a recipe book (XIV). These provide possibly 90% of the material published in 1899 (see note 2); the location of other tour journals, if they still exist, is not known; any information on their whereabouts would be welcome. These works are referred to as AJ, with date of the entry, for the Annual Journal and BL, with volume number, for the other works.

A detailed account of the manuscripts is contained in another article by the present writer, 'The Journals of Caroline Girdle – Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys', in *The Powys Journal*, xii (2002), pp.102–25.

- 2 *Passages from the Diaries of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys of Hardwick House, Oxon, A.D. 1756 to 1808*, edited by Emily J. Climensson (Longmans, Green and Co., 1899), referred to hereafter as Climensson. A thousand copies were issued, of which 150 were for subscribers. A long and appreciative review was published in *The Times* of August 16th 1899.
- 3 Richard Wilson and Alan Mackley, *Creating Paradise, The Building of the English Country House 1660-1880* (Hambledon and London, 2000), p.56; Ian C. Bristow, *Architectural Colour in British Interiors 1615-1840* (Yale University Press, 1996), Preface, p.xviii.
- 4 Caroline Girdle's date of birth was December 27th 1738, Old Style, that is before the changes under the Act of Parliament (24 George II, c.23) which introduced the Gregorian calendar to England and her territories in 1752. Under the Act, any specific period of legal significance, including coming of age, had to complete the full number of days; this means that Caroline did not come of age until 11 days later than the original day of birth according to the Old Style calendar, i.e.

- not until January 7th 1760, New Style. On nine occasions in her journals Caroline refers to her birthday occurring on January 7th, twice explaining the change from Old Style to New Style.
- 5 Climenson, p.vii. The house can be identified as No.1 at the north-west corner of Lincoln's Inn Fields, as shown by rating and other records in *Survey of London, Volume III, The Parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields (Part I): Lincoln's Inn Fields* (London County Council, 1912), p.24. John Gyrlé, as there spelled, is shown as in occupation from 1754 to 1760.
  - 6 See W. Ison, *The Georgian Buildings of Bath* (rev. ed., 1980; reprinted Kingsmead Press, Bath, 1991), pp.142, 230. The 9 houses which Caroline Gírlé saw were part of the south-west segment between Gay Street and Brock Street.
  - 7 Climenson, p.ix.
  - 8 Philip Lybbe Powys was the grandson of Sir Thomas Powys (1649–1719), an eminent lawyer and judge, from whom were also descended an elder branch of Powyses created Baron Lilford in 1797, and the Powys family of Montacute which included the writers John Cowper Powys, Theodore Francis Powys and Llewelyn Powys, and the architect A. R. Powys. Details of the family connections can be found in a previous article by the present writer entitled 'An Earlier Diarist: Caroline Gírlé – Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys', in *The Powys Society Newsletter*, 43 (July 2001), pp.32-41; this includes a comprehensive 'bar chart' of the Powys family connections 1600-1900 and other information not in this article.
  - 9 This quotation is given as it appears in Climenson p.24, as the original manuscript of the Derbyshire tour has not been found.
  - 10 Mr and Mrs Powys took lodgings as follows: 1764, 1773, 1780 (no addresses); 1783, house in Russel Street; 1784, house in Gay Street; 1786 (no address); 1787, Gay Street; 1791, Portland Place, 'the new part of Bath'; 1794 (no address); 1796, 9 George Street; 1796-97, George Street, then house of friends in Laura Place; 1798, 34 Gay Street; 1799, Viners, 13 Bond Street; 1800, 32 Gay Street; 1801, 34 Gay Street; 1802, 11 Henrietta Street; 1803, Cowards, Bond Street; 1804, Balleys, 11 Milsom Street; 1805, Cowards, 17 Bond Street; 1806, Ballys, 11 Milsom Street; 1807, Ballys, 11 Milsom Street; 1808, Leedhams, 1 New Bond Street.
  - 11 Jacob Spornberg, born in Finland in 1768 and trained as an artist in Stockholm, made a brief visit to Bath in 1785, and had returned by 1790. He is known principally as a silhouettist; his last known silhouette was done in 1813. He seems to have moved about, but established himself mainly in Bath. In 1840 he emigrated to the U.S. His silhouettes were achieved by what he called 'Etruscan profiles'; the sitter's features were painted against a red background with a black surround on the under surface of a convex glass. The portrait of Caroline is an example. Spornberg is represented in the Holburne Museum, Bath, by a double 'Etruscan profile' of Christopher Anstey and Ann Anstey (1793). For further details see Sue McKechnie, *British Silhouette Artists and their Work 1760–1860* (Sotheby Parke Bernet, 1978), pp.720-25.
  - 12 The accounts printed here are from the three volumes of the Annual Journal. Initial capitals are exactly as in the manuscripts; punctuation, which is sparse and inconsistent, has been slightly amended for easier comprehension, especially in the occasional addition of commas and use of inverted commas for quotations and names of plays. Original spelling has been retained, but one or two obvious minor errors have been corrected. Text in square brackets has been supplied by

- the present writer; and omissions of text from these extracts not relating to Bath are marked by ellipsis in brackets. Quotations in the text follow the same practice.
- 13 Queen Square Chapel, later St Mary's Chapel, on the north side of Chapel Row, was built in 1732–4 by a consortium of residents including John Wood the elder, with a fine classical temple front (see illustration in *Bath History*, Vol. VII (Millstream Books, Bath, 1998), p.131); it was demolished in 1875. Of the other two chapels regularly attended by Caroline Powys, 'Dr Randolfs new Chapel, Laura place'(Thomas Baldwin, 1795) was later demolished, and the Octagon Chapel (Thomas Lightoler, 1764) still exists but is no longer in ecclesiastical use.
  - 14 James Leigh-Perrot, maternal uncle of Jane Austen, is mentioned on three further occasions. Six visits to or by the Austen family (spelled Austin), who had moved to Bath in 1801, took place on February 7th, 8th, 15th, 26th and March 6th 1802, February 24th 1803, and a visit by 'Mr and Mrs and Miss Austin' on January 18th 1804; the last could be either Jane or her sister Cassandra. Mr Austen's death is noticed on January 21st 1805. The families were already related, as in 1793 Caroline's daughter Caroline Isabella had married Jane Austen's cousin Edward Cooper; the closeness of the link is shown by the naming of two daughters successively Cassandra (1797) and Jane (1799).
  - 15 See 'Genteel Widows of Bath: II – "A Persecuted Relation": Mrs Lillingston's Funeral and Jane Austen's Legacy', by Deirdre Le Faye, in *Bath History*, Vol. VII (Millstream Books, Bath, 1998), pp.92-106.
  - 16 For further information on the journal entries of all 22 visits between 1764 and 1808, please enquire through the publisher.