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Rambling recollections of John Crawford Woods B.A. volume 3

Inside front cover Presented by Mrs. A. A. Abbie Rambling Recollections of John Crawford Woods. B.A. vol. 3.

1895

Jan. 27th. Today I conducted the morning service at the Adelaide Unitarian Church. There was a good congregation. A scurrilous print called Quiz has a nasty notice in it of our Minister, M^r. Wilson which was shown to me Today. Feb. 5th. On Friday last we left home for Melbourne and having boudoir accommodation on the railway, and the officers in charge of it being a former hearer of mine in Adelaide our journey was made as pleasant as it could be. We found staying in the Grand Hotel at Melbourne my friends M^{rs}. and Miss Duerdin. The Rev. Maxwell Davidson, the

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first Unitarian Minister in Melbourne was a tutor in the late M^r. Duerdin's family, and there was service in M^r. Duerdin's private house before the first Church was built. M^{rs}. Duerdin restored to me a farthing (whist marker) I had dropped in her house several years ago, and which had been with her in her late travels in Europe. On Sunday we went twice to the Unitarian Church. In the morning the Rev. Alex. C. Henderson B.D. gave a discourse on war – very good and energetically delivered. In the evening M^r. Sutherland

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M.A. lectured on Shelley and endeavoured to show that although the poet was far from faultless his general aims were good, and that if he disbelieved in the bad God of the orthodox church of his day, he did deserve the name of Theist. On Monday we left Melbourne for Sorrento where we now are. The place is beautiful and the climate much cooler than that of Melbourne or Adelaide. Feb. 12. This is the birthday of my late unfortunate son. If he had lived he would have been 44 years old Today. On Sunday last I preached twice in

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the Unitarian Church, Melbourne. There was a fair but not large attendance at each Service. The people seemed very attentive, and several thanked me for my discourses – and encouragement to an old man. I was pleased to find that the effort did not tire me over-much. We were made very comfortable at the house of the minister Mr. Henderson by his house-keeper – he being a bachelor. We are back again at Sorrento. Feb. 22nd. Sorrento. On Wednesday last I was pleasantly surprised by a visit from my old schoolfellow Hamilton Morse – of Melbourne, formerly of

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Bangor, Co. Down, Ireland. We had a pleasant talk about old places and old friends. I had a letter this week from Miss Cotton of Hastings, England who was a member of my Congregation at Northampton when I was first married. It is pleasant to be kindly remembered by old friends. Feb. 23rd Yesterday we had a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Walter Simpson of Melbourne and we had a pleasant afternoon in their Company. March 7th. Grand Hotel Melbourne. We left Sorrento last Monday as the place did not agree with my wife's health. We went last evening to a

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Concert at the Unitarian Church. It was well attended but ought to have taken place in the Schoolroom. There is a great excitement in Melbourne just now about cricket. The Englishmen who were beaten by the Australians at Adelaide have had a great victory here. There are many Adelaide people in Melbourne just now on account of the cricket match and the races, and I several at this hotel. The weather is delightfully cool and my wife's health is [...]. March 11th . Melbourne. I preached last evening to a good Congregation at

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the Unitarian Church. The Rev. D^r. Joseph Abrahams, Jewish Rabbi, with his wife, was present on the occasion and expressed himself greatly pleased with the Service. In the Unitarian Church in the morning Yesterday, a very interesting address was given by M^r. Taylor, of Hobart, Tasmania, on Tuesday evening a lecture is to be given there by Colonel Bell. U.S. Consul at Sydney. Melbourne March 13th On Tuesday evening we went to hear colonel Bell lecture on Federation in the Town Hall. He is

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very eloquent. Yesterday my wife went with M^{rs}. D^r. Gresell to a reception of the lady Mayoress at the Town Hall. In the evening we went to the Unitarian Church to hear a lecture by Colonel Bell on Theosophy. It was a very able one – logical, learned, humorous, pathetic and at times there were given pieces of fine declamation. I proposed a vote of thanks to him at the request of the Rev. Alexander Henderson, B.D. which was carried with enthusiasm March 18th Melbourne. On Saturday I saw a grand procession of Irishmen in celebration of

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S^t. Patrick's day. We went to the Unitarian Church Yesterday morning and heard a good sermon by M^r. Henderson. The Organist played 'the dead march in Saul' in respect to the memory of the late Sir Robert Duff Governor of New South Wales. In the evening we went to the 'Australian Church'. There was an immense Congregation. The Service and the music were very beautiful and D^r. Strong preached a thoughtful, and purely Unitarian Sermon on prayer. Melbourne March 25th. Last evening I conducted the service at the Unitarian

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Church –. Mrs., Misses Kate and Emily Kay, and my wife and I afterwards took coffee at M^r. Henderson's house. M^r. Henderson preached a very good sermon in the morning on the Mysteries of the Universe. Today we start by express train for home. The Kays are going with us. I have seen several old friends in Melbourne and have enjoyed the visit. The only drawback has been that my wife has not been as well as I could wish. Knightsbridge, March 28th . We arrive at our home, from Melbourne

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on the morning of Tuesday last and although I was tired by a long journey I attended the Meeting at the Adelaide Unitarian Church in the evening convened for the consideration of the question – Should we ask the Rev. Alexander Wilson to be our Minister after his two years engagement had expired. The question was answered in the affirmative by a rather too small meeting. April 8th. Last evening my wife and I went to hear a lecture by Prior Vaughan, brother of the Cardinal, on Prayer, delivered at the Town Hall, Adelaide. The subject was prayer and

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it was heated in a reasonable and remarkably eloquent way. We heard the Rev. D^r Strong of Melbourne discourse on the same subject a short time ago and the philosophy of both on the

subject was the same and both such as in substance a Unitarian could agree with. I have been amused at a man being described as “a rabid teetotaller with lucid intervals at dinnertime” April 21st. This morning I gave an address to the Children of our Sunday School in Adelaide. Among other things I advised them to attend the Services in the Church.

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April 24th. We went last evening to hear the Rev. Hugh Reginald Haweis of London lecture in the Town Hall of Adelaide on Tennyson. The lecture was splendid and I was greatly gratified to hear a Church of England clergyman speak of James Martineau as the profoundest philosopher and greatest living thinker. This my dear sister Maria's birthday. She is now 75 years old and enjoys good health and her quiet life. She is one of the excellent of the earth.” May 6th On Saturday we had a party of 26 [...]

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children at our house. They seemed to enjoy themselves very much and it always pleases me to see children happy. Yesterday I conducted the morning Service at the Unitarian Church. There was a good attendance. Miss Spence lectured in the evening at the same place on “democratic ideals; Christian ideals” – to a crowded audience. The discourse was more political than I like in a place of worship, and I objected perhaps more because I think her politics bad. May 25th. Yesterday was the Queen's birthday

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and I was reminded that when I was 13 years of age I heard her proclaimed Queen in Bangor, Co. Down Ireland by two Magistrates – James Rose D. Cleland of Ruthgael and John Marmian Crawford of Crawfordsburn. Today I have read two sentences which please me much “If God made us, then He also meant us.” O.W. Holmes. “Socialism arises at the substitution of social tyranny for industrial liberty.” D^r. Flint. Edinburgh Professor of Divinity in the University. May 28th I was pleased to receive

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by this mail from England (arrived Yesterday) a good likeness of D^r. Martineau who has been pronounced the greatest Unitarian since the time of Jesus Christ. The saints of God are the salt of the earth. June 1st. I have just read an Article in the ~~Fortnightly~~ 19th Century \Jun 1895/ by Canon Shore on “Auricular Confession in the Church of England.” He shows that in the Reformed Prayer Book the passages sanctioning A.C. were specially and of set purpose left out. A thought has occurred to me in relation to evolution – and religion. The lower

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animals have no religious feelings that we know of. If man is evolved from an anthropoid ape and has religious intentions &c he is either superior to the Anthropoid ape in this particular or not. If not it is a retrograde movement, if a better one to go back to atheism. If he is superior to the Anthropoid ape in being religious then there is an advance in this respect corresponding to the progress in intellectual, social, moral and aesthetic capacities and faculties. It would be a strange thing if there should be growth and improvement in

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other relations of importance and the reverse in this –that so far as religion is concerned a dog or horse is wiser than a man. June 16th. Today our Minister preached a Sermon in which he seemed to favour Socialism. I greatly differ with him on that point. Those who try to teach people that they have a right to seize on the property of others, causing ~~our~~ other/ mischief, put out of sight the inculcation of industry, thrift and these ~~other~~ virtues and powers by which independent circumstances are attained. I cordially agree with the ‘sentiments’ of the late Reverend William Roby

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Fletcher of the Stow Memorial Church, Adelaide, when he says "That which a man has, as his own, is his own. To take from him what he gains as the result of his own industry, and honest, and care and thrift, is robbery. I grant that he ought to be ready to give and to give freely. Giving ought to be the joy of his regenerated being, for giving is the expression of divine life in him, but to make him give is to steal from him. If he has appropriated what is not his by right, then it is another question, when and how he ought to be made to surrender it up, but what is his he has to do with as his own.

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All Socialistic schemes which go on the principle that no man has a right to anything that all goods and labour are common property, that the man who saves has no claim upon his savings, are sure to end in ruin for they begin in injustice. Community of good is a direct violation of this right of human nature." Selections PP.213 – 214 June 24th. Yesterday, in consequence of the Rev. Alexander Wilson having a cold, I conducted the morning Service at the Unitarian Church, Adelaide. There was a good congregation. June 25th. I have just read

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and have been much pleased with the following words of Max Muller, taken from an Address 'On the proper use of Holy Scripture' being the subject of an Address delivered in 1893 before the Society of Historical Theology at Oxford. "It is surprising to see the efforts that are being made in order to make it likely that the gospels were written down at least before the end of the first century, when people were supposed to have been living who were present at the events recorded in these documents. It seems to me if that could be done we should lose far more than we should gain. As it is now, it is always

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open to us to say, whenever we read of anything that is incredible or unworthy of Christ, as we conceive him, that it came from his disciples who confessedly had often failed to understand him, or that it was added by those who handed down the tradition before it was written Down, and who thought that the more miraculous they Could render the true works and wonders of Jesus Christ the more they would raise him in the eyes of the multitude. The true interests of the Christian religion would be better served by showing how much time and how many opportunities there were

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for human misunderstandings To creep into the Gospel story, just as many stumbling blocks have been removed by a critical collection of the innumerable various readings that crept into the text of the New Testament after it had been written down" July 13th. I went last night to a meeting of the Adelaide 'University Union Society.' There was a debate on the influence of Education – (Modern) on the happiness of mankind. There was a good attendance mostly undergraduates. Professor Penne-father was in the chair. The debate was carried on in a spirited yet good tempered

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and in an able way by several students and some professors. The occasion was interesting as being the first meeting of the kind in the University. July 25th. Last evening there was a social Meeting and entertainment at the Unitarian lecture room, Adelaide. My wife was the authoress of a charade which was well played in which she took a leading part – as an Irish cook. The whole affair went off well and the attendance was large. I acted as chairman. August 5th. I conducted the morning service at the Adelaide Unitarian Church Yesterday

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There was a large congregation and the greatest ordinary collection that has been got there for some time. Several people complimented me on the sermon, one being a member of the Church of England. August 12th We had a poor and dreary sermon Yesterday. In the afternoon my wife was very sleepy. I said to her what can have made you so drowsy? She replied. 'I think it was the Sermon.' I was much amused for though the soporific effects of sermons in a Church are proverbial I never before heard that they lasted for hours after the Services were over.—

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August 24th We went to a "Social" at our Church Schoolroom last evening. There was a crowded attendance and a very elegant entertainment. I read Longfellow's poem "Death & the Flowers" which was beautifully illustrated by some ladies in tableaux – It has occurred to me to write down the various place\in which/ I have officiated as a Minister in the course of my life – Ireland. Belfast, Yorkstreet, 1st & 2nd Prebyterian churches Rosemary Street. – Newtownards, Denmury, Bambridge, Holywood. Scotland. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Girvan, Dulkeith. England. Dukinfield

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Haleybridge, GeeCross, Hock-port, Manchester, Pendlebury, Stand, Halifax, Darlington, Newcastle upon Tyne, Plymouth, Devonport, London.\, Hackney, Little Portland Street, Essex Street, Highgate, Stamford Street – Unity Church Islington, Richmond, Brixton, Motham Newport Isle of Wight, Portsmouth Unitarian Church & General Baptist Churches – Poole, Southampton, Northampton, Warwick, Kenilworth, Coventry, Birmingham, New Hall Hill & New -Meeting, Eversham, Chichester, Hastings, Northiam, Bessel's Green. Wales. Merthys Tydvil.

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Australia. Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Shady Grove, South Australia and Wellington. S.A. Mount Barker. S.A. August 25. today very wet; so my wife and I stayed at home and it being Sunday I read to her a Sermon on "The Christianity of old Age" from the "Christian Endeavours" of Martineau. It is a beautiful Sermon and I felt that it did me good. My wife also expressed her sense of its vale. I have been amused by reading of an old simpleminded Episcopalian lady who was asked if she believed in dancing "Oh yes" she replied

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"I believe in it, but I do not think it is essential to Salvation." August 30th. I have read that the Speaker of the British House of Commons "was so called in the early period of our parliamentary History because he and he only had a right to speak to the Sovereign on Behalf of the Commons." "Though the Long ~~Denoff~~ Day by D^r Charles MacKay. How few Socialists who would divide the fortune that other men have made, could make or have made fortunes for themselves. Mallock has said something like this.

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Sept. 6th. I have been reading Today in Green's History of the English people. I was struck with the statement that the phrase "hocus pocus", is derived from the words "hoc est corpus" used by R. C. priests in the so called consecration of bread in the eucharist – 'Hocus pocus' was uttered in derision of 'Hoc est corpus' in the beginning of the P. Reformation in England. Sept. 24th I read lately that a Highland sexton when it was proposed to have a memorial stained glass window in his Kirk said 'I do not like these stained glass windows why cant people be satisfied with glass as God made it.

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October 8th On Saturday last there was a Garden Fête at Mrs. William Kay's, Norwood, for the Renovation Fund of the Unitarian Church, Adelaide. It was a very pleasant and well attended affair. It was opened by Mr. J.H. Symon Q. C. About £112 – were obtained for the object in view. On Sunday last I preached the 40th anniversary Sermon of Public Unitarian worship in Adelaide. There was a good congregation and several people expressed to me their approbation of what I said. October 12th. On Wednesday 1st. M^r. Whitham who came out to Adelaide

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about 22 years ago to be my locum tenens when I was away for a holiday in England, went with his wife on a return voyage to England. He has been for 20 years or so an Inspector of Schools. His health has failed him and he has been ordered by his doctor to take this trip. I hope it may be for his advantage. On the same day I was summoned to see my Minister, Rev. Alexander Wilson who had taken suddenly ill. I am going to do duty for him tomorrow. He is better but does not look well or strong.

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October 14th. I preached to a good audience at the Unitarian Church, Adelaide, Yesterday morning and conducted a devotional Service in the evening. I am tired Today in consequence. This day is the first anniversary of the death of my late son Arthur Maclure. He is a very sad memory to me. October 15th. Last evening my wife and I went to hear a lecture by Mark Twain – the celebrated American Humourist. The Theatre Reyne was crowded and the lecture was most amusing. Unfortunately for me I did not hear all the best points. M. T's. voice is not strong and clear

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and although I am a little deaf others who are not at all so were in the same predicament as myself. M. T – (Samuel Clemens) is a small, slight man – with a great quantity of perfectly white hair and very bright eyes. He is singular rather than good looking. My wife laughed very heartily at his queer jokes. October 21st. On Saturday I went with the Sunday school teachers and scholars to a picnic at the National Park. I gave away the prizes. Yesterday morning I conducted the devotional Services in our Church. M^r. Wilson looks very poorly. He starts for Melbourne on Monday next

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October 24th. Last evening I went to the Annual Meeting of the Adelaide Unitarian Church. There was a pretty good attendance. I had the honor to announce from the ladies that they had raised £200 for the renovation fund and which they were willing to hand over to the Church Committee on Condition that it was not to be spent on mere patching but on good solid work. October 28th The Rev. Alexander Currie Henderson, M.A. B.D. conducted the services at the Unitarian Church, Adelaide last Sunday. There were

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good Congregations and he preached two excellent sermons. M^r. Wilson is gone to Melbourne to take his place. M^r. Henderson is our guest while in South Australia. October 31st. I went Today to a levee at Government House to pay my respects to our new Governor Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton. He is a fine looking man with a benevolent expression of countenance. Nov. 6th Last evening we had a social meeting at the Schoolroom of the Church to welcome Rev. A.C. Henderson. It was well attended and passed off pleasantly. Ad-vantage was taken of the

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occasion to present M^r. Edward Kay – Who has, after 11 years service, – resigned the Secretary- Ship of the Church – an address. To this was added a Gladstone bag – it being

merrily stated that as he had given himself the sack, we should give him a bag. I was Chairman of the meeting. Nov. 12th The Rev. A. C. Henderson M.A. B.D. left us Today for Melbourne. We were very much pleased with his visit and admired him exceedingly both in the pulpit and in our home. Nov. 21st. Today I was struck with a remark in a book I am reading.

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It is this "The world seems to experience a lively pleasure in holding a man to his early follies." I found in my visits to Belfast that in my native neighbourhood follies and perhaps naughtinesses of my youth were recollected to my detriment. November 4th. On the first of this month I gave my granddaughter £ 10 to pay for lessons at a photo-graphic artist's (Stempel Co) in Adelaide. I also allow her an additional £ 1- for luncheons etc. I hope she may be a diligent pupil and grow to be a good and useful woman. But for my wife's generosity I could not afford to assist Violet as I do.

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Nov. 7th. I have been interested in the following statement about the Unitarian Churches in Belfast made by Rev. E.I. Fripp. "It is exactly two centuries since the forefathers of the First and Second Congregations established their religious home in Rosemary Street (Bequest). In the year 1695 the Earl of Donegal granted to them, not, indeed, by lease or legal document, for Presbyterianism was not then recognized by the state, but by a compact afterwards, in 1767 – lawfully ratified the piece of land in Rosemary Street as present occupied by the two Meeting houses, and now so long and so intimately

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associated with the cause of Non Subscription. For thirteen \13/ years the Congregation met in a building on the site of the present First Church. Then, in 1708, to make room for increasing membership, the Congregation agreed to divide, and a second building was erected immediately behind the other on the site of the present Second Church." The foundation stone of a New Church for the Second congregation was laid in October 1895 – at Elmwood Avenue. I take a deep interest in this congregation, as it was the first Unitarian Church in which I habitually worshipped The genial, handsome and liberal and most hospitable Rev John Porter, being the Minister

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Nov. 12th. On Monday night last a cyclone passed over Adelaide; doing a great deal of damage to property. The like of it has not been experienced by the oldest colonist in this province. Dec. 26th. I conducted a Service at the Unitarian Church, Adelaide, Yesterday – Xmas. There was a good attendance and the Church was nicely decorated. All the Simpson family, Miss Sheridan and Miss Amy Baker dined with us, and we had a Xmas tree. which seemed to give much pleasure to all, both young and middle aged and the one old person – myself —

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January 3rd 1896. I have read a pleasant anecdote of Sir Charles Hallé who was once my fellow passenger from England to Australia. The postman in the district where Sir Charles lived and who was known to him as an habitually sober man came to Sir Charles' home one day very drunk. Sir Charles had him sent home in a cab and he himself at great trouble delivered all his letters, this saving him the loss of his situation. How many Ministers of religion would have been as kind as this great Musician?

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Jan 29th. This week I got a newspaper from my friend Sir Philip Manfield of Northampton, England. It contained the report of an illuminated address which was presented to him by the Radical club of that town. At the presentation was the Conservative Mayor, M^r. Ellen. There was also in the Newspaper (The Northampton Mercury) an account of a Wesleyan bazaar which opened by my Unitarian friend Sir Philip, on which occasion a speech was made by the Rev. M^r. Hull, a Church of England Clergyman. So I think Northampton

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must be a very liberal place in every sense of the word. My friend Sir Philip has recently given £ 5000 for the building of a new Unitarian Church in Northampton – the old Chapel of which I was once Minister being ugly and inconvenient. – Feb. 2nd (2) . I conducted the Morning Service Today at the Unitarian Church, Adelaide. There was a good congregation and I felt quite able for the duty. My granddaughter Violet dined with us. Feb. 19th I have returned from a fortnight's stay at Barry's hotel, Norton's Summit. My wife and I thus escaped

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the hottest weather ever experienced on the Adelaide plains in Feb. I met an old servant of mine up there who was glad to see me and for whom I have great respect. She married a drunken black-smith from whom she is separated – Keeping by her work – four children. Our land-lord at the little hotel is a near relative of Sir Charles Barry – who designed the British houses of parliament at Westminster– of [...] – Barry Judge in Victoria and of D^r. Barry at one time Anglican Archbishop of Australia and now, I believe, Dean of Windsor. There are

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many ups & downs in life in Australia of which this is a notable example. Feb. 21st I recently met in my reading a good description of a person who pumps people in order to get a knowledge of gossip “A professor of Social hydraulics” – Or “Social psychostatics practically applied” — “A man who never makes mistakes never makes anything else either.” Feb. 28th. On Saturday last we had the most terrific storm ever experienced in this province since it was colonized. My wife and I were afraid to go to bed and considerable damage was

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done to our home and trees. A church was blown down at Payneham and much injury has resulted to buildings and fruit trees through the province. A tramcar was blown over on the Mitcham line. March 2nd. I conducted the morning Service at the Adelaide Unitarian Church Yesterday morning. There was a fair but not large Congregation. Today, through the kindness of my wife I was able to send a birthday present to my dear sister Maria (M^{rs} Campbell) who will be 76 years of age on the 24 April next. I sent her a

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P. O. O. for £5. My granddaughter Violet dined with us Yesterday. March 20th. I heard a curious story a few days ago about a parrot at Broken Hill N.S.W. a publican kept it in his bar. He often had a rush of customers wanting to be served with beer all at once. So he said “One at a time, Gentlemen.” The parrot escaped and when search was made for it was found surrounded by a number of wild parrots pecking viciously at it as is their wont when they encounter a tame one – and the late publican parrot was expostulating “One at a time Gentlemen.”

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April 9th 1896. This is my 72 birthday. Yesterday was that of my brother Hugh. So that my father & Mother's youngest child is now Three score years and ten. My wife and Mr. Simpson's children have all given me firth-day presents. I am in good health and strong and active for my age and I have reason to be thankful to God and man for great loving Kindness.

I hope to shew my gratitude by being still of some use in the world and for the world to come
I have perfect

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trust in a good God who is able to do what is best for me, wise to know what is best for me and faithful, just and merciful to will what is best for me and all His children. April 13th. Yesterday I conducted the morning service in our church in Adelaide. A lady was present who had not heard me preach for 36 yeas. – a M^{rs}. Cobb. She had been in the remote Bush. I was amused Today in reading of a lady in a recent procession to the Levee at Dublin Castle who wanted to get out of the line of carriages but was prevented by a policeman.

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“Do you know,” said she, “that I am the wife of a Cabinet Minister?” “I could not let you pass,” said the police-man, “if you were the wife of a Presbyterian Minister.” April 26th. Yesterday I was engaged in electioneering for the first time in my life. The contest is between law and order and Socialistic anarchy and I felt impelled to do all I could for the former. I was engaged to Canvass a district and Yesterday I spent four hours in driving people to the voting place – among others a venerable Primitive Methodist Minister – Rev M^r. Hancock 74 years old. This election

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will test whether female suffrage is likely to add to the moral purity of our legislature or whether women will be led to support bad men who flatter them. I look forward with curiosity to the result and not without anxiety. May 1st. I am happy to state that M^r. John Darling J^r. for whom I worked at the election has been returned. M^r. Packam the other Candidate for whom I voted was defeated. The referendum about Bible in state schools Etc. has been overwhelmingly against Scripture reading in Schools supported by the state. Today my wife and I have returned

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from a very pleasant trip we had in company with M^{rs}. William Kay and her daughter Kate. We went to Gumeracha, Mount Pleasant, Blumberg and Woodside, and have come back much refreshed by our ‘outing’. April 6th. On Saturday last M^{rs}. Crompton called and introduced to us a lady from England – a Miss Caddick – a friend of my friend Miss Bache, formerly of Birmingham. Miss Caddick took tea with us on Monday evening and we went to hear Rev. Charles Clark lecture in the Adelaide Town Hall on “The Dome of S^t. Paul’s. We were much

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charmed by his eloquence. May 16th. I was much pleased on reading an account of Lecky’s book on liberty and democracy in the Belfast Witness sent to me by my sister M^{rs}. Campbell of Bangor Co; Down, Ireland. I sent it as a cutting to our local paper the Register – and it was inserted on the next day. I was glad to hear that my sister had safely received a present my wife and I sent her for her 76th birth-day. May 18th I conducted the morning Service in our Adelaide Lecture Hall Yesterday. There was a large congregation.

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June 4th. Last evening we went to Government House – to a meeting of the Home Reading Circle. About a hundred people were present and Sir F.F. Buxton and Lady Victoria made things very pleasant for their visitors. On Monday last I attended a meeting of the Young Patriotic Society whose watchword is “Individualism versus Socialism.” I seconded a proposition that G. Ashe Esq – M. P. should be president for the next year. “I quiz “Quiz” – says I am of the order of [*illegible*] scarred warriors.”

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June 8th. I preached Yesterday in our Church, Adelaide. There was a large congregation and several kind things were said to me after the Morning Service. June 14th I have been impressed with the following words in Romola which I am reading." No man ever struggled to retain powers over a mixed multitude without suffering vitiation: his standard must be their lower needs, and not his own best insight." . . . "It was the fashion of old, when an ox was led out for sacrifice to Jupiter, to chalk the dark spots

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and give the offering a false show of unblemished Whiteness. Let us fling away the chalk and boldly say, – the victim is spotted, but it is not therefore in vain that his mighty heart is laid on the altar of men's highest hopes." – Romola, vol 2 – page 51. June 22nd. I preached Yesterday at our Church in Adelaide, owing to the illness of our minister Rev Alexander Wilson. There was a fair congregation though the weather was the reverse of fair. July 7th. I met with a good Irish bull in reading a book of Justin MacCarthy's

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"What we want of you, Mick, is silence and damned little of that." I think there is much neat wisdom in a sentence I recently read "To a philosopher no sin is worth sinning" August 18th. I have been very ill and under the Doctor's Care for the last six weeks nearly. I am now getting better I hope. My wife's tender care of me has done much for me and I am truly grateful to her. My friends and neighbours of various denominations have shown much kind sympathy I may never be quite well again as my heart is affected but I am resigned to the will of my Heavenly Father.

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August 26th. I was able to go to church last Sunday although I had to sit during the service. I wrote this week to the Rev. A.C. Henderson M.A. B.D. asking him if the report that he is about to leave Melbourne is true. I was amused by reading of a very polite youth who was asked which were the "Minor Prophets," and whose reply was "I do not like to make any invidious distinctions." Sept. 9th. M^r. Henderson arrived in Adelaide on Monday and my wife and I called to see him at M^{rs}. William Kay's where he was staying during his

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boat's visit to Adelaide. A party of Unitarian friends were invited to meet him at M^{rs}. Kay's on Tuesday evening. My wife and I could not go on account of the feeble state of my health. On Tuesday I went to the funeral of the late M^r. W.H. Gray of Frogmore, Reedybeds Whom I had known for forty years. During my first year in Adelaide he dined every Sunday with me and my late wife Sarah, as at that time he sang in the choir. He died very [...] his 89th year. There was

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a very large attendance at his funeral. October 21st. I have been amused ~~whichly~~ with/ the following story in the 'Christian Life' ' In a country village after a Unitarian farmer had settled down there his neighbours were at a loss how to classify him under either of the two forms of faith which alone were known to them. "He could be a Churchman" said they, "for he never swears; and yet he can't be a Methodist for he tells no lies." October 30th. The annual Meeting of the Adelaide Unitarian Church was held on Wednesday

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evening last. I was unable to be present on account of my feeble health. I sent a letter to the Chairman which was read to the Meeting. The Congregation is in a satisfactory condition with the exception of not exactly paying its way. This matter I urged should be attended to. Nov. 6th I have had my likeness taken and have given copies to a few friends in South Australia and in the old country. It is a very good one. The weather is very hot and the state of this

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country is deplorable from drought. Dec. 10th. A Highland Elder, I have read, says the crying sins of their lives are 1 standing at singing in the Church. 2nd Sitting at prayers. 3. Singing 'human hymns.' 4th Watering the Whisky. —Ian Maclaren.
1897 Jan. 4th This is my wife's 55th birthday and the anniversary of our wedding. I have been rather poorly during the late holidays and I take this opportunity to record the unflinching Kindness and tender care towards me

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of my dear wife. Jan 28th I have been in delicate health since Xmas; but I am getting better I hope. My friends at home were all pleased to receive my latest photo. The great likeness to my late father in it is noticed. I have recently read with much interest and approval a book by Mr. Armstrong of Liverpool — "God and the Soul." I fear I read too exclusively what is called light literature; but I am still able to enjoy a good book in philosophy or religion. — even theology, though I have had a surfeit of it in my long professional life.

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Feb. 4th I think the following quotation from a book called "All he knew" by the author of "Helen's Babies" worth noting — Like every other man with any brains I've always been interested in religion intellectually, and had to believe that it was right, as I heard it talked, it had sometimes got away from its Founder in a manner for which there seemed to be no excuse. Every thing was being taught by the Servants — "Nothing by the Master" When I wish to know your wishes, deacons, about any matter in which we are

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mutually interested I dont go to your backdoor and enquire of your servants, I go to you direct. But when people — you among the number — have talked to me about religion — they've always talked Peter and Paul and James and John — never Jesus." John Habberton.
Feb. 12th. This is Sarah Simpson's birthday. Her Aunt & I sent her a present of a napkin ring. This day, 46 years ago my son Arthur Maclure was born. All immediately connected with that event, except

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myself, — are dead. Susan Perryman Harris, his mother, Elizabeth Harris his grandmother, Jane Simpson his nurse for a time., the Doctor and Rev. John Hope who Christened him. He himself died at the age of 43. I feel how sad it is to have outlived my many friends; yet I hope to meet them all again. Feb. 14th. It is too hot for us to go to Church Today I have just read one of Dr Marineaus excellent sermons In my youth and perhaps later on I may have thought

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more highly of myself than I ought — in my old age I find so many things to look back upon with moral regret than I am often inclined to have a poor estimate of myself; so I am glad of anything to cheer me in this respect and I was pleased to read a sentence which I know truly represents myself in a favourable light to myself. "I may, perhaps, claim this; that through life I have never felt a touch of jealousy as I have no mind a better man than myself" Rodney Bone P. S.

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Feb. 15th. Yesterday afternoon there was a cyclone passed over Adelaide and the surrounding country – doing a great deal of damage to property. Two people were drowned at Mitcham. We suffered a little in injury to a fence on account of the overflow of a creek. The heaviness of the rain made one understand the figure of speech of the windows of heaven being opened in Noah's time. March 18th We returned last Monday from Port Victor where we spent

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a fortnight at Humberstone's Grovenor Hotel very pleasantly. The Rev. Alexander Wilson was with us and we met there several friends and enjoyed the sea breezes. We had several nice drives and found the hotel very comfortable. We heard a sable sister – one of the Aborigines encamped at Port Victor make a speech at a Meeting of the Salvation Army. She said "My friends, I have not much language; but I have Jesus in my heart." The Male Aborigines there would join the Salvation

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Army; but that they are heretical in re the S.A. Article in their creed about the prohibition of the use of tobacco. They choose a smoke in this world at the risk of fire in the next. Six of those whom my wife and I voted for as Members of the Convention about Federation, out of ten elected, were successful Candidates April 28th. I celebrated my 73rd birthday on the 9th of this month. I received presents from my wife and all the young Simpsons. also congratulations from various friends and a

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kind letter from Miss Millie Kay. My brothers and sister had their birthdays in the same month. My deceased sister Ellen also was born on the 4th of April and my late father died on the 4th of this month. My mother also died in April. I have been reading lately Leckey's book on Liberty \ 2d / and democracy \ 1st / with much pleasure. The following sentence is ominous in relation to this province. "In the long run, the increasing or diminishing importance of character

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in public life is perhaps the best test of the progress or decline of nations. It is an ominous sign for a nation when its governors and legislators are corrupt, but it is \a/ still worse sign when public opinion has come to acquiesce placidly in their corruption." "Lecky's liberty and democracy. Vol 1 P.p. 370-371 May 10th This day at half past two P.M. a sharp shock of an earthquake shook our house. We have heard that it was felt in Adelaide and doubtless tomorrow's newspaper will give us

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full reports about it. Yesterday there was prayer for rain in most of the Orthodox churches in accordance with a proclamation of the Governor and an order by the Anglican bishop. Rain is greatly needed but has not yet come. May 11th. In this morning's Register there are accounts of the earthquake of Yesterday being general over the colony and also of its being felt both in Victoria and New South Wales. It was a very severe earthquake and did considerable damage to several

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buildings; but no lives so far as I have heard, have been lost. Many people were much frightened, and several fainted. May 20th I am reading very carefully Lecky on Liberty & Democracy. — He says " M^r: William Morris \ Morris/ and M^r Bax, in a joint work on Socialism, contend that marriage should cease to be a permanent and binding contract, and should be

a mere voluntary association dissoluble by either party at pleasure. But it would be unjust to English Socialists to attribute to them in

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general such views. A large proportion of them treat questions of religion and questions of marriage as entirely outside their system; while another section, who call themselves Christian Socialists, very earnestly deprecate all attacks upon religion and upon the Christian conception of the family.” L. & D. Lecky (Vol II P. 330. June 6th I have just finished reading D^r. Boyd’s St. Andrews & Elsewhere. It is a delightful book. I wish to record the fine, broad churchism of this Scotch Parson – in his own words

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“Alexander the Great was a shabby little creature to look at. One day when the great king was surrounded by abject courtiers, a poor woman came in to plead for a precious life. One very abject courtier was of stately mein: so she cast herself on the earth before him and poured out her poor hear. When she ended the King drew near and said – ‘ I know who it was you meant to speak to. You shall have what you ask.’ Even so, much more confidently than I believe two and two make four, I believe that every errant

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prayer ever offered in this world came straight to the only Hearer of prayer. The stricken mortal, with awful earnestness, prayed to the only god he knew or ever had the chance to know. It was no god at all. But the supplication made its way to the right place: and was mercifully considered there.” P.p. 272-3 June 8th. It is not generally known that Francis Rous an Englishman who never was in Scotland wrote the metrical version of the Psalms – used in the Kirk of Scotland and generally called ‘ The Scotch Balms.’

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June 10th The Belfast Witness (a Presbyterian Organ) of April 30th has the following, to me, startling paragraph – “According to the Rev. Charles Plummer, M. A. , of Oxford, a scholar of no mean repute, St. Patrick never really existed, and the whole story is a Myth. M^r. Plummer, after researches in early English and Irish history, is about to publish an edition of Venerable Bede’s History, with an appendix on the Irish Saint, He states that in the phrase of Bede “Qui et Patricius fuit”, meaning who also was a patrician

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has been by a mere blunder supposed to refer to a man called Patricius or Patrick. Around this imaginary personage legends have grown and clustered in the usual way known to scholars. The Swiss have long had to give up William Tell and the apple, it having been demonstrated that the whole story is a [...] myth. And now the Irish are told they must surrender their patron saint and the story of the Shamrock.” I hope this matter [...] be cleared up. J. C. W.

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June 11th. I have heard Today that my old friend Sir Henry Ayers is dead. I have known him for 42 years and greatly respected him. He was very kind to me always for which I am duly grateful. He was a wise, honorable, beneficent gentleman – an excellent man of business and a sagacious politician – a good husband and father and a faithful friend. Sept. 9th . I think the following extract from “A Journalist’s Note Book” by Frank Frankfurt Moore, worth attention.” The only President’s Address (of the British Association which

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I ever heard delivered, was, however, that of Professor Tyndall at Belfast – I was little more than a boy at the time, and that is probably why I was more deeply interested in Biology and

Evolution than I have been in recent years. It is scarcely necessary to say that Professor Tyndall's utterance would take a very humble place in the heterodoxy of the present day, for the exponents of theology have found it necessary to enlarge their borders as the century draws to a close, and I suppose that if poor Tyndall had offered to lecture at St. Paul's

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Cathedral his appearance under the dome would have been welcomed by the authorities, as it certainly would have been by the public. But Belfast had been for long been the centre of strict orthodoxy, and so soon as the address of Professor Tyndall was printed a great cry arose from every pulpit. The excellent Presbyterians of Ulster were astounded at the audacity of the man in coming into the midst of such a community as theirs in order to deliver an address that breathed of something worse than the ancient atheists had ever dreamed of in their most heterodox

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moments. If the man had wanted to blaspheme – and a good prima facie case was made out in favour of the assumption that he had – could he not have taken himself off to some congenial locality for the purpose? Why should he come to Belfast with such an object? Would the town ever get rid of the stigma that would certainly be attached to it as the centre from which the/ blasphemies of biology had radiated on this occasion? These were the questions that afflicted the good people for many days, and the consensus of opinion seemed to be in favour

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of the theory that unless the town should undergo a sort of moral fumigation, it would not be restored to the position it had previously occupied in the eyes of Christendom. The general idea is that to slaughter a pig in a Mohammedan Mosque is an act the consequences of which are so far-reaching as to be practically irreparable; the act of Professor Tyndall at Belfast was of precisely this nature in the estimation of the inhabitants. Fortunately however, a champion of orthodoxy appeared in the form of a Professor at the Presbyterian College (Dr Watts)

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who wrote a book – I believe some copies may still be purchased. – to make it impossible for Tyndall or any other exponent of Evolution to face an audience of intelligent people. This book was the saving of the town. Belfast was rehabilitated and the people breathed again. But the years went by; Darwin's funeral service was held in Westminster Abbey, and Professor Tyndall's voice was now and again heard like an Alpine echo of his Master. In Belfast a University Extension scheme

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was set on foot and promised to be a brilliant success – it collapsed after a time, but that is not the point. What is the point, however, is the fact that the Inaugural lecture of the University Extension series was on the subject of Biology, and the chosen exponent of the science was Professor Tyndall. He came to Belfast as the honoured guest of the city – it had become a city since his memorable visit – and he passed some days at the official residence of the Presbyterian President of the Queen's College,

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who had been a pupil at the divinity school of the clergyman who had written the book that was supposed to have reconsecrated, as it were, the locality defiled by the British Association address of 1874" – P.P 316-17-18. October 28th. "Profoundly religious, and readily appreciative of what was new in the perception of truth, he was above all, of and

great and simple righteousness, full, that is of a loving sense of fair play, a very different thing indeed from that which most of those who

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count themselves religious mean when they talk of the righteousness of God” Salted with fire’ George Mac Donald. December 7th. I have been reading the life of Robert Lowe, Lord Sherbroke I found it both interesting and instructive. Two anecdotes specially amused me. 1st. An American Captain of a Mississippi steamboat which exploded, was blown into the air and fell through the roof of a cobbler who demanded ten dollars for the damage and fright. The Captain put his hand in his pocket and pulled

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out a five dollar bill and offering it to the cobbler said “I never give more on such occasions” 2nd. Lord Beaconsfield chaffed Robert Lowe (who was an Albino) on his white hair. “My hair” said Lowe “will be white as long as I live, and yours black as long as you dye” 1898 We spent the first three months of this year at Port Victor and both myself and my wife were the better in health

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for being there and we escaped the worst Summer’s heat ever experienced by white people in Adelaide. May 20th. I have just heard of the death of the celebrated Statesman William Ewart Gladstone in the 89th year of his age. Although I presumed to differ from him on some subjects of importance I venerated many of his great qualities of mind and heart and cherish the memory of the man that disestablished that cruel injustice the Irish established Church. — My wife and I have \been/ much shocked and

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grieved by hearing this week of the death of our young friend Katherine Ethel Clark, fourth daughter of A. Sidney Clark and first cousin of my grand daughter Violet Woods. June 11th. I am pleased to record that my health this winter is much better than it was last one. I am sorry that war is going on between the United States of America and Spain about Cuba. I hope it will be soon over and that the Americans will be victorious, for though I deplore such contest, I think their

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cause is just. When will professing Christians be guided in their practice by the principles enunciated by the Prince of Peace? My wife and I recorded our votes in favour of the federation of the various Colonies of Australia on June 4th. There is a hitch about its realization caused in New South Wales; but which may be removed before long. I have been sorry to read in the English telegrams in our local newspapers that the Orange rebels against law and order in Belfast have been creating serious

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rioting in Belfast so that the police were mal-treated, the riot act had to be read by the Lord Mayor and the Military to be called out. The exciting cause of this disgraceful affair was the procession of a number of men who wished to do honor to the rebels of 1798. October 3rd I have read the following remark with interest Wendell Phillips said “The Puritan’s idea of hell is a place where everybody has to mind his own business”, and he might have added “and is prevented from being a busy-body in other men’s matters.’

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Dec. 4th. I have been reading Cardinal Newman’s Apologies pro vitâ Sua.— I was pleased to find that he wrote the celebrated and beautiful hymn “Lead Kindly light etc.” before he became a Papist. I have been struck with the following remark – “What was the great

question in the days of Henry V111 and Elizabeth ? The Supremacy . . . Did Henry V111 religiously hold Justification by faith only? did he disbelieve Purgatory? Was Elizabeth zealous for the marriage of the clergy? or had she a

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conscience against the Mass? The Supremacy of the Pope was the essence of the "Popery, to which, at the time of the composition of the Articles, the Supreme Head or Governor of the English Church was so violently hostile" Apologia P. 8/9 The perusal of this book has impressed me with the mischievous tendency of the ecclesiastical spirit and sacerdotal mind. December 9th. I recently heard of the sad illness of my niece Maud Woods fourth daughter of my brother Robert of Whittington Shropshire. A consultation on

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of two doctors. D^r Beresford and Dr. Hugh Woods (her brother) has resulted in her being pronounced a victim of pulmonary consumption. She was, when I saw her last, a handsome and apparently healthy girl. I am very sorry for her father and all her relatives in the old country. We spent our Xmas and New Year holidays at Aldgate Hotel and enjoyed the fresh mountain air. The year closed with a week of dreadful heat in Adelaide and the plains which we were glad to escape

Page 93 1899

The new Year has begun with cool, almost cold weather. New Year festivities were carried out on the second of January as the first was a Sunday. Many picknickers were in the neighbourhood of Aldgate. About 100 dined at the table d'hôte in our hotel and it is creditable to South Australians that of the thousands of people we saw coming and going on that day none were intoxicated. We came to Port Victor on the 6th of January. and had a pleasant Journey.

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When at Aldgate we celebrated my wife's 57th birthday and the 17th of our marriage (seventeenth.) I have been fortunate in having excellent wives. My present wife is indeed a treasure to me in every respect and it is owing to her kind nursing that I am now alive. I have been reading Max O'Dell's book about the Americans and sympathise with him in the feeling of incongruity when an amusing lecture is introduced by a prayer. I have experienced this in Australia as M. O'Dell did in America. I

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was amused by his saying that certain Americans opened their ~~eyer~~ oysters with prayer. There are very few visitors at Port Victor owing to a scare about diphtheria. There were four or a few more cases of it here and these were exaggerated into forty and then to seventy. The 'Three Black Crows' could not hold a candle to this. It is at first amusing but it has been ruination in a small way to the hotel/keepers, boarding housekeepers etc. January 13th. I have heard of the death of my niece

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Madeline Woods, fourth daughter of my brother Robert. I am very sorry for her loss and for the distress of her parents. She was a beautiful, affectionate and good young woman. My brother has now lost 3 out of 5 daughters. Feb. 24th. It is 48 years since my first wife Susan Perriman Harris died. Feb. 26th We are preparing to leave Victor Harbour where we have been for two months and purpose breaking our Journey at Aldgate by staying there a fortnight. Some strange revelations about the manoeuvres of

Page 97

Rev. Alexander Wilson have come to our knowledge of which more anon. April 1st This is my brother Robert's 77th birthday. He has been in bad health for some years and I fear he is now very ill – if alive. April 2nd I wish to record my pleasure that Belfast in Ireland – the big town near which I was born (Parish of Bangor) has elected as Lord Mayor M^r Otto Jafe, a Jew. This is a sign of superiority to Russia France, Austria etc, of which place the Anti-Semite feeling is a disgrace. April 13th. The Rev. A. Wilson, Minister of the

two blank pages follow

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Adelaide Unitarian Church started in the India for the old Country today. In the interests of truth, righteousness and religion I hope he may never come back. I have had no quarrel with the man but I record my opinion derived from an acquaintance with him of more than five years that he is the greatest liar I have ever known. This is a memorable month in our family. All my father's and mother's children who grew up were born in

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it. I celebrated my 75th on the 9th. On April 29th my mother, born Magdalene Campbell Maclure died 1868 at the age of 84 – On April 4th. 1869 my father, Rev. Hugh Streen Woods, A. M. died at the age of 89.— April 15th. "I don't hate frogs,' said D^r Murphy,' but I prefer not to have them hopping about me". April 16th "At the reading of a certain Collect, she (Jenny Geddes) arose in wrath, and hurled her creepie, declaring that she was not going to

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have 'the mass said at her lug' Here is the prayer which Jenny esteemed as implying the mass. I wonder if ever a Pan-Presbyterian could say anything against it. "God of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of Thy name increase in a us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy Keep us in the same: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" Recreations of a Country Parson 3rd Series – P. 144

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D^r. Chalmers in Glasgow — "I suppose there is only one country in Europe where an aged pauper in the poorest recesses of a great city would have said, in all good faith to a visitor 'There was a body Chalmers here one day, wanting me to gang to the Kirk: I think I maun gang some day, Just to encourage the Cratur.'" Country Parson \Recreations of a/ 3rd Series P. 321 April 27th We were visited this day by the Most Revered John O'Reily, Archbishop of Adelaide, a very handsome and courteous gentleman. I was pleased by his visit.

[*New page unnumbered*]

April 28th. I was visited Today by Rev. John Reid, M.A. of Melbourne who has charge of the Adelaide Unitarian Church for six months. I was much pleased with him and as he is like myself an old Edinburgh student we had much in common to speak about. May 26th M^r Sergeant Ballantyne relates the following anecdote of M^r Justice Byles. Who was a candidate at one time for the representation of [...] being in the British parliament – "Upon this occasion

[*New page unnumbered*]

an amusing incident occurred which put a premature end to his Parliamentary ambition. He was addressing a meeting with his accustomed plausibility, when he was interrupted by a stalwart farmer in somewhat the following terms – 'Master Byles, do you go to [...] ere Chapel in Essex Thee? (Unitarian). 'My dear friend', answers the Candidate, 'religious

beliefs' he was not allowed to proceed further. The question was repeated. Again he attempted to evade an answer

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but his questioner insisted, and a neighbouring parson, one of his supporters, suggested the necessity of answering "Well", he said, 'Certainly I do, but— The remainder of his reply was drowned in howls and hisses He was staying at an hotel, opposite which was a dead wall, and which the first thing he saw next morning was covered with [...] some what to the following effect, but in varied and by no means complimentary phraseology. 'Brother Christians

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will you vote for the scoffer of your Saviour? [... ..] consigned the unfortunate candidate to his Chambers and Clients indifferent to his place of worship and keenly appreciative of his book upon 'Bills'. – He made a good, useful Judge." The old World and the New by Mr. Segeant Ballantyne, p.p. 192-3. August 29th This is the 21st birthday of my grand-daughter Violet Montagu Hawkins Woods. She and her Mother dined with me and my wife and I

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gave Violet her late father's watch and a gift of money. My wife kindly made her a handsome present. Sept. 5th . I heard Yesterday of the death of my elder brother Robert Maclure Woods, B.A.T.C.D. aged 77 years. He died of cancer. He was a clergyman of the Church of England—a good and an able man. Sept. 7th. Compton, the Actor, was passing through a town when there was a clerical Meeting there. He wanted dinner at an ordinary; but in the only

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possible place the divines were dining. They consented to have the company of the stranger and when he sat down one of the clergy-men said to Compton "Will our stranger guest say grace?" Compton was staggered for a moment, all the grace he knew slipping at once straight out of his memory." He was, however, a regular Churchgoer, "and in the emergency a familiar passage from the Prayer-Book occurred to him as not unsuitable to the occasion, and the clergy accepted the new

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form of grace as a bit of clerical eccentricity — "O Lord open Thou our lips," said Compton "and our mouth shall show forth Thy praise" — See J.S. Toole's Life. — A Scotch Minister asked an old man how he was who replied pretty well except for rheumatism in his right leg. 'That,' said his reverence, "is the infirmity caused by old age. "No it is not" said the old man for there is no rheumatism in my left

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leg and it is just as old as the right and is as supple and strong as ever it was Sept. 19th . This is the 44th anniversary of my arrival in the Province. I wrote to Miss Clark of Hazelwood telling her of my gratitude to her late Mother and her family for all their Kindness to me. My late wife and I were Hospitably received into M^{rs}. Clark's home on our arrival here. Sept. 4th I have heard \more fully/ of the death of my elder brother Robert Maclure Woods B.A.T.C.D. He was once a clergy-

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-man of the Church of England, but he came in his later years a farmer of his own land and a country gentleman He was a good man and possessed great abilities which never had a fitting scope for their development and operation. He was aged 77 years. October 27th The

Rev. A. Wilson called upon me Today, after having been 3 weeks in the province on his return from England. October 28th I have just heard

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of the death of M^{rs}. ~~Henry~~ Henry Martin of Osmond Terrace, Norwood. She was a daughter of the late M^{rs}. Francis Clark of Hazelwood and a niece of the celebrated Sir Rowland Hill of Penny Postage fame. I live in the same house with her at Hazelwood when I was a young man, for a year, and had an opportunity of knowing her well. She was a cheerful, kind hearted and good woman.

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December 22nd. 1899.) The Re. Hugh Streaun Woods M.A and Magdalene Campbell Maclure, father and Mother of John Crawford Woods, B.B. were married on November 15th. 1814 by the Rev. James Davies of Baubridge. Co: Down Ireland.

1900 I have heard of the death of D^r. James Martineau and John Ruskin both men of genius and noble characters. I lament the existence of the terrible war that is now going on in South Africa.

Page 111 J. 1900

Jan. 26. A Contingent of South Australian soldiers will leave Adelaide Today for South Africa. Much enthusiasm is exhibited and many mothers' hearts are saddened. There has been a scare about the bubonic plague being in Adelaide. It seems to be groundless Jan 27th One of the hottest and dustiest days I ever experienced. My wife, who recollects "black Thursday" says it resembles that

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terrible day which was I believe in 1852 before I came to the province. The thermometer was on this occasion 111° in the shade in Adelaide Feb. 28. I have been reading the life of Professor Blackie aloud to my wife. I was pleased to find the professor's reference to the preaching of the late D^r. Martineau in the following words "James Martineau has been living up at Brae-mar for two months, and preached last Sunday forenoon in this place. Aberdeen

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Of I did not miss the opportunity what small account the Holy Spirit takes of our petty orthodoxies and heterodoxies, and verily I was rewarded. Such a sermon, so commanding, so comprehensive, so profound, so original, and as a whole so effective, I have seldom heard. It was directed to the men of Science especially, showing how the [...] of a mere God of Natural laws is insufficient to satisfy the cry of the human heart." Blackies Life P. 217

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March 10th. A few days ago I read an account of a speech made by Professor John Stewart Blackie at a dinner or banquet given to M^r. Wyndham, Manager of the theatre Royal Edinburgh, by a number of the most distinguished men in Scotland. In this speech Professor Blackie eulogised the influence of the better class of plays and declared that some of them had as great if not greater tendency to promote right living as the pulpit utterances at

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their best. I thought this statement, would interest my friend M^r. Wybert Reeve of the Theatre Royal Adelaide and wrote about it to him. Today I had a letter from him telling me that he was present at the banquet and heard the speech delivered by M^r. Blackie with whom he had a slight acquaintance. March 28th. I have been impressed by the following statement made by David Hume the great Scottish metaphysician

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and historian. "To oppose the torrent of scholastic religion by such feeble maxims as these — that, it is impossible for the same thing to be and not to be, that the whole is greater than a part, that two and three make five, is pretending to stop the ocean with a bulrush. Will you set up profane reason against Sacred Mystery? No punishment is great enough for your impiety; and the same fires which were Kindled for heretics

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will serve also for the destruction of philosophers." Morleys English-men of Letters — Hume by Huxley — P. 143 April 1st. This is the anniversary of the birth of my late brother Robert. I have thought of him much this day. I was pleased to meet at the Aldgate Hotel lately my old friends M^r. J. B. Spence and his wife whom I have not seen much of since my delicate health set in some years ago. M^r. Spence who is a month younger than I am is not well but is better than he was a short time ago.

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April 2nd. — I have been pleased to read in the Belfast Witness newspaper — (the organ of the Ulster Presbyterians of Feb. 23rd. (1900) a Sermon by the Rev. James A. Camp-Bell M.A., Presbyterian minister of [...],(Belfast) on Moody, Martineau and Ruskin, in which he acknowledges the greatness of D^r. Martineau and the value of his services to the cause of religion. He says of Martineau that he certainly was a devout, humble and beautiful spirit who

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has been a blessing from God to the whole church. No orthodox Presbyterian would have spoken in similar terms of D^r [...] — in Belfast where he died nearly 60 years ago April 4th. This is the anniversary of the birth of my late elder sister Ellen Benson Woods (M^{rs}. Julius M'Cullough) who would be 82 years of age were she now alive. She died at the age of 62. This is also the anniversary of the death of my late father Rev. Hugh Streat Woods. A.M. who died at the age of 89. I

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cherish the memory of my late sister for her great affectionateness and kindness to me when I was a boy. My father was an eminently sagacious man and a good parent after the old Calvinistic model which was a bad one; but universally considered good by the people among whom I was brought up. April 8th. This is the birthday of my younger brother Hugh Jackson Woods. His 74th. He is in good

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health and living comfortably on a pension from a firm in which he was employed for 56 years. He married Kate, daughter of William Hamilton Morse M.D. of Ballyvernen, Bangor, Co. Down, Ireland. He has had 11 children nine of whom are alive and all doing well. one of his sons is named after me. 1900 This is my 76th birthday. "Goodness and Mercy have followed me all the days of my life." I have received a present

Page 122 1900.

of a nice book from my nephew A. Allen Simpson J.P. I also got a note from my granddaughter Violet, and the Kindest of congratulations from my dear wife. I am in pretty fair health but I do not expect to live to as great an age as either my father or Mother. I am thankful to God and to all good and steady friends. Kind messages were sent to me by Harriet Simpson, the Misses Kay of College Town and M^{rs}. Crompton of Stonyfell

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April 24th I remembered the 80th birthday of my sister Maria Jane Crawford Woods (M^{rs}. Andrew Campbell) one of the excellent of the earth! April 28th. This is the 32nd Anniversary of

the death of my dear Mother née Magdalene Campbell Maclure. She was a very good Mother according to the customs of her time. May 2nd This day is the fiftieth anniversary of my marriage with Susan Perriman Harris of

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Plymouth, Devonshire, England, who died at the age of 24 years. I was a bridegroom, a father and a widower all in the space of ten months. She died of puerperal fever. She was a very pretty and very amiable little woman. May 3rd This is the 45th Anniversary of my marriage with Sarah Thompson, widow of Augustus Cooper M. P.C.S. She was a grandly beautiful woman. Naturally very clever; but badly educated.

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She was an excellent wife. I have been fortunate in being three times married to women So wise and good and loveable as I have been. My present wife Catharine has been a boon to me for which I am daily thankful May 15th Had a visit from Rev. Loyd Jones of Liverpool who preached with such acceptance in our Unitarian Church on the previous Sunday. He is a very pleasant gentleman.

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May 22nd. I have heard Today that my grand nephew Robert Edwin Broughall Woods, eldest son of Walter Thomas Brough-all Woods, and grandson of my late elder brother Rev. Robert Maclure Woods, B.B. of Whittington, [...] has gained a Scholar-ship at a school in Littlehampton in the South of England. May 31st. We had my study photographed Today and intend sending copies to several of our friends

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June 4th. I read in the Belfast Witness that Professor McCaffy had found in a M.S. on papyrus in Egypt the name of Smith, Brewer date 250-B.C. I sent the paragraph to Sir E.T. Smith, my neighbour, who was for years a brewer in the neighbourhood of Adelaide. Today I have received a courteous acknowledgment of my note. I have had a long and severe illness and have been

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an invalid for a lengthened time I do not think I should be now alive on this day in November but for the skill of D^r. Borthwick and the most careful and tender nursing of my wife and that of a trained Nurse Miss Lousie Homann During my illness a chancel has been added to the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church

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at a cost of nearly £500, the gift of my brother-in law Mr. Alfred Muller Simpson and a new, excellent and beautiful organ has been obtained and paid for which cost about £600. My old friend M^r. Joseph Crompton of Stonyfell who had been in delicate health for a long time died this year. The Misses Manton

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of North Adelaide nieces of the late Sir Jerome Murch of Bath, England and who had been members of our Unitarian Congregation since its beginning – became impecunious and our congregation or rather several members of it united in helping them. One had died and, another had to

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be sent to a Lunatic Asylum. The third is now placed above want. Last March Mr Alfred Simpson, his wife, three daughters and his sister-in-law went for a change to Europe. The most important political event connected with this Country recently has been the Federation of the various states of Australia. The visit of the Duke of Cornwall

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and York and his Duchess – now the Prince and Princess of Wales gave great pleasure to all the people of this State I was not strong enough to see them but my wife did and was gratified. The sad South African war has grieved me more than I can easily express. I hope never for some time to be able to record things as they occur–

Page 133 1901

November 20th I have recently read a book which has had a wonderful circulation. – “The Eternal City’ by Hall Caine. It contains some fine passages, but on the whole I was disappointed in it. It is not history and yet it is written as if it were. Another book I have read a short time ago is Lord Roebury on Napoleon at St Helena.– As I once visited that island and saw the house in which Napoleon

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lived, the room in which he died and the place where he was buried, the book was very interesting to me. It is made clear that Napoleon was badly treated by Sir Hudson Lowe, who, however, was perhaps more stupid than malicious. He had a hard task to fulfil and was not equal to the occasion. Nov. 23. I have just finished reading a most interesting book entitled

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“That reminds me’ by Sir Edward Russell, Editor of The Liverpool Post newspaper. In his recollections and anecdotes I was pleased to find that he refers in appreciatory terms to D^r Martineau, Rev. John Thom, D^r Charles Beard and William Johnson Fox – Unitarian Minister – the 1st of whom became M.P. for Oldham and who is described by Sir Edward Russell as the most classical speaker of his time in the House of Commons.

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On November 2nd. Alfred Allen Simpson was elected, by a majority of 339 over his opponent, a member of the city Council of Adelaide for Hindmarsh Ward. December 25th Xmas day |My wife was seized by an attack of influenza last week and today is ill in bed, but is, I hoe, getting better. I am fairly well. We had invited Allen and Fred Simpson

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to dine with us today but had to put them off. We received great number of little presents and Kind wishes from friends who are in the old country\and from A, friends/ among them a pretty painting of an Australian magpie from the Misses Kay College town, and a beautiful vase from each of our neighbours. A.A. and F.N. Simpson . I have been 77 Xmas days in the world. Jesus Christ has done much for the civilization of the world – but can we say that there is yet ‘peace on

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earth and good will among men if there is provocation to be other-wise? In individual cases this I believe is so, but with the South African war still going on we cannot say that in nations even the most enlightened the masses of people have the Savagery of their nature dominated by a religion of love, peace and even justice as commonly understood; for perfect Justice includes a great many things that go by a different name.

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I dined alone this day on roast goose which had been intended for a larger party. I dined considerably over half a century ago alone in the Old [...] Hotel, Covent Garden, London, M^{rs} Crompton has sent me a very kind note and a book in memory of her late Husband. I am much gratified thereby. The proclamation of the Province's (65) anniversary was observed on the 30th instead of 28th of December. The morning was fine but the evening was wet and tempestuous

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January 1st. I am pleased to record that Newyears day is fine cool and pleasant. We have had a letter from Nurse Homann from Collingrove. M^r Sandover has called and we expect to have a quiet day. The spirit in which we should take life is expressed quaintly in the following lines.

"When I am in the dentist's chair I do not raise a fuss
I thank my lucky stars I'm not, A hippopotamus

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"When baggage men destroy my trunk, I do not rave and rant
But mentally say I am glad I'm not an elephant.
When my new shoes are hard and tight And painfully impede
My walk, I smile and think "Tis well I'm not a centipede."
I feel grateful for all the blessings with which I am surrounded and while regretting the past follies and faults of my life I am glad that in the main I have been loyal to the Right as I believe it to be.

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1902 January 7th Today I read in the Register Newspaper (Adelaide) an account of the death of my Kind friend Dr Alexander Stewart Paterson (aged 66) for many years connected with the Lunatic Asylum and Colonial surgeon of South Australia. He was a clever, courteous and generous hearted man – very efficient in his profession. My weak state of health prevented me from showing a last token of respect for his memory by attending his funeral

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January 13. I read Today a report of D^r Paton's funeral sermon on Dr. A.S. Paterson. I was surprised to find that D^r Paton declared that D^r Paterson believed all the so called Orthodox doctrines of his Church (Chalmer's) such as the incarnation & etc. I was surprised on Saturday evening by the information that the Rev Alexander Wilson who has been for about eight years minister of the Adelaide

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Unitarian Christian Church has sent in his resignation of the Pulpit and purposes to leave for south Africa this week. As six Month's notice was specified as to a breaking up of his connection with the Church (on either side) much curiosity has been excited as to the cause of his sudden resolve. January 29th. The Rev. John Reid M.A. has come to be our officiating minister for six months.

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Feb. 10th I had a pleasant visit from the Rev. R. Maxwell King of Newtownards, Co. Down Ireland – Minister of the old NonSubscribing Presbyterian Meeting House (Presbytery of Antrim) in which I preached my first Sermon about 56 years ago. He came out to Australia in the ship Torrens. I was a passenger in that ship on her first voyage about 26 years ago. Feb. 14. I have heard of the death of the Marquis of Dufferin and Avon. He was a most distinguished Diplomat.

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– a very witty and very eloquent man. He was very Kind to my late father. The Dufferin family–Blackwood is interesting to me as the sister of my grandMother– daughter of the Venerable Hill. Benson of Hillsborough was the wife of John Blackwood – heir to the first Lord (James) Dufferin. Both he\J.P./ and his wife died before Lord James Dufferin who had no children and was succeeded in the title and estates by his brother Hans

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Blackwood, grandfather of the late Marquis. When Lord Hans died he was succeeded by his son Captain Price Blackwood father of the late Marquis who married a granddaughter of the celebrated Richard Brinsley Sheridan a very beautiful and clever woman. There is an oil painting of my grand Aunt in [Clandeberge?] house which my wife and I saw when we were in Ireland about ten years ago.

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Feb. 17. My wife and I dined at M^r. Alfred Muller Simpson's, Parkside Yesterday and welcomed him, Mrs. Simpson and their three girls home from their trip to England & etc and the Continent. We spent a very pleasant day. I had not "dined out" for several years and was pleased to find that I returned home not overtired. Feb. 21st. A meeting was held in the School

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attached to the Adelaide Unitarian Christina Church on the evening of this day to consider what steps should be taken in reference to Mr. Wilson's resignation and the procuring a successor to him. A debate on the subject took place and on a vote being taken the proposition that Mr. Wilson's resignation should be at once accepted was carried and the committee of the Church (with power to add to their number were directed to endeavour to obtain a new Minister

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March 15th. I was pleased to hear Today that the Committee of the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church have engaged the Rev. John Reid. M.A. to be the pastor of the Congregation for the next three (3) years. March 20th. Yesterday my Kind wife to Nurse Homann and myself to Henley Beach by tram. The day was very fine and cool. and we enjoyed it

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very much. After a walk on the jetty we had lunch and afternoon tea at Opie's Ramsgate Hotel and arrive home at about 6 o'clock P.M. not too tired. I had not been close to the sea for four years. April 9th This day I celebrated my 78th birthday. I received presents from my dear wife, one from my grand daughter, One from M^{rs}. Alfred Simpson –One from Sarah and Harriet Simpson and one from Katie Simpson.

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Besides several friends expressed Kind wishes. We have had two visits from the Rev. R. Maxwell King of Newtownards, Co. Down, Ireland, Minister of the Meeting-House where I preached my first Sermon. He is a pleasant gentle-man and his Services one Sunday in Adelaide Unitarian Church were greatly enjoyed and gave much satisfaction to the Congregation.

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M^r. King is to start for his home by the Torrens, in the first voyage of which ship I was a passenger. The Rev. Alexander Wilson is now in Adelaide but has not put in an appearance at the Church, nor has he visited here April 14.th – Yesterday I had a visit from Miss Vaughan who has been for many years so useful in our Church choir.

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She was accompanied by her brother M^r. Alfred Vaughan. I was very glad to see her. She and the rest of her family have been staunch friends of mine for a long time. As one grows old one acquires a great appreciation of steady friendship and finds out sadly that nominal friends are more numerous than one had supposed to exist and that some people are

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apparently friendly at certain periods and inclined to ignore one's existence at others. I have been reading a book entitle "Modern Criticism and the preaching of the old Testament by Dr. George Adam Smith, Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature United Free Church College Glasgow College." It is a remarkable book. The author — speaking generally

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adopted the view of men who are called 'The higher Critics' And his doing so when it is considered what he is – is a hopeful sign of the times. I was pleased to find that his opinion about the Hebrew Prophets being preached to the people of their generation rather than mere foretellers of things to happen hundreds of years in the future – is one which from my own reading of

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the Bible without any great Biblical Scholarship – I adopted much more than half a century ago. I am sorry to learn, from reading the Belfast Witness that the leaders of thought on theological subjects among the Presbyterians of Ulster are either shamefully ignorant or grossly dishonest in their teaching in reference to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.

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April 14th. This morning I have read a very interesting paper in the Adelaide Register Newspaper by my nephew Councillor Alfred Allen Simpson giving an account of Thursday Island which he has visited on his holy day trips. It is very well written and contains much information about people and things not generally ~~seen or~~ known to the world. *illegible crossing out*

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I learn from this morning's telegram that the famous Mountebank preacher Dr. Talmage is dead. In some respects he was a Yankey Counterpart of Dr. Joseph Parker of London. Both were clever actors and apparently fonder of popularity than of truth and appealed – not to the intellect and higher nature of their hearers but to their ignorant prejudices. They did so very cleverly.