

Alf's diary entries for his visit to Ireland in 1912

Wednesday 10th July

Left Glasgow for Ardrossan thence to Belfast passing Paddy's milestone. Rough trip. Everybody sick on board Viper? Arrived Belfast 2.30am. After dinner we called on Mrs Collins whose husband is brother to Mrs Bradley. Then came home, bed.

Thursday 11th

(.30 went to the markets and saw Ireland's poverty. All sorts and conditions bartering their goods. After leaving the markets we went to City Hall, one of the finest buildings since leaving Pitti Palace which cost considerably over £1 million stg. The municipal council, health, survey and many other Govt offices. After dinner we went and called on Mrs Cresswell Stag Hall Gremcastle who is a sister to Mrs Bradley. They gave us a very warm reception indeed. WE left about 9.30pm. Raining.

Friday 12th

The Glorious Twelfth 9am we arrived at No 1 Station and saw a great many lodges arriving for the procession. We left in 5th carriage at 10.30am and arrived at Cloughfim? At 12.30am. 200 lodges marched about 50 000 strong and in all the sympathisers were about 200 000 whose one motto was 'No Home Rule' The police kept RC strongholds secure. Rain was intense but did not damp the enthusiasm. After lunch the speakers were Colonel Wallace, Lieutenant Scott, Rev David Ness, JJ Willoughby, Frederick Dane, Hon. FE Smith KC MP for Liverpool, Rev William Mc Guire. Procession left to come to Belfast 4 abreast about 2 hours ? less 5 minutes. These 200 000 were the reps of 1 500 000 of the Loyal Minority of Ireland. P49

We arrived in Belfast about 6pm. 200 bands playing Boyne Water and Orange Lily. Bands going until 4am on Saturday. The meeting was full of enthusiasm. Defending their position and defying the Home Rule Bill.

But if the false traitors should carry the day
And Home Rule by juggling and trickery be won
Stand fast loyal Orangemen ours not the sway
Of tyrants like these by oppression begun
For Ulster will fight
And Ulster if right
And Scotland will see that Justice is done (see notes)

Saturday 13th

10am left for Scarva 25 miles where about 25 000 people gathered for a sham fight. Red against Green. The fighting lasted half an hour, the green flag being riddled and destroyed and hauled down at the finish. This is only a sacrament of what will happen should Home Rule be carried. There was a great deal of drumming done. We arrived home at 6.45. After tea called on Mr Graham (butcher and local preacher). He gave us a warm welcome and showed that he was heart and soul in the work.

Sunday 14th

We heard Rev Harte, MA at University. He preached a sermon on 'Never man spake like this man' (see notes). The whole service was exceedingly happy and spiritual. We had lunch and spent afternoon with Mr Creswell. At 7pm we heard Rev Nicholas DD LLD at Carlisle (postcard) Memorial Church. He preached on Lamaism see notes. After the service we went along to Rev Campbell principal of the Methodist College (see postcard) Rev Harte was holding an open air service at the gates of the College grounds. We spent a pleasant hour at the College.

Monday 15th

(am called on Wilfred Shaw who took us thro' the York Street linen factory, the largest of its kind in the world. There were many boys and men and women and girls employed, above 9000 altogether including bleachers. We also saw the workshop for the blind in Donegal Square. *P50*

After lunch we called on Mr A J Collins, brother of Mrs Bradley of Sydney. He was a very keen business man and is full of information concerning the Emerald Isle. We had tea with Mr Graham (butcher) and his two sisters. After tea we heard Harry Lauder. He was a good Scotch comic. 'We're all going mad'. He asked the ladies to join in the chorus and said you've got the right key but are in the wrong room. He took the Australian Billy Williams off very well.

Tuesday 16th

Called on miss Bailey at workshop for the blind thence to Towering? Telegraph and looked through the printing, linotype and stereotype and photographic and binding rooms. Then we went through the museum and art gallery and public library. After dinner we called at on Mr Collins again who had just received word from Mrs Bradley.

At 2pm we met Miss Morgan and Mr barker, two friends of Bradleys.

At 3 we went to see Mr Meredith the Canadian whom we travelled from Australia with from Sydney to Naples. Spent a pleasant afternoon and a hearty repast. After which we went to hear Harry Lauder. We caught the boat at 9pm and had a good trip to Liverpool.

Wednesday 17th

Arrived Liverpool 6.30am and settled at Olwen's Empire Temperance in Lord Nelson Street. Conference opened in the Central Hall at 6pm, Dr Haigh in the chair. There was a large attendance. Admission only by ticket.

8pm a large meeting of the Wesley Guild at the Philharmonic Hall. Speakers Colonel Smith, Signorina Ferreri and Dinsdale young. Singing by conference choir very good. Hallelujah Chorus.

Thursday 18th

10am opening conference Rev Wiseman BA the scholar and evangelist inducted into the chair. Spoke very well. 3pm Home Mission business.

7.30pm Philharmonic Hall London Mission meeting (choir sang) Chairman Sir Robert Perks (Bart) Speakers Scott Lidgett, Henry Walters of Sheffield and Rev Rattenbury of Lyceum Mission see notes. *P51*

Friday 19th

10am attended conference. Home Missions. Good speaking. Also, a visit from Bishop Chavasce of Liverpool. Afternoon still conference. Memorial service of Dr Pope and Rev Stephenson. Evening attend conference when all the delegates from other conferences were welcomed and spoke. Chief of speakers Hurd South Africa CJ Prescott Australia, Wedgewood Ireland, Bishop Wilson America and a splendid address from Dr Stafford who was the rep from British conference to the American conference. (see notes)

Saturday 20th

Foreign Missions. Splendid address Also a visit from Free Church Federation of Liverpool. Mr Carnegie Simpson (Pres) gave a good address see notes. Other speakers Rev Dan. J Hope Simpson and others. In the afternoon we attended a large garden party given by the Mayor and Mayoress of Southport. About 300 or more people assembled. Good speaking. Band music and singing. Evening went to Army and Navy meeting in Philharmonic Hall. Speakers Revs Bateson (Londn), Shimmin (Matabeleland), Buckley of India and Lowry of Aldershot, South Africa see notes. Poor gathering.

Sunday 21st

10 30 heard Rev J Hope Moulton MA D Litt DD. He preached on 'And when the fullness of time was come, God sent his son' notes.

There was no prayer, sermon very poor. The whole service was a real disappointment. 2.30pm attended open air service at St George Hall after that I attended a large orange gathering in the Stadium where about 3000 people had gathered together. I read scriptures. After service I went to tea with Mr Wise at Mrs Carter's. At 6pm I preached for Mr Wise in the Protestant Memorial Church. The place was crammed. Rev Maguire of Belfast being in the audience. This Mr Wise seems to have gripped the working classed and the ignorant element of his district. There seems to be almost manworship there. Any strange preacher feels that they would rather listen to the old wise Bachelor. I stayed for the sacramental service. It seemed very commonplace, no dignity in the pastor and all through a lack of the true ring of spirituality and sincerity. *P52*

Monday 22nd

9.30am walked round with Mr Meredith to Boats and GPO. Then went to conference. The class meeting was being discussed. Rested in the afternoon and at 7.30pm went to the Foreign Mission Centenary meeting in the Philharmonic Hall. The principal speakers were Melville Helmer MP, Chairman, Mr William Middlebrook, Dr Will Hudson, China and Dr Wiseman, President, who gave one of the most eloquent and soul stirring addresses I have heard.

Thursday 23rd

9.55 attended Meth. Conference and afterwards visited the Museum. The museum is one of the finest I have seen so far. After lunch visited conference again. At 7pm we attended the Sunday School Demonstration in connection with the conference. Rev Harry Bisseker spoke. I was disappointed with him as a speaker. The Philharmonic Hall was crammed and the singing by 240 children very impressive.

Wednesday 24th

10am Meth. Conference. Afternoon Meth. Conference. S Collier elected as President for 1913. Uninteresting matters.

Evening We attended the Deaconess meeting in Brunswick Church. The ladies had the floor. The speeches were mostly of a social character and were interesting.

Thursday 25th

Visited the large Canadian Pacific Route boat 'Empress of Ireland', about 14 000 tons. Then we visited the White Star boat Teutonic. After dinner attended the Conference. Then during the evening we attended the Conference Musical Festival at New Brighton (the Many of England). Some good music was rendered among which was a setting to 'True Hearted, Whole Hearted' by Dr Wiseman, President and which was conducted by the composer.

Friday 26th

Morning at Conference. Afternoon we spent with Mr Meredith and Miss Clark with her seven dogs. After tea we went along to St Johns Wesleyan Church, Belvedere Road. Heard George Jackson BA give the Fernley lecture on the Preacher and the Modern Mind. The Church was crowded. See Meth Recorder *P53*

Saturday 27th

Morning visited Art Gallery. There is a fine collection of paintings and sculpture there. Afternoon we took a two hour's sea trip on the River Mersey on board the 'Herald'. After tea we took a walk round the crowded streets.

Sunday 28th

11am hear Rev Dr Scott Lidgett preach in Balliol Road ch. Booth on Ephesians 3.9. It was a splendid sermon and quite a good time of the old Methodist fire. In the afternoon we heard Rev Hudson Smith and Rev Lowery speaking in the same church to S. School and Brotherhood see notes. We had dinner and tea with Mr and Mrs Mack. Rev Lowrey present. After tea we went to Central Hall where we heard Rev S Chadines preach for a solid hour. He lost his grip at the close of the service. The sermon was on Acts 24.24-25, expository, helpful in places lacking in evangelistic fervour. There was no open-air service as announced.

Monday 29th

10am attended conference. Afternoon inquired about boat to Dublin, then went and saw the new Anglican Cathedral in course of erection. Then we went through Princes Park, exceedingly pretty. Home again, did some writing at night.

Tuesday 30th

10am attended the ordination service at Grove St 70 men ordained. Dr Haigh preached a very impressive sermon. Man, Pastor and Teacher. The service lasted about three hours. After lunch we rested and at 8pm set sail for Dublin by the Kilkenny boat. We landed in Dublin early in the morning and teaming rain.

Wednesday 31st

Visited College Green (Old Parliament House) now a bank, thence to Museum and Art Gallery. We then went in search of Mrs Irwin of Boys Home but all in rain. At 3pm we left for Roscrea, landing there at 5.21pm. Ned Whitten met us and drove us to Fancroft, almost the same as it was fifty years ago.

After tea we talked. He married a Miss Wallace, has seven children. Old kettle, gun, pot. Strainer, clock, coat of arms, furniture, pictures. *P54*

Thursday Aug 1st

After breakfast we went to Hamblins Mill and saw old farm of 25 acres. Saw old mill stream. After dinner we visited Joseph Whitten and Robert Whitten, both of whom married Mrs Drouts (Droughts), two widows. They live about a mile and a half from here. We also visited Balleybrit Castle where Mrs Drought and two daughters live. Willie Drought her stepfather was a cousin of Father's and died 1900. His son dying the following year. Good farm. Aunt Matilda Drought, an old maid, died on the way to the poor house. Jennie Drought the youngest girl is much like Father. Her father a great jockey. After tea had a yarn.

Friday 2nd

Saw old grindstone, did some writing. Then we went to Nathaniel and Sarah Luttrells for dinner at Splints old shop. Book shop is at Rudds old place. They have a Butchery, Bakery, Grocery, Bookshop combined. After seeing the nine children we went for a drive to Elliotts old place (Tilly's father) thence to Lucas where Grandmother Whitten's brother was shot and aunt committed suicide by hanging herself behind the door. These two houses remain intact as they were 60 yrs ago. Old gate the same. Then we drove to the large ST Joseph monastery where Hutchinson used to live in Eaton Estate, now bought by R Catholics. After tea we met John Pole Mason, son of Robert Giles Mason who was a brother to Dick Mason, father of Mother and Giles. He is a widower with five in family one of whom is in Hamilton, Victoria, Australia. He is the last one left, 72 years of age. Then to Luttrells for music and afterwards to Fancroft.

Saturday 3rd

Another drive to Hamblins Mill to see the cattle etc, rest of morning spent in writing. In the afternoon we visited old William Jackson, 83, who married Kate Davis (1), Tilly Gardiner (2) our cousin, Miss Wallace (3). Joseph Whitten marrie ddaughter of Kate Davis who was Mrs Drought. He spoke of old times with Father, especially hunting days. Then we went forking hay till dark. *p55*

Sunday 4th

11am attended Methodist Church, Roscrea and heard Rev. Harris preach then at 12 went to Church of Ireland and heard a good sermon from a curate. Afternoon sand, talked. Evening took the service for Rev. Harris. 1 Cor. 1.31. Good congregation, good singing. Fair time in the pulpit. Met Kate Blackwell (old man knew Father).

Monday 5th

In the morning we went out to Joe Whitten's and had dinner. He has 45 Irish acres of land. Irish acres are 1¼ acres. Had tea there and met Francis Rorke who asked us to her (his?) place.

Tuesday 6th

Went into town and had a good look through the co-operative bacon factory. Killing, scraping and singeing etc. Then we called on John Mason once more. Had dinner at Luttrells, called on Daley the C of E curate who was out then back to tea at Luttrells where we met old Mrs Drought who knew Father well. After tea we went to the old Roscrea Castle. This seems to be a very old stronghold from the top of which one could see all the district round about. Singing and home.

Wednesday 7th

Morning quiet time at Fancroft. Afternoon shooting. Evening chatting in the Home.

Thursday 8th

Attended the Fair in Roscrea. It seemed strange to see cattle sheep and horses, pigs in the streets and the buyers and sellers chatting and driving a hard bargain. There was a fine little mob of Irish ponies, rounded up in the streets. 42 publicans in Roscrea and object to the fair being changed to yards. Dinner at Luttrells. In the afternoon we drove out to Killan Broham to see Wallaces. Had a happy time there, met Mr and Mrs Ramsay. On the return called and saw Dick Grant and Fanny and also the old Grants. Very wet.

Friday 9th

Morning went to see old Billy Jackson. Then went to see Joe and Bob Whitten. After dinner went to Luttrells thence by train to Tullamore where Fra. met us.

Saturday 10th

Left Rourkes for Galway. Arrived Galway at 2.30. Spent the afternoon sailing on Galway Bay, was very seasick. Drove back. Stayed at Andersons. Mrs Anderson a sister to J and C Snodgrass(?) from South Waterloo. P56

Sunday 11th

11am went to hear Rev. Dr Clarke, Presbyterian minister of Galway. Small congregation. Good sermon but read. Afternoon went up the river which was very beautiful. Evening went to hear Rev. J Webster, Methodist, preached on M Magdaline (sic). Good thoughtful sermon. Had a walk with him afterwards. Congregation very small, 25, singing very poor.

Monday 12th

Went to St Nicholas Church, 1100AD, very strongly built formerly a Roman Cath. Church but taken by Queen Elizabeth and given to Episcopalians. Later on Cromwell besieged Galway, made a stable of this church and destroyed the images. The old confessional is still intact, the marble carvings are exceptionally artistic. Baptismal font very rustic. Then went to the boat and saw on the other side the Claddagh Village. This is a small race of people, descendants of a lot of Spanish fishermen, now numbering 500. Until recent years they did not intermarry with any people. Then went to see Bishops College and Queens College, the latter being in the University grounds. The loughs are exceptionally fine. Salmon in abundance in the rivers, sometimes amounting to 60 lbs. The salmon go up to spawn, when they come down again they are spent and poisonous to eat. No one knows where the salmon goes to after it leaves the river. Afternoon rested and left by 4.25 train for Tullamore. Galway is a strongly built city

and seems to have been at its prime about two or three hundred years ago. Above 98% of the people are Roman Catholic. Arrived Tullamore 8.30, home to Rourkes.

Tuesday 13th

Morning visited Abrahams, cousins of Rourkes. In the afternoon visited John McBride in the home that Ned Whitten lived in for 20 yrs and who would have had it willed to him except for drunkenness. McBride married Margaret Larks who lived with John Whitten at Fancroft after he was married for 3 months. **P57**

John Mc Bride went to America with Father about year 60. Father worked in St Charles town in Missouri in USA for William McBride 2 yrs. Saw old Town of St Charles now shifted two miles up the river.

Wednesday 14th

Wet all day, did not go out anywhere, did writing.

Thursday 15th

Quiet morning. Afternoon visited John Smiths, cousins of Rourkes, one son in Sydney, Haymarket P. Office. Arrived home 9pm.

Friday 16th

Morning visited Rourkes brother to ?Mike. Afternoon left Clonmore for Rosslare passing through water ford to Rosslare where we took the boat St George to Fishguard. Arriving in Fishgard about 3am. We took the train there for Newport, arriving in Newport and then on to Crosskeys at 8.30am. We spent the day with Moses Adams of Crosskeys. He made us very welcome. We met Mrs Adams and children.

Saturday 17th

We left Crosskeys in the evening and arrived in London at 10pm and then to Mrs Sailes or Gails.