

ART. XVIII.—*The Journal of John Wilson Soulby of Rampside Academy, August — December 1847.*
Edited and with Notes, by J. L. HOBBS, F.S.A.

Read at Kendal, April 21st, 1960.

INTRODUCTION.

In October 1959 the Barrow-in-Furness Public Library Local Collection acquired the Journal of John Wilson Soulby, a schoolboy's day by day account of his life at Rampside Academy during the "half-year" August to December 1847. Although perhaps of small literary importance the writings are interesting, describing the passing mid-19th century scene in a small Furness village and its immediate district, and have some value in assisting to advance knowledge on several minor points of local history.

Probably John Soulby's observations lose something by reason of the conditions under which they were made — a rough draft having to be prepared for, and corrected by, the schoolmaster each day before the "fair copy" was entered into the book. Naturally, this must have caused the boy to include only matters likely to receive approval, and explains the occasional slightly "priggish" remark; on the other hand it means that the information can be accepted as accurate and reliable.

BEFORE considering the material, some account of the Soulbys — one of the more important "tradesman" families of Ulverston — the village of Rampside, and the school itself, may assist to build up a background to this picture of schoolboy life.

(a) The Soulby Family.

On 2 March 1792 was buried at Ulverston, James Houghton, aged 23 years,¹ believed to be the earliest

Ulverston printer, who was also a bookbinder, bookseller, and stationer. His widow Alice decided to continue this business and to assist her engaged John Soulby of the Kendal and Penrith printing family,² whom she married on 4 April 1795, after which it was carried on in his name. A family of eight children resulted from the union, five boys and three girls; of the boys only John junr. (christened 13 January 1796) and Stephen (born 10 December 1808) survived infancy.³ John Soulby senr. died on 13 March 1817. By his Will made on 23 November 1816 and a codicil completed on the day before his death he required his trustees to employ his journeyman Stephen Tyson to carry on the business for the benefit of his children John, Alice, Ann, Stephen and Margaret as long as the trustees should think fit.⁴

On attaining his majority, Stephen took over part of the business or commenced his own on similar lines.⁵ He was, by far, the most noteworthy of the Soulby family and a man of parts. By 1830 or soon after he commenced to publish *The Ulverston Almanack and Tide Table or Daily Remembrancer*, a most useful compilation. In October 1847 he founded *Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser and General Intelligencer*, issued monthly to January 1848, then fortnightly to 10 August 1848. Until that date this was a periodical carrying only the limited amount of news permitted to an unstamped publication, but from 17 August 1848 the *Advertiser* paid the tax and became a weekly newspaper in a true sense. The first Furness newspaper, this had a life of some 66 years and was long regarded as the premier local paper. He invented a printing press — the *Ulverstonian* — which had a long and useful existence, and is credited with the invention of a typewriter, which had no success. Socially minded and keenly interested in all matters affecting his native town, he took part in public affairs, becoming, for instance, a member of the Grand Caledonian Railway provisional committee formed at Ulverston on 20 December 1837.

He also joined the Urswick Book Club which mostly comprised Ulverstonians, and whatever its original literary pretensions were, certainly later became a body where social conviviality was the chief object.⁶

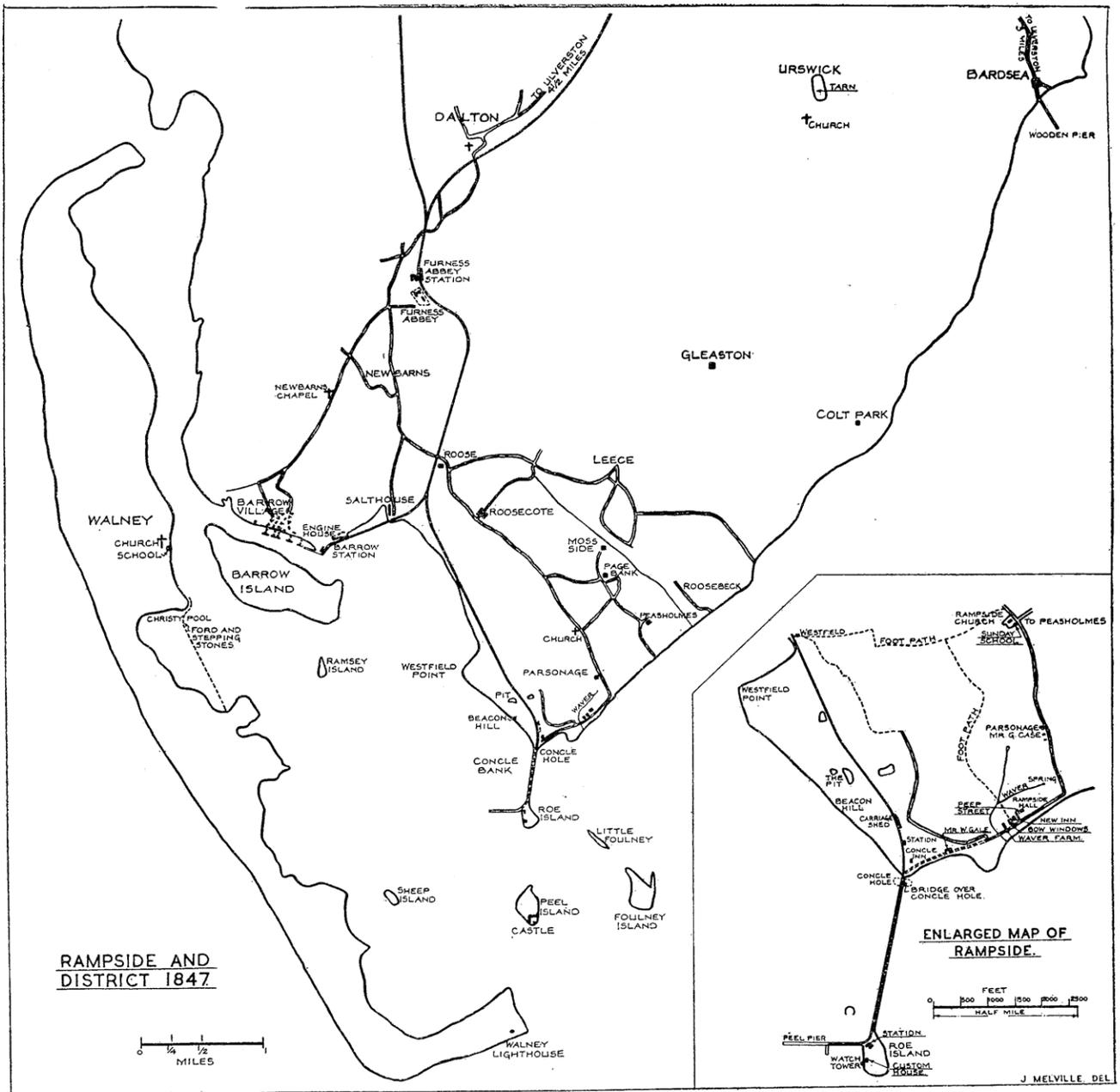
On 24 November 1832 Stephen Soulby married Alice Leece of Colton, their son John Wilson Soulby being born on 27 August 1834 and baptised at Ulverston on 24 September.⁷ There is no clue as to his early education — he may have attended the old Town Bank Grammar School, or perhaps one of the several private establishments then existing in the town, but shortly before his thirteenth birthday he was sent to Rampside as a boarder, possibly to obtain a “finish” superior to that available in Ulverston.

(b) Rampside in the 19th century.

From before the time in 1797 when it was stated that “Rampside (opposite the Pile of Foudrey) is a delightful situation and an excellent place for sea-bathing,” the village had obtained a good reputation which it held for the next seventy years or longer. Although small, it was not the least of the local settlements — in 1800 when the population of Barrow was 65, that of Rampside was 94, and at various times writers all spoke well of it as a clean and bracing rural seaside resort, immediately surrounded by a pleasant countryside.⁸

A most interesting contemporary description communicated from London by Arthur West on 1 July 1848 to the author of articles appearing in the *Kendal Mercury*, reports a visit paid to Furness in the previous year and his observations on the Rampside district are worth quoting in full, describing as they do the precise conditions young Soulby found at that time⁹:

“From Rampside church we descend to the village, passing by a few very prettily situated houses, in one of which the clergyman resides, where he conducts a respectable school in this healthy place. The village consists of a line of houses close to



the shore which are by no means remarkable for their picturesque appearance, except one singular-looking old building, called Rampside Hall. It possesses a row of chimnies the whole length of the ridge of the roof, numerous enough to emit the 'smokes' of all Rampside. In the sixteenth century, behind the hall, there was a Rampside wood here . . . a few stunted trees scarcely point out where the wood once grew. The summer cottage of Wm. Gale, Esq., High Sheriff, is by far the most attractive residence. Its low elevation, consisting of only one story, is in good taste with the character of the objects around it. There is an inn in the village, and a shop, or rather, *the* shop, where all the ordinary wants of man *and woman* may be supplied. It is well furnished with miscellaneous and multifarious articles, and though some fastidious people might think that the butter and bacon were in danger of coming too close at quarters with the ribbons and gown pieces, and wonder why the calicoes were piled on the cheeses, the candles and herrings hung on the sugar-barrel, and the soap claimed kindred with the sack of flour, doubtless the worthy mistress had her own peculiar reasons for these odd juxtapositions in her own domain. Perhaps, as her size is of the magnificently comfortable or portly description, and her shop of the diminutively minute species, she finds it more convenient to have some of all sorts within arm's length. Since the completion of the Furness Railway, Rampside has increased in importance . . .

"At the extremity of Rampside stands Concle Inn . . . From Concle Inn an embankment is carried over the beach and sand for nearly a mile to Roe Island. Walking along it we crossed one of the wonders of Rampside, called Concle Hole — a pool of salt water near the shore, which was formerly reputed to be unfathomable — but there are few deeps, whether purses or abysses, which railway enterprise will not sound and such has been the case here:— Huge pillars have been firmly fixed in this 'bottomless' vortex, and the spirit of credulity has vanished before the navy and his incontrovertible demonstration.

"Reaching Roe Island, we found modern improvement . . . Roe Island was purchased a few years ago by that man of marvellous enterprise, John Abel Smith, of whom it is said that there is hardly a well-known country in the world to which his money has not been sent for works of enterprise or profit. Though only a few acres in extent, it now possesses a hotel, warehouse, custom-house, watch-tower, and many other facilities for carrying on an extensive trade, which is some day or other to be created."¹⁰

(c) **The School.**

Arthur West refers to a school at the Parsonage, and it was here that John Wilson Soulby was entered under the Rev. William Dawson, Perpetual Curate of Rampside from 1836 until his death in 1859, the most important events of whose incumbency were the demolition of the old Rampside chapel,¹¹ the building of Rampside church on the site in 1840, and the erection of a Sunday School in the churchyard two years later (pulled down in 1892).

Mr Dawson's boarding-school was the best of several private schools in the Rampside vicinity (which included one at Moss Side and a "dame's school" in Peep Street), and although small, bore a high reputation, boys from the Manchester and Liverpool districts, and Kendal, as well as a number from Ulverston being educated there.

Although he was not a graduate, and his teaching methods are not known, the Rev. William Dawson appears to have been an enlightened schoolmaster for the period. His scholars were well, if plainly, fed and their study hours were not unduly arduous. Ample time was allowed for recreation, and while, as a rule, they had to arrange their own games and pastimes, they were free to take rambles and explore the countryside alone or with companions, without supervision. And (subject to the restraining influence in recording already noted) Mr Dawson seems to have maintained good discipline without resort to the ferocious corporal punishments even then still popular with many pedagogues — the narrative containing no incident of a boy getting into trouble or receiving correction.¹²

There is no indication of whether every boy was required to keep a daily journal, but as John Soulby never suggests that any schoolfellow was so occupied when he was, and his father gave him a present when the existing book was completed, it may be that it was customary for this to be a task for the first "half-year" only, designed to train a new boy in methods of ordered regularity and

assist him in settling down to the new life with its unfamiliar routine.

THE JOURNAL.

The book itself is 8 in. x 6½ in., half-leather with marbled board covers, feint ruled pages, marbled end papers and followed by two plain pages, the first inscribed:

JOURNAL From 10th Augst to 17th Dec^r 1847.,
and the second:

Master J. W. SOULBY. Rampside Academy.,
all within and surrounded by decorative "flourishes."

The final two pages of the book give an account of the writer and the school rules, which can more conveniently precede the excerpts.

Ulverston April 6th 1849.

This Journal was written the first year I was at Rampside as Scholar under The Rev William Dawson Rampside Parsonage 10 miles off the Town of Ulverston.

For writing this Journal my father gave me a Writing Desk for writing it so well.

He also presented me with a watch when I was going away to Rampside after my easter Holidays (April 17 1848) got from Greenwood Ebbs H & Co London.

Rules of the Rampside School.

We had to get up at 7 o'clock in Summer — and then went into the School before Breakfast and then work till ½ 8 o'clock and then coming down to the Breakfast — two cups of coffee — and then Returned to the School again and worked till ½ past 12 o'clock and then went down to dinner we had two Puddings every Day and as much as we could eat. After dinner we did not go into School till 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and then came down to Tea at 5 o'clock, after that we played and amused ourselves till ½ 8 o'clock & Then we came into supper (Bread & Milk) and then went to bed. in Winter we got up at 8 o'clock in the morning and worked in the evening from 7 o'clock to ½ 8 o'clock.

John W Soulby
King Str
Ulverstone

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Principal companions (namely), C. B. Kennedy & Miles Kennedy R. Seadle M. Satterthwaite & Mark Whineray all from Ulverston.¹³

[N.B. Many entries include repetitious formal observations. To avoid undue length, and tedium in reading, a number of these, and other non-informative dates and remarks are omitted, but the most interesting excerpts are quoted *in extenso*. Although perhaps some of the original schoolboy naïvety has been lost by this necessary editing, it is thought that nothing of historical value has been sacrificed.]

[John Soulby's opening term included a wet and stormy, but mild, autumn, the first frost not occurring until 17 November.]

Monday August 9th 1847. [The year will not be repeated].

This morning after School hours we all went down to Concle to see the Train go down to Roe Island for the first time since I have been here. It went down to meet the Nile Steamer to convey some Gentlemen up the line. The Train and Packet however have not yet begun to run to the Pier regularly but are expected to do so shortly. There are a great many Vessels in Peel harbour most of which have been there since Saturday some of which have come in for shelter from the storm. This evening Mr Matthews printed my name in my Journal Book whilst I was writing this on my Slate.¹⁴

Tuesday August 10th.

After dinner we all went down to see the tide come up but were two [*sic*] late, it was ebbing fast. In the evening I and two more schoolboys went down to the pit field and we set two wild ducks out and chased them the length of the field and then lost the sight of them but we returned to the pit and set another out and killed it, it was a young one.¹⁵

[Wednesdays and Saturdays were half holidays, the boys being at liberty after morning school for the remainder of the day in summer, and until the evening study period when winter rules commenced.]

Wednesday August 11th.

Went to bathe in the morning. Went to Roe Island, the first time that I ever was there. Went round the Island and to the Pier end. Afterwards saw the Train come down with the Picnic party to Piel Castle, there were forty five people. After tea we went down to Concle and saw the train return.

Thursday August 12th.

This morning when we got up the Rain was pouring down. It had been more wet all night than in any one night during the year and an inch of rain had fallen since yesterday night.

Today has been so wet that we could not get out to play. I have been writing figures in my Copy this afternoon as I am going to put my sums down in a book shortly.

Friday August 13th.

This evening a Family of the name of Whitwell came to Rampside with a quantity of furniture and are going to stay two months in Mr Gale's house.¹⁶

Saturday August 14th.

Went to bathe and then to the Station.¹⁷ It is reported that the train is going to run tomorrow from Dalton to Roe Island for the first time this season. It would have run before this but Mr Smith and Mr Curry are said to have had some difference about it.¹⁸ This evening Mr and Mrs Newton of the Town End and their Family have come down to Rampside to stay at Mr Case's¹⁹ for a few days, they came in Mr Smith's Omnibus. Today was the last day for bathing till the next spring tides.

Sunday August 15th.

We all went to church but first into the Sunday School near the church to teach the little boys and girls. Edward Satterthwaite, Michael's brother came down in their gig and attended church. Mr Slater from Walney read the Prayers.²⁰ In the afternoon Mr Dawson went down to the shore with us to see the Tide come up. After tea we went again to Church.

[Soulby always quotes the sources of the texts of the sermons, but the Sunday entries are, largely, repetitive, and are omitted unless other information is included.]

Monday August 16th.

The Packet was expected to have come to the landing at Roe Island, but it went to Barrow. The farmers are very busy in Rampside with the Harvest, there are 31 reapers in the Village at present and they are all occupied with work. After tea Charles Kennedy and I went to Rampside and saw the rest of the scholars in a field looking at Ann High's horse which was very near dead.

Tuesday August 17th.

This day was wet and we were obliged to stay indoors. Did a few sums to put down in my Ciphering Copy, then wrote my journal on my slate for Mr Dawson to correct, and afterwards

wrote it down in my book. Today Ann High's horse was shot, being very old and quite exhausted.²¹

Wednesday August 18th.

Went to Concle and on to the Station. We asked the men working on the line when the train was going to run down to Roe and they said it would run on Monday or Friday. After that we went on to Beacon hill. In the evening we took a bees nest when a number of boys were stung by the wasps. [*sic.*]

[The constant attraction of the new railway is already evident. The diarist's knowledge of natural history appears slight!]

Thursday August 19th.

This evening we all went down and saw the Steam Engine come down to the Station for a few railway carts loaden with wood to take on to Barrow. After that we walked down the Railway line very near as far as the junction then turned up by the Sands and over beacon hill to see if there was any Rabbits, but saw none.

Friday August 20th.

Many Gigs and Cars and Mr Smith's omnibus brought a Company of Ladies and Gentlemen from Ulverston; they went home again before noon. In the evening we saw the Steamer come out of Barrow and pass Roe, there were a great many Passengers. The Farmers are stacking their Wheat for the first time this Harvest, they have been very busy so far in their Harvest.

Saturday August 21st.

Charles Kennedy and a few more boys and I went on to Westfield Bank and played about, then we went to the pit field and set four Snipe out. I wrote a letter to my cousin in Liverpool.

Monday August 23d.

In the evening we all went to Rampside and into Mr Coward's²² barn to watch them carting their wheat and corn and putting them in Stacks. Another boy and I went on to Concle and over beacon hill and down by the Railway and through the fields. We got a quantity of nuts off the hedge and some were very ripe.

Tuesday August 23d. [*sic*, should be 24th].

We worked until half past 5. After tea we went on the Sands to see the other boys fish they had caught twenty flocks.

Wednesday August 25th.

This afternoon we had our half holiday and Mark Whineray

and I went to Barrow, it was the first time I had been there in my life, it is a busy little place where they are making great improvements. A great many Iron Ore trains came down with the Engine to fill the vessels. They have got a landing like the one at Rampside but it is larger than this at Barrow, they were repairing in the work shop a large Engine, there is a large blacksmiths shop where they make their lines and wheels for the Railway.

Thursday [August] 26th.

Went to look at Thomas Boltons²³ thrashing Machine which was turned by four horses. They were thrashing wheat, it kept one man at work filling it and another taking the straw from it, it can thrash very fast. After tea some boys went a fishing and I went with them but they did not catch anything.

Friday August 27th.

Today it was my birth-day and we all had an afternoon holiday. We saw Mrs Hudson and another Lady come up from Roe. There have been a great many Ulverston people down today. The tide was rather high and some of us bathed but it was ebbing fast when we went into the water, it was rather cold and we had to go a long way in until we got to a certain depth. The farmers are still very busy, they worked very late last night and are very throng this Harvest and secured a great quantity of fine grain.

Saturday 28th August.

Mr Dawson let us all have an hour's liberty to bathe as it was the last spring tide of the season for the purpose. The tide was very high and we did not go very far out. In the afternoon Miles Kennedy and I went to Roe and to the end of the Pier where they were making the turn tables and they have also built a bit more to the Pier. This evening three bathing carts came through the village and they had fetched them from Roose and were taking them to Roe, and then a vessel is going to take them to Fleetwood.

[An interesting sidelight. It had not been known previously that the beach near Roose was popular enough for bathing to require these fashionable machines.]

Sunday August 29th.

Mr Dawson preached, it was a Harvest Sermon. Six or seven gigs and cars came down, nearly all from Ulverston with persons whom we knew.

Monday August 30th.

There was a picnic party from Ulverston to Piel Castle given

by Mr W. Seatle [possibly R. Seatle's father] and brothers, but the day was unfavourable there being frequent showers. This evening Michael Satterthwaite and I went to see Thomas Bolton's men stack the barley. They have got a great many stacks set up in the field. All the farmers have been very busy in getting their grain in and some of them very near got the whole in before it began to rain.

Tuesday 31st August.

Mr Dawson gave us a scramble for a few pears before we went into school after dinner. [Initialled W.D. after this entry.]

Wednesday September 1st.

We went to Roe to see the Steamer come by. We had very hard work to get down to Roe it was so very stormy. We had a very good view of the Steamer coming through the channel but there were not many passengers. The tide was very rough and coming with a rapid force into Concle hole. We then came home as it was so wet and stormy.

Thursday September 2d.

Today a person named Robert Wise, Master of a vessel, the "Ocean Child" called upon Mr Dawson to note a protest of his vessel having been caught in a Squall, thrown upon her beam ends and so much damaged as to have sprung a leak, and having two feet of water in her. She was laden with wheat and Indian meal and was going from Liverpool to Maryport. She is run ashore near Piel Castle. She is 51 tons burden. The accident of the vessel happened yesterday about noon.

[On Friday 3 September he wrote to his father; after tea it was fair and he went with a schoolfellow to get a few nuts. On Saturday afternoon, to Roe "to see the Nile Steamer which had brought a party of gentry over (i.e. from Fleetwood). We went on board, she is not very large, we saw the men cleaning the engines." On Sunday 5 September the usual religious exercises occupied the morning, but after dinner the boys read the lessons of evening service before going to church again, "service commencing at 3 today, for the winter." It was a wet evening, "amused ourselves in the house reading, until supper time."]

Monday September 6th.

Today it was a very fine day and we enjoyed our leisure hours very much. In the afternoon Mr Dawson gave us a basket of pears for a scramble which was fine sport for us. There are several families now staying at Rampside, Mr Yarker and daughter,²⁴ Mr and Mrs Newton and family, Mrs Deane, and

the Whitwells of Kendal. Today one of our schoolfellows from Kendal left us. He has got a situation in a Railway office in London, through the patronage of Mr Glynn, the member of Parliament for Kendal, who has got situations for three more Kendal boys.

Tuesday September 7th.

My Journal is very short as it has been so wet and nothing particular has occurred except that a Gentleman's Carriage with a first-rate looking party came down to stay at Hargreaves,²⁵ from Newby Bridge.

Wednesday Sept^r 8th.

Mrs Petty's²⁶ carriage was down at Rampside. I and a few boys took a walk to the station house and Mr Quest the Station clerk let us look through the Carriage house and we saw many fine Carriages. They were painting some which had been broken by an accident on account of a man having closed the Gates before the train had passed on the Kirkby Line some time ago. We asked him if the Trains were going to run to Roe, and he said they were not that he knew of. Some of the boys had an excursion to Barrow.

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Thursday September 9th.

A great many Rampside people went to Ulverston, to the Market, it being the appeal day and Licensing day for the Publicans. Mr Newton and family should have gone away for good but the omnibus did not come down for them. This evening I received the Pictorial Times from my Father, and he has promised to send it every week and likewise the Family Herald. The Queen, who has been paying a visit to Scotland is partly expected to return by Fleetwood and, if so, we shall probably see the squadron from here.

Friday September 10th.

Today two Carriages came down to Rampside, one was Mr Salthouse's and the other from Mr Daniels and the Party were strangers come to spend the day. There is also a Gentleman and Lady staying at George Hargreaves, he is a Magistrate named Wood from Manchester. After tea some of us went into the Village to see a vessel laden with Coals which the owners were unshipping, she is a Preston Vessel, and there were great demands for coals. Mr Dawson got 3 tons and almost every family in the Village got some at 12s/6d per ton.

[On Saturday 11 September the Newtons left in Smith's omnibus, having spent a month at Mr Case's house. With

Mr Matthews and Thomas White he walked to Roe and watched John Lowry and his son fishing. They had caught a considerable quantity of codfish.]

Monday September 13th.

After dinner two of the boys and I went a nutting, but found none as the hedges had been well cleared of nuts before by myself and schoolfellows. A family staying at George Hargreaves left and it is understood they have gone to stay at Furness Abbey. Mr Dawson brought us news from Ulverston that the High Sheriff is going to meet Her Majesty at Fleetwood in full state with all his javelin men next Thursday.

Tuesday September 14th.

This morning a man came to ask Mr Dawson if he would have any objections to letting the boys go to Fleetwood as he had got a Vessel and would take us across for a very little money. Mr Dawson however would not make him any promise as he did not like the Idea of going over in any boat except a Steamer. It is yet undecided whether any of us shall go or not; as we do not yet know whether the Steamer will run to the new Pier for the purpose of taking in Passengers to witness the Queen's arrival at Fleetwood.

[In the upshot, the school was to be disappointed.]

Wednesday September 15th.

This afternoon one of the boys and I went a nutting to Rose coat, but did not get many, the place was well searched. It came on very wet. Today the Engine came down with a few carriages with some Gentlemen in. It went to Roe but did not stay very long. Tomorrow the Queen is expected to be at Fleetwood and numbers are going from this neighbourhood if the day be favourable.

Thursday September 16th.

Today has been the stormiest day that has been known for a long time. There are a great many Vessels, perhaps 50 in number, in Piel harbour, they came in yesterday to shelter, there was a Vessel in distress out beyond Fouley [*sic*], we thought it was going to sink. The Queen and Prince Albert were expected in Fleetwood but the storm was so great we think the Squadron would not go to sea. Mr Dawson thinks there never was so severe a Storm since the great Storm of January 7th 1839. God save the Queen!

Friday September 17th.

This afternoon Mr Dawson gave us holiday as the Queen was reported to have come to Fleetwood. Some Rampside people

said they saw the Squadron pass. There were 13 Vessels in the Piel harbour, it was rather rough but nothing like yesterday; we saw the packet pass she had a great many passengers on board.

Saturday September 18th.

I and two other boys went round by Roose beck and Colt Park for a walk, we had a few showers of heavy rain but it was quite fine afterwards. I had never been there before. We saw Mr Simpsons Rabbit warren. Several boys have taken an excursion to Barrow and different places. There were two packets going up to Bardsea.²⁷ The report of the Queen having arrived at Fleetwood turns out to be false, and now it is reported that she will arrive either tomorrow or Monday, we hope it will be the latter day and that Her Majesty will not travel on the Sabbath day.

Monday September 20th.

This evening we all went down into the village to see the Queen pass by; there were 7 Steam packets she was expected in Fleetwood tonight; there was a very large Steamer we thought that she would be in that but we could not tell. A packet went on to Fleetwood in advance of the rest and we thought that they were going to give notice that she was coming. The sun was just going down when the Squadron arrived so that her Majesty would only have a very short opportunity of viewing Fleetwood unless she staid all night there. God save the Queen! [Initialled W.D.]

Tuesday September 21st.

As I have nothing particular to say today I will transcribe a protest made before Mr Dawson by a Captain of a vessel which has suffered from the late storm.

Abraham Clarke Master of the Jesse Maria 23 tons with coals from Whitehaven to Dublin states that on Wednesday the 15th inst at 2 PM made all sail and immediately afterwards strong gales sprang up from W.S.W. The foresail split — took in top gallant sails and bent another fore sail. Trey sail split — main top sail ditto — square mainsail ditto. Double reefed the fore top sail and bent another main top sail and double reefed it.

The ship labouring heavily and making water — pumps carefully attended to. At 4.30 St Bees head bearing South east distance 12 miles at 10 PM wore ship, at 11.30 Ross Light (Scotland) bearing north east 8 miles at 12 midnight wore ship — at 4 A M ditto. Thursday 10 A.M. wore ship again, Blackcombe bearing east distance about 12 miles, bore up for Piel. At 2 PM. off

south end of walney light house bearing about north east shipped a heavy sea; washed boats over board, the Galley fore-castle Scuttle, Binnacle, and compass and square main sail, also belly of foresail, stove the main hatch, broke the main boom and both the wench stanchions, carried away part of the bulwarks and every thing loose about the deck. At 3.30 came to, at Piel with the best Bower, and veered out 50 fathoms of chain, at 1 let go sheet anchor and veered out 30 fathoms — sounded ship and found 4 feet water in her hold, at low water the ship striking. Friday 10 A.M. Pilot and 6 men came on board and got the ship into a proper roadstead about 11 A.M. where she now lies.²⁸

Wednesday September 22d.

Very wet, an inch and a half of rain has fallen since yesterday night, the greatest quantity fallen in the same time for the last four years. Several men were loading timber at Concle Bank on the waggons to take to Barrow. The Engine and a few carriages came down today to Roe to fetch some Gentlemen, we could not tell who they were but we believe they were meeting about making a new Pier on the East side of Roe for the purpose of shipping Iron ore there instead of at Barrow.²⁹

Thursday September 23d.

When we got up it was still blowing hard and likely to commence raining again. Mr Kennedy and family have come down to Mr Gale's house, one of the Daughters was taken ill at School and they have come down to stay a few weeks for her health. There are many Vessels still in Piel harbour, they have had no chance to go out to sea this last week as it has been so stormy.

Friday September 24th.

Today after dinner I and two more schoolboys went on to Concle hole to see Mr Kennedy's dog swim it jumped off the piles and swam across the hole. Mr Dawson went away this afternoon for a ride out in Mr Cowards Gig and met a party to dinner at Mr Ashburners of Dalton. As the weather has been rather fine some of the Vessels have left Piel harbour. They were hoisting their sails today at noon to meet the tide.

Wednesday October 6th.

It was too wet for our half holiday and we are to have it tomorrow. Today one of our boy's Father and Mother came to see him they came with the Steamer from Fleetwood and came from besides Manchester. They are staying with Mr Dawson and are going back tomorrow. This evening we came in to work instead of the mornings as it is coming on rather dark. It has been a very wet and stormy afternoon and we could not get

out to enjoy our leisure hours. All the Ulverston boys have been at home to spend the week and some of us came back yesterday, but the Kennedys are not returning yet.

Thursday October 7th.

Today it is Ulverston fair, and there are several people gone from Rampside. It has been very wet all night but was very fine for our half holiday. Today the parents [from Manchester] walked up to Furness Abbey and are going to stay all night there and return tomorrow morning by the Steamer from Barrow. Mr Dawson informs us that nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches of rain had fallen since Wednesday afternoon which is nearly as much as fell in some of the early months of this year.

Saturday October 9th.

I and a few more boys went for a walk to Furness Abbey we met a train of Waggon coming up from Barrow. When we got there we went through the Abbey to see the ruins. They have built a new station house on the other side of the line and there was also a quantity of men filling the waggons with soil for the Engine to take to Barrow.

[Young Soulby was more attracted by modern progress than local history and antiquity. The schoolmaster may have placed Piel Castle out of bounds owing to the boat trip required to visit it, but there is no suggestion that he called attention to its history or that it made any impression on Soulby, who also fails to mention the curious old house, Rampside Hall, which he passed nearly every day. Even Furness Abbey ruins bring no comment, railway activity nearby being more noteworthy.]

Sunday October 10th.

Mr Slater was absent and Mr Dawson was obliged to do it all himself. This evening cleared off a little and we got out until 7 o'clock and then we went into the Dining Room and read the first two or three chapters of St Matthew, then Mr Dawson questioned us and commented on the various passages. We are to be exercised in this way each Sunday evening until Christmas in order to improve our knowledge of Scripture.

Monday October 11th.

This morning it was very fine, and Charles and Miles Kennedy came down in the afternoon in Charles' Pony Gig. They have had a long holiday at home. This evening after school hours we had great sport in playing at football, we played till it was dark, and then we came into the school and spent an hour and a half in our studies instead of doing any thing before breakfast.

Tuesday October 12th.

This noon we played at foot ball. Today a family of the name of Clark from Lancaster who had been staying a few days at George Hargreaves left with his Carriage and all his Servants.³⁰ I received the Pictorial times and also 20 Ulverston Advertisers from my Father.³¹

Wednesday October 13th.

Today we had not our halfholiday as Mr Dawson is going to Ulverston tomorrow and we are going to have it then. After tea we went to play at football up the lane and then I came into the school and read an interesting tale out of the Family Herald.

Thursday October 14th.

A few boys and myself went on to Concle and saw the tide come up, it came very fast through Concle hole and there were several little pleasure boats sailing about. There were no Vessels in Piel Harbour. Afterwards we came home and got tea and then played at football up the lane till dark.

Friday October 15th.

Today Mr Dawson returned and brought us word that the man at Dalton of the name of Johnson whom Myers stabbed is dead. They had taken him off to Lancaster by the Coach but the Magistrates Clerk came into the office and told them that the man was dead and they sent a Conveyance to over take the Coach and bring him back.³²

Saturday October 16th.

A few of the boys and I went to Barrow and saw the Helvellyn Steamer come in. It had not many on board and we saw the Train take them up to Dalton. They were also shipping a quantity of Iron ore. There were many trains of it came down. We also saw the Train come down with the Passengers for the Steamer. She had only five Passengers on board and a flock of geese.

Sunday October 17th.

Today was Thanksgiving day and there was a collection made at the door for the poor of Ireland.

Monday October 18th.

Today after dinner we all played at foot ball and then I came into the School to Draw a little. I wrote a letter home.

Tuesday October 19th.

After tea some of us went down to the village to play but it came on very wet and we were obliged to come up to the school. I received the Pictorial times and the Family Herald from my Father.

Wednesday October 20th.

I went to Roe with another boy and we saw through the Black Smiths and Joiner's shops, they were repairing a boat and we also saw them making the watch tower which they are building on one of the sides of Roe.³³ After that I went on to fouley, it is the first time I have been there. Today Mr Dawson went to Dalton to bid farewell to Mr and Mrs Kirkbank who are removing to Hastings in the South of England for his health.

Thursday October 21st.

This morning it was very wet and had been so all the night until afternoon and then it cleared up. Mark Whineray went home to be at Ulverston over the Cattle show. I received the Map of Palestine and an Atlas this evening.

Friday October 22d.

Today it was the Agricultural show and many people went from Rampside. It was a very fine day for it. I spent the evening in the school with some of the boys drawing and painting the Map of Palestine which we use on Sundays when we read the Scriptures.

Saturday October 23d.

Today it was the Dalton fair and a few people went from Rampside to it. We had our holiday in the afternoon but some of us spent some time indoors drawing our Maps and painting them. After tea some of us went to Concle hole to sail our boats.

Sunday October 24th.

After tea we had a fire in the School.

Monday October 25th.

This morning Mr Maxwell came down in a Gig to bid farewell to Mr Dawson as he is leaving England almost at once for New Providence, one of the Bahama Islands, to be the Clergyman with an annual salary of four hundred pounds. This afternoon Mr Dawson went to Christen Mr Ross's baby at the church. Today all of us wrote home to our respective parents as it is nearly the end of the month. This evening after tea some of us came into the school to amuse ourselves in reading and making boats.

[There is no mention of football after 18 October, and the game seems to have been superseded thereafter by sailing and making boats — some evidently of paper or other flimsy material as little time seemed needed to complete their construction.]

Tuesday October 26th.

This afternoon The Rev. R. Gwilym³⁴ and Mr Rolleson his curate came down in a gig to see the church if it was in good order, he has been at several places to see them. This evening I took my Journal down for Mr Dawson to correct, after that I went out to play with the rest of the boys and then we came in and I amused myself with Drawing till we all set to work and said our Grammar and wrote our Exercises till supper time.

Thursday October 28th.

Today Mr Dawson went to Ulverston and we had our half holiday and I and a few more boys went down to Roe and sailed our boats down by the side of the embankment. It was a very fine tide, there were many Vessels in Piel harbour and they had all their sails up, and some of them were going out. We saw the steamer come through the Channel, it had a few Passengers on board. Mr Dawson informs us that Mr Maxwell had set off from Ulverston to London this morning by the over sands coach, and that he would sail for the Bahama Islands on Tuesday next.

Friday October 29th.

After dinner I and a few schoolboys went to sail our boats up in John Cowards field. This afternoon I wrote my letter home to my Father.

Saturday October 30th.

This afternoon we went to the Waver³⁵ to sail our boats. We saw the steamer go up to Barrow and it was the last day that she is going to ply this season. After that some of us came up to the school to amuse ourselves, one of the boys was printing his Map.

Sunday October 31st.

This morning after breakfast we read the lessons and Psalms for the day and then we went to church. The usual clerk was poorly and a man from Rampside was the clerk instead of him who had been the old clerk before the new chapel was built. Mr Dawson did all the service himself. This afternoon after the service there was a Christening from Barrow.

[Here some pages have been torn from the book.]

Wednesday November 3d.

I and a few more boys went to Foulney and it was the first time that I was on big Foulney. Mr Matthews came and then we went on to Roe, they are building the Light house on the end of the Pier, they have also got a beautiful Custom house for the residence of the Custom officer to live in. It has got a beautiful front.³⁶

Thursday November 4th.

Today after dinner the Kennedys and Thomas White went to Ulverston to stay over the 5th of November. This afternoon Mr Dawson let us out at 4 o'clock instead of tomorrow when we are to work all day to keep us out of Danger and mischief and we are going to have holiday all the day on Saturday. I received the Pictorial Times and the Ulverston Advertiser.

Friday November 5th.

Today it was the 5th of November and Fredrick [*sic*] Davis went home this morning to stay over the week end and he is coming back on Monday. Today after dinner we were obliged to play in the lane till two oclock. This evening after tea we all came up into the School to amuse ourselves till 7 o'clock and then we set to our evening tasks until half past 8 oclock when we went down to supper.

[Mr Dawson's wisdom in keeping his boys away from the village on this day cannot be doubted, and he certainly did his best to compensate them for their disappointment. But there may have been a number of faces glued to the school-room windows that evening.]

Saturday November 6th.

After breakfast some of the boys went with Mr Dawson to measure a field, and I and a few more went to Roe, the tide was very rough; they are repairing the embankment. We made some boats and set them off with the tide. In the afternoon we went to the waver to sail our boats and then we went to Roe again with Mr Matthews. We went on the sands to see a net, it was full of flocks. This evening we had holiday.

Monday November 8th.

This morning when we got up it was wet and stormy and had been so all the night. Some of the boys and I went down to the Village, the tide was very rough and the waves very grand. This evening some of the boys made boats.

Tuesday November 9th.

The Kennedys came back but Thomas White has not yet returned. After dinner we went to sail our boats in the waver till 2 oclock and then came up to school. This evening some of the boys came up to school to amuse themselves with making boats. Mr Matthews cut a balloon out for Charles Kennedy.

Wednesday November 10th.

This afternoon we had our half holiday and some of us went to Concle hole to sail our boats, and some went to Roe. This

evening after tea we amused ourselves with making boats, then we set to our lessons.

Thursday November 11th.

This morning a number of Rampside people went to Ulverston also many servants went to the Fair. Today after dinner it was wet. At noon the Captain of a Vessel called the John Daniel of Cardiff from Liverpool to Limerick with a general Cargo came to make a protest before Mr Dawson to the effect that he had been out in heavy gales and had been driven into Kingstone Bay, near Dublin and had at last taken refuge in Piel harbour, having had several of his sails torn to pieces by the gale and the Vessel in a leaky state. He has been 14 days on the water, whereas if the weather had been favourable he should have performed the passage in four Days.

Friday November 12th.

Today when we got up it was very wet and had been so all the night. After dinner some of the boys went down to the water to sail their boats. This evening Mr Matthews set Charles Kennedy's balloon up after supper, it did not go up three yards because it was too heavy at the bottom and then it came down and set on fire.

Saturday November 13th.

This morning has been very wet as well as all last night but it cleared up about noon and then was quite fine. We went to Concle to sail our boats in the afternoon but the tide was not out and so we went down to Roe. We saw the Custom officers come from Barrow in the boat. After that we went round to see the boat house and the tower, and then we came up to sail our boats in Concle hole. Afterwards we came up to tea.

Sunday November 14th.

Today has been so wet that but few people could attend the Church as the great part have to come upwards of a mile. We were obliged to be kept in the house after the afternoon service on account of the weather. At 7 o'clock we commenced reading and explaining scripture till supper time after which we went to bed.

Monday November 15th.

Today after tea Thomas White came back after staying a very long time at Ulverston at Mr Bartons³⁷ very much to Mr Dawsons annoyance on account of loss of time. This evening after tea we all came up to the school and set a fire and amused ourselves with making boats till 7 o'clock.

Tuesday November 16th.

Today was the Concle hunt and we had holiday instead of our half holiday tomorrow. The dogs set off from Concle and set the first hare off at the back of West field bank and chased it to besides Urswick but they did not catch it. We had many heavy showers of rain in the course of the day. After that they set another up and caught it besides Gleaston and then the huntsmen went to Concle to dine and spend the evening and we went into the school to write our exercises.³⁸

Wednesday November 17th.

This morning there was a slight frost for the first time this season. This evening I went down to the Village to buy a penholder and then I came up and we amused ourselves playing at touch and catch in the lane.

Thursday November 18th.

This morning when we got up there was a pond of John Cowards frozen but the ice was not very thick.

Friday November 19th.

This evening after tea some of the boys went out to play and I and a few more remained in the school and made boats to sail tomorrow.

Saturday November 20th.

This morning Mr Gales Carriage driven by his Son Baldwin and containing several of the Family came down and remained two or three hours. Mr Davis also came down a fishing and caught several dozen of Codlings several of which he left at Mr Dawsons. This afternoon some of the boys and I went to Concle hole to sail our boats and then it came on rather wet and we came up to the school to amuse ourselves.

Sunday November 21st.

This morning Mr W. Seale and his wife and Sister and Mother came down in a gig and stayed at George Case's, they came to the church. This evening after tea we said the Catechism. This evening a very heavy rain and storm came on and the whole day it has been very cold.

Monday 22d November.

I received the Pictorial Times and the Pogmore Almanack from my Father. Mr Matthews read it to us in the school and we were all very amused with the fun and wit with which it abounds.

Tuesday Nov^r 23d.

After dinner we went to the waver to sail our boats. This even-

ing after we had got our tea we came into the school to amuse ourselves with Pogmore and I drew a little.

Wednesday Nov^r 24th.

This afternoon we had not our half holiday because Mr Dawson is going to Ulverston tomorrow. This evening we have a balloon and it should have been set up but it was very wet.

Thursday Nov^r 25th.

This afternoon we went down to see the tide, it was very high and rough and then we went to Concle, the tide was very high and washed some of the embankment away, the tide was up to the piles and was very grand to behold.

Friday Nov^r 26th.

This evening after tea some of us went down to the Village to buy some turpentine to set the balloon up. We set it up out of the playground, it went up splendidly as high as the house but a strong gust of wind came over the house from the south and overturned it when it got on fire and fell about 30 yards off.³⁹ Then we had holiday for the rest of the evening and amused ourselves with acting plays until supper time.

Saturday Nov^r 27th.

This afternoon I and Charles Kennedy went round by Page bank and up the shore and as we were coming round the point we saw a quantity of soil had been washed down by the tide for some distance on the shore. Then we met some of the boys and went with them about the fields to play.

Sunday Nov^r 28th.

This afternoon Mr Dawson went to Newbarns to do the service and I and all the boys went with him which was quite a treat as we had never been there before. It was only a small chapel but it was very full.⁴⁰ After the service we had a very beautiful walk home. This evening after tea we repeated the Catechism.

[With the evenings now too short for outdoor recreation, map drawing, printing and painting became popular and are frequently mentioned.]

Monday November 29th.

We went to the village and saw some of Thomas Boltons men thrashing wheat with the thrashing machine.

Tuesday November 30th.

It was so very wet that we were all obliged to stay in the school.

Wednesday Decem^r 1st.

We had our holiday and went into the fields to play. Today Mr and Mrs Whineray came down in a gig and staid until 6 o'clock when they returned home.

Thursday Decem^r 2d.

Today has been wet and gloomy and after tea some boys came up into the school and amused themselves with printing their maps and preparing for the holidays and I and some other boys went down to the Village with some letters to William Simpson to take tomorrow.⁴¹

Friday Decem^r 3d.

This morning one of the Ulverston boys went home with William Simpson, he has sprained his feet and has been lame. Today it was rather wet and we staid in the school.

Saturday Decem^r 4th.

This afternoon we went into the fields to play and we were going to Rose Beck but it came on wet and stormy and we were obliged to turn back and go into the Village for Shelter. There we saw a great quantity of straw blown away out of Thomas Bolton's field for it was blowing quite a hurricane.

Sunday Decem^r 5th.

This evening we went through a portion of our Catechism after which we supped on Bread and cheese and mulled ale.

Monday Decem^r 6th.

Today after dinner it was so wet and stormy that we could not go out. Mr Dawson says the Glass was never so low before for the last three years.

Wednesday Decem^r 8th.

This morning when we got up it was snowing very fast and had been so some part of the night and carried on until 10 o'clock but in the afternoon it was quite fine and we went to Roe and went on the Pier to see the Light House.

Thursday Decem^r 9th.

Today after dinner we went down into the Village to play round Thomas Boltons stacks until 2 o'clock and then came up to the school. This evening Ann High brought us word that the Post was going to start tomorrow from Ulverstone to Rampside. After tea we came into the School and amused ourselves with writing letters to go with the new Post and two other boys went down to enquire the truth of it.

Friday December 10th.

Today the Postman came down for the first time.⁴² He is one

of the Salmons from Ulverstone. One of the boys and Mr Matthews took 24 letters to go to the respective parents of the boys and to have the Rampside Stamp on for the first time.⁴³ He came down at half past one o'clock and we gave him three cheers as he passed the School. He returned towards Ulverstone about half past 4 o'clock and Mr Dawson let us out of school for an hours holiday on account of the occasion.

Saturday Decem^r 11th.

This afternoon we took a letter down to the Post Office and then I and some others took a walk round by Pease Holmes and as we were coming back we met the Postman as he was returning. He will not come on Sundays.

Sunday Decem^r 12th.

This morning went to the Church it is the last Sunday that we are going to the Church as we are breaking up on Friday. This afternoon we went to the Church and there was a Christening before the service.

Monday December 13th.

Today Mr Nelson the barber from Ulverston came down to cut our hair as it is near the holidays and we were becoming very rough. We go home on Friday the 17th instant. This afternoon two boys went to Roose beck for a goose for Fridays dinner. After tea Mr Matthews and some of the boys made gas in a bottle but it burst the bottle. After which we set to work of our evening lessons.

Tuesday Decem^r 14th.

After dinner some of us stayed in the school and waited till the post came, he had not very many letters for us today. This evening I wrote my Journal for today after I had finished my Ciphering copy.

Wednesday December 15th.

After tea Mr Dawson gave us holiday and some of the boys went down into Rampside to enquire who could take our boxes. William Simpson is going to take our boxes to Ulverston and an Old Woman is going to take the others as they are going to Fleetwood, and she is going to take them to Bardsea to be ready for the steamer. After which we came up to pack our clothes up as some of them had to go off tomorrow morning.

Thursday December 16th.

This morning after breakfast three of the boys went home for the holidays. There is a Vessel cast up behind Roe Island, it is loaden with Iron Ore, it is going to try to get up to Barrow tonight to get the Cargo taken out of her. I wrote a letter to

my Father⁴⁴ to tell him that I was going home tomorrow. This evening we break up for the Christmas holidays.

With his records of the closing of the "half" John Wilson Soulby's Journal ends.

His father, well liked and generous was, however, a poor financier; later he got into difficulties, his business failed and he died in straitened circumstances soon after, in 1864.⁴⁵ By that time his son, if still alive, was a man aged about 30 years who must have been making his own way in the world. His name does not appear in the Mannex 1866 lists of residents in Ulverston and the district, and probably he had moved elsewhere. Perhaps he went to Liverpool where he had relatives (see entry for August 21st), and where, eventually, his journal was discovered in an old chest of drawers.

But so far all that we know of him is contained in his Journal.

NOTES AND REFERENCES.

- ¹ Ulverston Registers.
- ² Barrow-in-Furness Public Library, Local Collection: Aldred Collection of Broadsheets.
- ³ Ulverston Registers.
- ⁴ Archdeaconry of Richmond Wills. (Lancs. Record Office.)
- ⁵ The continuation of the Soulby business is uncertain, but the facts as shown in contemporary Directories, and the printer's impress on various publications, considered as a whole, suggest that John Soulby junr. commenced business on his own account after attaining his majority and that Stephen Soulby did the same from 1829, Tyson continuing for the benefit of the girls or independently thereafter; but this is merely a conjectural interpretation of what is known.
- ⁶ Casson: "A Few Furness Worthies"; Melville & Hobbs: "Some Early Railway History in Furness." (Tract Series No. xiii); The Urswick Book Club Minutes, 1824-41 (Barrow Local Collection); Soulby's *Ulverston Almanacks*; Files of the *Ulverston Advertiser*; etc.
- ⁷ Colton Registers, Ulverston Registers. (Bishop's Transcripts, Lancs. Record Office.)
- ⁸ Barfoot & Wilkes: *Universal British Directory, 1797*, — the notice adds that although the place seemed less popular than formerly, it appeared to be coming into favour again.
Dr William Close, in his edition of West's "Antiquities of Furness" (1805) — "The small village of Rampside is frequently a place of resort for genteel company who repair thither to bathe or for the advantage of the sea air. The village is pleasantly situated close to the shore on the north side of the Bay of Morecambe, five miles to the south of Furness Abbey . . . At a little distance from the village is a deep natural basin called the Conckhole, which, in the absence of the tide, is always filled with a dense saline fluid, and is much extolled for its peculiar advantages." (382). Instructions are included for the benefit of visitors

who may desire to profit from their stay by bathing, which make quaint and amusing, but quite sensible, reading.

Edward Baines: *Directory of . . . Lancashire*, vol. i, 1824, also mentions the place favourably, remarking that ". . . accommodations are good but not sumptuous, and the expense nearly as moderate as in the Isle of Man."

"A Trip through Furness," written in 1845 by "A Sentimentalist," says — "Our road now lay through bye-lanes, so narrow that we brushed the flowers on each side as we passed; and in due time we arrived at Leece, from which a short ride brought us to Rampside. This is a favourite resort of the Furness gentry and their families in the summer months, for the air is pure and bracing, and the country around possesses considerable attractions . . ."

Charles M. Jopling in "Sketch of Furness & Cartmel" (1843), and Mannex & Co's *History, Topography . . . of Lonsdale* (1849 edition), include similar references.

- 9 The articles were issued as "A Guide to Grange. Reprinted from the *Kendal Mercury*" (Kendal: George Lee, Finkle Street. 1848), and the material, greatly curtailed and rearranged, appeared in a final form in 1850 as the better known "Sketches of Grange."
 - 10 For Rampside Hall, cf. CW2 x art. xiii. The description of the shop-keeper probably refers to Ann Berry, included in the list of Rampside residents by Mannex, *op. cit.*, as a grocer. Her shop was in Peep Street, a short street then existing between the New Inn and Rampside Hall, but demolished c. 1900.
 - 11 Believed to date from 1621. (B.N.F.C. xvii 116.)
 - 12 Miss M. Postlethwaite tells me that Dawson's school was continued by his successor, the Rev. John Park, B.A. (1859-1872), and the following incumbent, the Rev. Theodore S. Uglow, M.A. (1872-1884), when day boys were taken, her father William James Postlethwaite attending as such. Mr Uglow was not a satisfactory schoolmaster, however, and failed to maintain the prestige of the establishment, which eventually ceased to exist.
 - 13 From a study of Mannex, *op. cit.*, it is likely that Seat(t)le, Satterthwaite, and Whineray were all sons of Ulverston grocers. A Mark Whineray, Market Street, grocer and cheesemonger, appears in the 1866 edition. The Kennedys were of superior standing, and some account of them is given in Casson, *op. cit.*, 78-81. They became the well known Kennedy Brothers, iron ore merchants, but Charles Burton Kennedy, the elder, died in 1865. Shortly before his death he defrayed the cost of a new porch and vestry at Rampside church — suggesting he retained pleasant memories of his schooldays. Myles Kennedy was afterwards one of the most important and prominent public and business figures in Furness and there are many references to his career.
 - 14 The *Nile* was a small Fleetwood steamer available for hire and a familiar object on both sides of Morecambe Bay. She was engaged in regular sailings between Liverpool, Fleetwood, and the Furness coast for some weeks in 1849 (*Ulverston Advertiser*, advertisements 5 April—3 May); and occasionally worked up the Leven estuary as far as Greenodd (*ibid.*, 15 September 1850). During the "Great Tempest" of 27 December 1852 six or seven vessels, including the *Nile*, were found "reposing on green grass under Concle Hill, where vessels were never seen before and we hope never will be again." (*Ibid.*, 30 December 1852).
- From the various references, Mr Matthews was the usher or assistant master, and probably was responsible for a good deal of school supervision while Mr Dawson was engaged in parochial and other business.
- 15 Pit Field is marked on the Tithe Commutation Map of Dalton-in-Furness, 1842. The pit, a large pool of water, is still shown on the 1-inch O.S. map, 1955, (ref. SD 231665).
 - 16 Described by Arthur West, *ante*, p. 158. William Gale, J.P., and Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire, resided at Lightburn House, Ulverston.
 - 17 The later Rampside station (now converted into a bungalow), backed

on to part of the Concle Inn premises, but the original station was situated rather more than 100 yards nearer Barrow and a Carriage Shed stood at about the same distance beyond it. (6-inch O.S. map, 1847-51; contemporary Furness Railway engineers' plans.)

A regular time table was not worked on the Rampside line until the summer of 1848.

- 18 John Abel Smith, owner of Piel Pier, and Benjamin Currey, Chairman of the Furness Railway Co. The pier was completed in 1847 but disputes as to the tolls caused the F.R. to use their wharf at Barrow for sailings to and from Fleetwood by their steamer *Helvellyn* until 1848. The full story is related in Melville & Hobbs, *op cit.*, 12 f., 28-32.
- 19 George Case, Eastwood Cottage, now the residence of Mr and Mrs A. E. Todd, and next to the Vicarage.
- 20 The Rev. William Slater, curate of Dalton-in-Furness, 1818, died March 1848 (Tyson: *Dalton-in-Furness . . . Abstract . . . 1887*, 165). He was the only curate from 1828 to 1842 but seems to have lived on Walney Island and his position in the parish is not clear.
 "After his (i.e. The Rev. William Troughton, Perpetual Curate of Walney 1805-1839) death the Rev. William Slater, curate of Dalton, officiated for a time, teaching in the school and sleeping in a hammock in the schoolroom. 'Poor Parson Slater' was drowned at the stepping-stones at Christy Pool in returning from a wedding feast at Biggar." (CW2 xx 99). He appears to have assisted Mr Dawson fairly regularly during Soulby's first term.
- 21 Ann High was the Ulverston and Rampside carrier, on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. She is last shown in the list in Jackson's *Ulverston Almanack* for 1852.
- 22 John Coward, Bow Windows farm.
- 23 Waver farm.
- 24 The Yarkers were a well known Ulverston family and are mentioned in a number of records of the town's affairs. Robert Francis Yarker was Clerk to the Ulverston Magistrates and also to the Ulverston Canal Company.
- 25 George Hargreaves, tenant under the Clarke family, of the New Inn, established in 1822 and known as Clarke's Arms from c. 1870. It was founded in a house built by George Barker ("known to be living in Rampside at the time of Prince Charles Edward") in 1720 and demolished in 1913 to make room for the present hotel, a small portion of wall and the original dated stone (unfortunately re-cut without authorisation in 1954) being incorporated. A photograph of the original house hangs in the hotel entrance. A full account is given in the unpublished paper — Hobbs: "The Family of Clarke and the Clarke's Arms Inn at Rampside," the copyright of which is vested in the present owners of the hotel, Messrs. James Thompson & Co., Ltd. The Directors have deposited a copy of this at Barrow Public Library for the benefit of students, under the usual safeguards.
 With the disappearance of the old house passed the slight connection of the poet Wordsworth with Rampside. In 1794 it was owned and occupied by Francis Barker the younger, whose wife was a cousin of the Wordsworths, and here Dorothy stayed for three months from the end of June in that year, William joining them about 20 August for a month.
 He recalls the visit in the opening lines of his "Elegaic Stanzas" written in 1805, suggested by Sir George Beaumont's extremely imaginative picture of "Peele Castle in a Storm"; and in Book X of "The Prelude" indicates the rambles he took along the coast as far as Chapel Island during this holiday. (Mary Moorman: "William Wordsworth. The Early Years. 1770-1803," 251, 257 f.; "Wordsworth: The Prelude," ed. E. De Selincourt, O.U.P., 1926, 388, and note 473 on 581).
- 26 Wife of a member of the Ulverston family of shipbuilders, etc.
- 27 For some time there had been a steamer service between Fleetwood and Ulverston (Bardsea) worked by the *Fenella*, James Dennistoun,

- or *Express*. Passengers were landed at a wooden jetty at Bardsea and taken to Ulverston by horse transport. This service continued for a period after the direct service to Piel Pier commenced to operate in 1848, but eventually was withdrawn (CW2 xlvi 98).
- 28 Similar protests of a century earlier are included in "John Robinson's Book of Precedents, part 2" (CW2, lx). The legal obligation (if any) to make such protests has not been studied, but it is obvious enough that the masters of wrecked or storm-damaged vessels made their statements as a form of insurance against claims upon them for negligent navigation, and to prove that they were solely the victims of Acts of God and Tempest.
- 29 Melville & Hobbs, *op. cit.* During his disputes with the Furness Railway Company, John Abel Smith made several proposals of this character. It is generally considered, however, that they were not advanced seriously, but were merely schemes designed as a threat to shut off the Railway Co. from the island unless the Directors deferred to his views.
- 30 James Addison Clarke. See also note 25.
- 31 The first issue, of which no surviving copy is known. The number sent suggests that the publisher hoped his son might distribute copies advantageously.
- 32 This case must have caused widespread excitement in the district and Mr Dawson evidently returned home full of it, but he did not see fit to discuss it further with his pupils as it is not mentioned again.
Great increase in iron ore mining near Dalton and the building of the Furness Railway (of which Johnson was an employee) would have brought many rough characters into the town, with frequent affrays and drunken brawls, but this was a more serious affair. Long reports of this "most brutal case of cutting and stabbing" are given in the *Lancaster Gazette* issues of 9 and 23 October 1847.
At the Coroner's Inquest the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Myers, who was committed to Lancaster Castle, but no mention of his trial or execution appeared in the paper up to the end of February 1848.
- 33 Still a familiar object at Roa Island.
- 34 The Rev. (afterwards Canon) Richard Gwilym, Incumbent of Ulverston and Rural Dean.
- 35 The Waver was a short watercourse flowing through Waver Field to the shore. It is less obvious today but is still marked on the 1-inch O.S. map, 1955 (ref. SD 239662-241665).
- 36 The double-fronted house near the watch-tower. The Custom office was removed from Rampside to Ulverston in 1766 (CW2 lix 141 f.), and transferred from there to Barrow in 1862. Officers had been stationed previously in the Piel Harbour area for a long period however, a resident tide-waiter being recorded at Barrow in 1801, while Thomas Hodgson, as Principal Coast Officer and Coast Waiter lived there from 1835 or earlier until he removed to the new house at Roa Island. (B.N.F.C. xvii 181 ff., 187.)
- 37 Probably James Greaves Barton of Fountain Street, a well known Ulverston attorney.
- 38 The description is of a typical Mayor Hunt, events once popular and frequent in the district, usually held in the autumn. Many reports of them appear in the earlier files of the *Ulverston Advertiser*.
- 39 Such balloons were long popular, and until the early years of the present century, but will only be remembered by older people now. They were models of the Montgolfier type, constructed of thin paper pasted on to a light wire frame, a piece of cotton wool being wedged into the intersection of the bottom cross pieces and soaked in spirit. When this was ignited, the theory was that the balloon would fill with hot air and rise. Quite often a successful flight was accomplished, but in the writer's recollection the results too frequently followed the incidents experienced by the boys of Rampside Academy.

- ⁴⁰ Newbarns chapel was erected in 1843. An account of it by Harper Gaythorpe appears in the "Church Congress Guide to Barrow, 1906," 68.
- ⁴¹ William Simpson and Thomas Askew are given as the Rampsides carriers to Ulverston in Jackson's *Ulverston Almanack*, from 1853. (See note 21.) Possibly Simpson did some of the work earlier on, being a Rampsides shopkeeper who would need to go to Ulverston occasionally, accepted commissions when he made the journey.
- ⁴² Cf. CW2 xlvi ror f.
- ⁴³ This observation provides the only clue to the size of Rampsides Academy. If, as it seems, it is the writer's intention to record that each boy wrote one letter only, the half-year had commenced with 26 scholars — one left subsequently and one had returned home on 3 December. Probably the school was intended for between 20 and 30, all boarders.
- ⁴⁴ It is curious that the boy makes no reference whatever to his mother in the journal. She may have died earlier, but there is no record of her burial at Ulverston or Colton up to 1850.
- ⁴⁵ Casson, *op. cit.*, 66.

APPENDIX.

St. George's School, Barrow-in-Furness, was founded in 1849 at the suggestion of James Ramsden, manager of the Furness Railway Company. It was known at first as the Furness Railway School, probably from this circumstance and because the company gave the site and made other provision.

The first master was Ralph Hordley, who took up his duties on 1 Septemebr 1849 and remained until June 1852 when he removed to Staffordshire. In 1905, as an old man aged eighty-one years, he recorded some reminiscences of this period under the title of "Barrow-in-Furness in 1849-1852" which were published in the *Barrow Herald* during November and December of that year.

These included some memories of Rampsides and the Rev. William Dawson's Academy as it was a few years after John Wilson Soulby wrote his Journal, to which they form an interesting appendix, although Soulby himself probably was no longer a scholar at the time of Ralph Hordley's account.

"From Roa Island, where there was a Railway Hotel, under the management of Mr Clarke, and a revenue station, with Mr Joseph Taylor as chief officer, the railway was laid across an embankment to Rampsides, a pleasant village overlooking Morecambe Bay. Amongst the principal residents were the vicar, the Rev. W. Dawson, who kept a boarding school for young gentlemen, with Mr John Matthews as his assistant; Mr G. Case, a retired tradesman; Mr Bolton, farmer; and Mrs Ashburner, who kept a small hotel at the Furness end of the embankment from Roa Island.

"Rampsides church was some distance from the Vicarage and the village, on the road to Roose Cote. The vicar was unmarried,

and his housekeeper was engaged to Capt. Martin, the skipper of the *Ocean Wave*, a schooner trading principally between Barrow and Morecambe. On the retirement of Capt. Scott, he was appointed commander of the *Helvellyn*, the steamer running between Fleetwood, Roa Island and Barrow. I went to Rampside twice a week, Saturdays and Wednesday evenings, to give lessons on the pianoforte to some of the pupils, and I dined with them on Saturdays. The catering for the boarders was of a liberal and substantial character, and ample justice was done to it by a number of hearty youths, with appetites sharpened by exercise and pure sea air. The vicar always presided, and carved, and during the earlier portion of the meal had a busy time of it. 'Under done, please sir!' or 'Well done, please sir!' the youths cried out on passing their plates for a second helping. On one occasion a youngster omitted 'Please sir' and merely said 'Well done,' an omission quickly noted by the master, who immediately retorted, 'Well done! I always do things well!'

"The road from Rampside past the church to Roose Cote was merely a country lane, with high hedges on each side, and was very lonely in the dark winter evenings . . .

"Mr Taylor's duties as officer of Inland Revenue often called him from Roa Island to Barrow, and his assistants, John Davis and Richard Jervis, were experienced boatmen. This was necessary, as although the distance was only between three and four miles, they had to take the chances of being out in stormy weather."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

My thanks are due to all who have assisted in this work, and especially to: The Library and Museum Committee of Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council and the Borough Librarian, Mr F. Barnes, B.A., F.S.A., for permission and facilities to study and deal with the manuscript; Mr R. Sharpe France, M.A., F.S.A., Lancs. County Archivist; Mr E. H. Lowe, City Librarian of Lancaster; Mr and Mrs E. A. Todd, Miss M. Postlethwaite and Miss I. High.