

Oct 23 1882 - 6 - Fall 31 1882 - 3

Monday Oct 23 A cloudy
though very fine day rather
frosty last night started
for Hamilton in the 919 train
this AM to attend the Chan-
cery Court now being held
there as a witness in a suit
of Mr Christopher it has been
a weary heavy day hanging
about the Court Room the
matter is a dull dreary place
to have to stop in and as I
was not wanted to delay the
time has seemed very long
there are a good many wit-
nesses down from Ingersoll
and the case as it now seems
promises to be a long one got
very tired and was kept
up till after twelve o'clock
having to have a conference
with Mr Christopher Solicitor
which has taken a long time

Tuesday Oct 24 Slept last
night at the Royal Hotel and
though it has a high sounding
name it is a very poor first
class House did not sleep
well got up about 1/2 past
seven a beautiful morning
took a stroll around the Mar-
ket which is well supplied with
all kinds of market produce
usually found in such places
at 1/2 past nine went up to
the Court House expecting soon
to be called as a witness but
the case has again taken a
sudden turn having been
adjourned to be taken up in
Toronto in the first of Novem-
ber I came home arriving
in the 1.18 train P.M. a very beau-
tiful day some frost last
night found all well at home
but Oh how changed it seems

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Wednesday Oct 25 Still as fine
as ever a little frost but a
delightful day have been in
my office all day doing a
little business but things
are very quiet there is some
produce coming in but the price
being low it is slow in moving
have not felt very well all
day having taken a cold by
some means and have a rusty
cough I have not now my
ever faithful wife to watch
over me as she has done for
very near forty years ante
cipating almost every want
of a domestic kind with a
cheerfulness, ^{and} self devotion
that makes the loss most
keenly felt the house does
not seem like home now
she is gone and we know she
will not return to us

Thursday Oct 26 A most charming day but getting colder in the afternoon have been in my office all day not busy but just straitening things a little around the office I find that papers do accumulate so that it is necessary to consign a lot to the waste Basket occasionally have felt better to day ever yesterday my cough has not been as bad had a very kind letter yesterday from my old friend Mr Willard expressing a kind sympathy for us in our affliction these messengers of affection from outsiders are doubly when we know they are not formal expressions but the outpourings of a heart beating in unison with ours

Friday Oct 27 Still fine and
 general temperature have been
 in Woodstock all day attending
 a meeting of the Dairy Assoc
 ception Board which met
 at one o'clock at the School
 House there was a good deal
 of business transacted and
 the next place of meeting fixed
 at Sugar Hill in February and
 I was much struck to day
 by seeing an account of the
 death of H. A. Willard in this
 morning paper it shocked
 me very much as I had re-
 ceived such a kind & impu-
 ltering letter from only stu-
 dent in Monday of the present
 week how little we know
 were the angel of death is going
 to tread each day Mr W was
 was a very warm friend and
 a thorough Christian man

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Saturday Oct 28 Still very
fine indeed though a little
colder than yesterday looking
as if there was rain not far
of have been in my office all
day having some work to do
which took me a good part of
the day the town has looked
lively from the number of peo-
ple in it though I do not know
that there has been any extra
amount of business since
my own home seems so changed
we can hardly realize that
the cheerful living face that
we have been accustomed to
look upon so long has gone
from among us forever there
is a terrible blank in the
circle that makes a heavy
heart an aching void that
time only can remove we
do miss her so much

Sunday Oct 29 The house has
 a very heavy snow clearing
 the night and the morning
 opens up dull and close
 sky though very mild up
 rather early for Sunday
 morning and milked my
 cow before making a fire
 have been greatly at home
 all day and quiet enough
 it has been the home seems
 so cheerful wrote a letter
 to day to the wife of Mr H A
 Willson condoling with her
 on her loss Mr Willson was
 a very warm friend of mine
 he died very suddenly on
 Thursday morning last and
 I had such a nice letter
 from him dated on Sun-
 day last he does not in it
 speak of any ailment there
 Be ye also ready

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Monday Oct 30 Another
Month is drawing to a close
how rapidly they pass and
what momentous events trans-
pire as they pass have been
in my office all day but
not at all busy it has been
exceedingly fine all day
am trying to busy myself
in order to divert ones mind
from the great loss I have
sustained the house does
not seem as it used to be
the fireling star having set
here to rise in renewed
splendor in that Kingdom
of light were this seen never
sets Oh the loneliness one feels
at the separation even though
we know it her grief her
sufferings were of the most
painful character with no
hope of permanent relief

Tuesday October 31 The last day of Oct 1882 and more like the middle of September in temperature There was quite a heavy thunder storm last night - a very warm rain and pretty heavy This has been a very quiet day with me here been in my office all day but nothing to do the time under such circumstances seems to hang heavy on ones hands and home seems so different from what it used to do I have not that good cheerful smiling welcome that has always greeted me coming so long every thing seems cheerful and ones heart feels sad and less late family all pretty well daughter Aggie working hard to fill her mothers place

Wednesday Nov 1 I think the
 most charming first of Novem-
 ber I ever saw a general warm
 sunshiny day more like an
 early September though the
 falling leaves denote that the
 summer is past and we
 shall soon have cold winter
 upon us have been in my of
 fire all day not busy yet a
 little doing more law to day
 than I have had for some
 time past have several trials
 to come of tomorrow Aggie is
 in the midst of house cleaning
 to day and things are some
 what vexed and serious till they
 get settled down again these
 periodical ebullitions must
 have vent or I do not know
 what the consequence would
 be they are harmless in these
 case but somewhat uncomfor-
 table

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Thursday Nov 2 Another ex
ceedingly fine day have been
busily engaged a large por
tion of the day with Police bu
siness had a long case on
which is not finished and
proceed till Monday when I
came home towards evening
I found two old friends from
Tilsenburg Mrs Van Norman
and Mrs Tilsen had come over
to spend the night with us
we were very glad to see
them though Aggie had things
generally upside down being
busy cleaning house how
ever we made the best of
circumstances and had
things as comfortable as we
could for them they are
old friends of my late dear
wife and they could sym
patize with us in our afflic
tion

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Friday Nov 3 A sensible change
in the temperature last night
has froze the hardest of the
season and the day has been
raw and cold feeling a
little as if there was snow
not far off our friends left
us this morning and I have
spent the day in my office
not busy but closing up my
returns for last month's affie
is getting things settled in the
house and we are more com-
fortable but oh what a
change and how I miss my
dear old wife I feel quite
lost when left alone in the
house and want to go out
somenwhere and feel no other
place has any attraction
the town has seemed to be
very quiet the past few days
not many people in

Saturday Nov 4 A pretty cold
 night froze rather hard and
 it has a cold though fine day
 the wind has been in the East
 and it has felt as if there was
 snow somewhere not far of
 have been in my office all
 day with literally nothing
 to do the town has been quite
 full of people it has had
 a busy appearance though
 there is not a great deal of
 produce coming in and the
 business men generally are
 complaining of the want of cus-
 tom the autumn has been so
 fine that people have not
 as yet required their win-
 ter supplies and consequent-
 ly the foreign merchants expect
 to find little consumption
 by this time are yet largely
 upon their shelves

Sunday Apr 5 I spent a very restless night awake from before three o'clock and got up at five not feeling at all well the morning and in fact the whole day has been beautifully fine though a cold East wind has prevailed all day which towards night veered around to the South and it became much warmer so we all went up to church to Mass to dinner after dinner Mrs O'Neil kindly sent over her horse and buggy when Mr Christopher and self drove over to the cemetery and visited the last resting place of my dear departed wife after coming back Christopher and self walked up to Mr George Christopher and stayed to tea when we came back I came home wrote up these notes and closed up for the day

Monday Nov 6 Has been rather
 cold though a very fine day
 a raw East wind have been
 in my office all day rather
 busy with Police business
 had a long case on hand that
 took a good deal of the day
 and this the second day in it
 this evening look very like a
 fall of rain it has got much
 milder the wind going round
 to the South came home for tea
 found tea of the Miss O'gradys here
 and shortly after coming in
 a Mrs Russell a writer lady of
 our acquaintance called and
 spend a short time walked
 down to the station with her as
 she was going away on the 1/2
 past six train had a pleasant
 chat with her and when I
 got back found the tea was
 all over so I had to tea alone

Tuesday Mr 7 A cloudy and
 dull though milder morning did
 not sleep well last night
 awoke at three a m and
 scarce slept after that had
 to go to Wombats as a witness
 at the 9.19 train and have
 spent the day there hanging
 about the Court which did
 not open till about two o'clock
 Oh the humbug of these Law
 Courts it is true the Law Courts
 stable was cleaned and
 some new process adopted
 more in accordance with the
 common sense of the age
 I did not feel released so
 will have to go again tomorrow
 it has looked like rain all
 day but nothing of any ac-
 count has fallen got home
 about 4/2 past five took tea and
 then held a court

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Thursday Nov 8 Another
very fine day have been
in Woodstock again all day
at Court and a most te-
chous day it has been many
my around expecting to
be called upon at any
time and the whole day
passed without being re-
leased and have to go again
tomorrow these Courts are
certainly great humbugs
it is time there was a change
and these civil differences
settled by some other pro-
ces but this we need not
look for so long as the Law
men control the Legislature
and this will be the case
for some time to come it
is astonishing how much
keeps there is no appearance
of frost to night.

Thursday Nov 9 This is a
 general thanksgiving day
 set apart by the Dominion
 Govt to be observed by the Do-
 minions at large it has been
 a dull cloudy heavy day got
 with a slight sore throat of
 the breakfast went to Wood
 stock expecting surely to be
 called as a witness in the suit
 I have been waiting for the pro-
 ceedings but one of the parties
 to the suit was stricken with
 paralysis in the witness box
 last evening and I doubt if
 he ever gets up again this of
 course closes the case for the
 present got home near noon
 with a very sore throat went
 up to Mr Christopher to a
 thanksgiving dinner but I
 was obliged to go to bed very
 sick with quinsy the Doc-
 tor coming to see me

Friday Nov 10 Saturday Nov
 11 & Sunday Nov 12 have been
 very ill in bed all these
 days requiring watches at
 night and suffering extreme
 prostration in fact rather
 clamorous but began to be
 better on Sunday and sat
 up a little during the after-
 noon the weather has kept
 very mild with a consider-
 able rain falling and on
 Saturday night a slight fall
 of snow the first of the season
 it has not been cold though
 the ground has been white I
 am in hopes I shall be able
 to get home soon as I am
 much better this evening
 I have been kindly looked
 after and nursed by my
 two dear daughters but I
 miss my old faithful wife

Monday Nov 13 Passed a very
 sleepless night not being
 able to go to sleep till
 after four o'clock A.M. and
 then only for a short time
 have been through much bet-
 ter to day and have been
 up all day though not been
 very the house it now looks
 like as if winter had set in
 the ground being still white
 with snow though it is not to
 say cold hope I may be able
 to get out tomorrow as I feel
 my business needs me and
 if I may be very thankful
 that I have received as far
 and as well as I have my
 dear daughter have been very
 kind in missing me in order
 to fill the gap that has been
 made by the decease of my
 dear old wife

Tuesday Apr 14 Rested a
 good deal better last night
 slept pretty well till about
 three o'clock after breakfast
 walked over home feeling
 very feeble and then went
 down to my office where I
 found plenty of work waiting
 me but I did not feel much
 like despatching it but by
 noon I had got through a
 good deal after dinner
 went down again for an hour
 or two and came home bringing
 my a lot of work to do here
 which I have just now
 got through with and feel
 very tired and shaky the
 day has been very fine bright
 and sunshiny a little cold
 though mild for the season
 of the year Cousin ^{Jane} is making
 us a visit and we are glad
 to see her

Wednesday Nov 15 Had a very
 poor night coughed a very great
 deal and this morning was
 quite exhausted took my
 breakfast in bed and a lit-
 tle after nine went down to
 my office and spent the fore-
 noon quite busy but feel-
 ing very wretched came home
 at noon and spent the rest
 of the day in the house quite
 sick with a very bad cough
 and a heavy cold It is just
 one month to day since my
 dear wife was taken from
 us and Oh how sadly do we
 miss her The house does seem
 so changed Lorenson June is
 still with us but I believe she
 intends leaving in the morning
 for Toronto it has been a very
 fine day not cold but some
 sheney the snow has about gone

Thursday Nov 16 A dull cloudy heavy though milder day looks very like a cloudfule of some kind. Cousin Jane left us this morning on her way to Toronto she seems to have grown much deeper than when I last saw her we are always glad to see her and have her come and spend a time with us have been in my office all day quite busy in a general way and feeling much better than yesterday had a better night last night and did not cough near as much as the night before things generally very quiet and the general business of the town not at all brisk the mild open fall has been very much against the dry goods business

Friday Nov 17 Quite a little
 full of snow again last night
 and this morning it looks very
 wintery though it is not cold
 have been in my office all
 day though but very little
 to do have felt better than
 I did yesterday though I
 am feeling well yet have
 a troublesome cough that is
 very harassing it has been
 quit as possible in town no
 body stopping and general
 business at a comparative
 stand still had to go down
 town this evening to attend to
 some Police business but
 when I got to the Court the
 parties wanted the case post-
 poned which I was very glad
 to do would much rather
 have stood by one's own
 side than have gone out

Saturday Nov 18 A very sharp
 frost last night with a heavy
 fog and a most brilliant
 Aurora Borealis with
 shots up throughout the sky
 in great splendor the day
 has exceedingly fine a bright
 sun shine a great many
 people in town and a vast
 many businesses done have
 been in my office all day
 waiting for business which
 did not come have had a
 very quiet day came home
 early and took to sawing
 wood by way of exercise
 the snow of a day or two ago
 has not gone yet though I
 hope it will soon as do
 not want to see sleeping
 yet in fact the Country was
 a good deal of ruin yet before the
 winter fairly sets in

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Thursday Nov 19 Has been a very quiet day have been close in the house and spent the day very lazily a fine mild winter day the snow has been melting but it has not gone as fast by any means hope it will end that we may have some more mild weather yet how different our house seems since its domestic head has been removed it is not like him at all a forty year familiar face cannot be removed without being missed and this one of those gentle loving serpentine that comes to make every one happy that comes within its contact I feel so lost and desolate without my better half

Monday Nov 20 a beautiful
 winter day bright sun & clear
 and moderate temperature
 a pretty hard frost ^{was} laid and
 some little snowing to day
 have been in my office all
 day busy clearing the after
 noon with police matters
 not much else doing. The year
 is gradually proving to be close
 and soon 1882 will be men-
 bered with the past. It has
 been an eventful year with
 us for the change that has
 been made in our household
 and a great change it is
 how sad it makes one feel
 and how desolate the people
 seem without its long ac-
 customed hearth we are to
 apt to feel our hold here to
 much of a fixture we must
 all soon go to the same silent
 brown

Tuesday Nov 22 A dull cloudy heavy day mild and I suppose would be called a fine winter day. I have been in my office all the day not having much to do the time sometimes being rather heavy on ones hands waiting for something to turn up. This has been a cheese market day but there does not seem to have been much stir about the town in consequence I believe this is the last market day for the season went up to Christopher after tea to arrange the time for going to Toronto on his Chancery suit and it is arranged that I go tomorrow evening. I do not like the trip but duty compels me to it.

Wednesday Nov 22 Mild and
general thawing a foul sheet
so that the snow is about
gone and the road is a little
muddy have been in my
office all day rather busy
in a general way with a
variety of things expected
to have gone to Toronto this
evening but it is put off
till tomorrow morning the
days and weeks are passing
is on rapidly to the close
of 1882 when another year
will be numbered with the
past it has been a year
to be remembered in our
household but how little
we can tell what a year
is to bring forth the closing
scene so far as this earth
ly career is concerned will
be upon us fast find we
may be prepared for the change

Thursday Nov 23 up early
this morning to take the early
train for Toronto Mr George
Christopher and self started
together and got into the City
about half past ten it was
a dull heavy day cloudy and
rather disagreeable expected
the great Indian interested would
be in the A.M. but instead
of that we had to hang about
the city all day waiting and
waiting but there is no news
of any of these matters we walked
about the City a little and
it is surprising how it is
growing and extending in
every direction we found
a little snow on the road as
we went along but none in
Toronto though it looks like
it we stopped at a small
house up Gouery Street

Friday Nov 24 Still waiting
 and waiting and towards
 noon our suit men called on
 I was the second witness and
 soon got through about two
 o'clock which left me the
 rest of the day at liberty The
 suit continued all the day
 and promises to last for a
 several days it is a suit of con-
 siderable importance to Mr
 Christopher and it is one
 that only sheer necessity
 has forced him to under-
 take it it is a piece of dis-
 honesty on the part of the
 defendants that has forced
 it upon him The day has
 been dull and cloudy not
 cold but looks like snow
 it has been very muddy
 in the streets very close
 disagreeable walking it is getting
 colder

Saturday Nov 25th Still
 hanging about the Court-
 Room I might have gone
 home last evening but I
 thought it best to stay
 with Christopher another
 day the suit is dragging
 its slow length along a
 foul deal has been done
 to day the Court adjourned
 about four o'clock to meet
 again on Monday I ex-
 pected to have gone home
 this evening but found
 I should have to be out all
 night and get home at
 five A.M. and as I did
 not feel very well I have
 concluded to not go till
 tomorrow leaving here at
 one P.M. the day has been
 dull and heavy looking
 like a storm full of some
 kind

Sunday Mar 26 on getting
 up this A.M. found that there
 had been a snow storm
 set in during the night
 and a prospect for quite
 a fall of snow about from
 this A.M. we were startled
 by the cry of fire they came
 rapping at the door of the
 house were we were stop-
 ping and at first we sup-
 posed the house was on fire
 but it turned out that it
 was the alarm bell they wanted
 the fire was some little dis-
 tance away. The snow con-
 tinued to fall I left home
 to some after me or back and
 got home some after five he
 very from home a long time
 for me found all well and
 every looking for me but
 I did not find the old fa-
 miliar face that was always
 greeted me so long

Thursday Nov 27 Here the wind
 is vanishing it will soon end
 the snow is the best part of a
 foot deep here and the men
 my sledge bell has greeted me
 car to stay have been in my
 office all day not doing
 much had a heavy job
 this morning shovelling snow
 and continued it in the
 evening till I was quite
 tired came in to dinner
 about five o'clock daughter
 Mary was here and dined
 with us after dinner I read
 a little in Dickens Dombey
 and Son wrote up several
 days of my diary and con-
 tinued reading till bed
 time and turned in near
 ten o'clock hoping I may
 sleep better than I did
 last night.

Tuesday Nov 28 The snow still
 continues and the sleighing is
 tolerably good for empty sleighs
 which are running about
 quite freely and it promises
 more snow and looks as if
 the winter had really set in
 for good have been in my
 office all day but very lit-
 tle doing day after passes with
 a good deal of monotony when
 business is looking to keep
 me employed I have been
 re-reading Dickens' Dombey
 and Son and am surprised
 at the real delineation of
 character his works manifest
 and draw out many of the
 characters in the work are
 admirably depicted and
 the varieties of human nature
 he has portrayed prove an
 emanation in his port truly
 marvellous

Thursday Nov 29 cold
winter has covered the face
of nature and changed
summer luxuriance to win-
ter sterility and although
the cold is not by any means
severe yet it makes one as
if the winter of life was setting
in and that soon the final
change must come I dread
the cold weather more and
more each year I have
been in my office the
most of the day had a visit
from a Mr Tatter the Inspec-
tor of one the Insurance Com-
panies I represent and have
been engaged with him a
part of the day had a plea-
sant interview which I think
I should mention spend the
evening at home reading
Dunbar's Son

Thursday Nov 30 The last
 day of another month 1882
 will soon draw to a close
 the sleeping has now got to be
 pretty good although the snow
 is not deep the town was
 full of sleighs for the past few
 days wood is coming in pret-
 ty freely have been in my
 office all day busy writing
 up my monthly reports for
 the Insurance offices not
 much other business doing
 very quiet for some days
 past I do not like this
 wintery weather though
 I suppose it is necessary
 in order to perfect the laws
 of nature and fulfill
 the grand designs of the
 Creator of the Universe
 how admirably are His
 designs fulfilled

Friday Dec. 1 Still with
try and more snow last night
so that the sleighing will be
improved this morning but
it has the appearance of a
thaw and has been thawing
most of the day in my office
during the forenoon not be-
sy of it doing a little had
a call from Mrs. Miller at
noon she is an old teacher of
Aggie, she is on her way to
British Columbia where she
has been teaching for some years
and is now returning to re-
sume her old avocation have
been in Woodstock this after-
noon it is thawing a good
deal and the snow is quite
soft Woodstock looks pro-
gressive and is going ahead
while we appear to be retro-
grading

Saturday Dec 2 How rapid
by time is rolling to the close
of the year the last month
of 1882 has commenced and
will soon draw to a close
it is now real winter the
sleighing is good and many
people are using it the town
is full of people to day and
the streets are full of sleighs
loaded with wood have
been in my office all day
not very busy yet doing a
little have had a lot of work
come in to day so that we
shall be able perhaps to
keep warm I do like a
warm house and a good fire
it is to me a great promoter
of sociability to spend these
long evenings in a warm
room and have good lights
and a variety of reading

Sunday Dec 3 Another very
 fine winters day which I
 have spent very quietly did
 not rest very well last night
 and was rather late in rising
 after breakfast read a
 little and then went up to
 Christopher who I heard was
 poorly found him better
 though he was in bed all day
 yesterday found daughter
 Mary not very well dined
 with my niece Mrs Wilson
 the whole of us had a very
 nice dinner they are very
 pleasantly and hospitably
 waited and are very cozy
 came home to tea and am
 now the children being in
 bed the sole representative
 at the family fire side
 what a change and how
 desolate we feel

Monday Dec 4th on going out
 this morning found that the
 wind was blowing quite fresh
 from the South though cold this
 indicates a thaw and it has
 been quite soft most of the
 day and this evening there
 is quite a snow storm pre-
 vailing though I think if the
 wind keeps in the South it will
 be over by morning have been
 quite busy to day in way of
 fire working till after four
 o'clock and then bringing
 a lot of work home to write
 up during the evening it
 is now nine o'clock and
 I have just got through
 and am writing up the
 notes all alone by the fire
 side office is out some
 where the town has seemed
 very quiet to day

Tuesday Dec 5 A stormy
 snowy blustering night but
 a clear bright sunshiny
 morning blustering in into the day
 have been in ~~Woods~~ ^{Woods} ~~stake~~ ^{stake} all
 day attending court having
 a suit of my own against
 the corporation here for of
 five rent it did not come
 in till evening and the court
 adjourned before it was
 concluded and I will have
 to go on again on Friday next
 it has been a tedious day
 hanging about the court
 room all day came home
 by the accommodation train
 reaching home about eight
 and a heavy snow storm
 prevailing which promises
 quite a fall to night and
 to pl around was own
 quite five six

Wednesday Dec 6 Quite another
 than full of snow again last
 night several inches so that
 the sleighing is likely to con-
 tinue for a while longer though
 it is quite much cloudy and
 dull so day is the day for the
 observation of the transit of
 Venus and as Woodstock is
 one of the places for the obser-
 vation I am afraid they will
 be disappointed. The scien-
 tific world is making a
 great effort to get a correct
 observation of its transit
 and it is to be hoped they will
 be successful at some of the
 points of observation have
 been in my office all day
 doing a little business though
 not much have been spend-
 ing the evening at home
 reading very quietly

Thursday Dec 7 Quite a heavy
 fall of snow again during
 the night which has been most
 blustering the snow drifting in
 immense banks and a high
 wind and drifting snow pre-
 vailing all day getting very
 cold towards night this must
 be something like a North West
 blossom have been in my
 office all day busy with po-
 lice matters a regular filled
 day but no good at all to
 me a very unfair and un-
 just division of labor and
 one that needs a remedy
 why should the Magistrate
 be called upon to sit all
 day for nothing and every
 other officer idle it is time
 a remedy was applied I see
 the transit of Venus has been very
 imperfectly observed in Canada
 yesterday owing to the clouds

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Friday Dec 8 Up at four
o'clock this A.M. I could not
sleep and as I wanted to go
to Woodstock by the early train
I roused the girl up and we
had breakfast before six o
clock it has been a cold
blustering night and the morn
ing was extremely cold the
snow has drifted very much
expected to have to be at Wood
at ten o'clock but it was
near or after 12 before the
judge put in an appearance
I had a suit against the corpo
ration in progress which de
termined me till too late to get
home before the 5 o'clock train
and this was an hour late
I did not get a decision in
my case but am quite sat
isfied I shall get a verdict
in my favor a better cold day

Saturday Dec 9 A cold
 fine winter day and the
 town full of people streets
 full of sleighs quite bustling
 and business like has been
 in my office all day and
 till near ten o'clock in the
 evening busy all day how
 rapidly the time flies when
 one is engaged and these
 days are so short that the
 daylight is gone. Alas
 we shall soon have
 Christmas upon us but we
 shall miss one who has been
 the life and soul of this
 festive season so long among
 us how cheerful I feel so
 lost in the evening after
 all have gone to rest to be
 here all alone it makes
 me feel desolate and for
 sake an utter loneliness

Sunday Dec 10 There snow
 during the night and a very
 soft day looking very like
 rain and as we have a slump
 of the Moon to day we may
 have a change of weather
 also it seems to me we must
 have some rain to fall up
 the swamps and wells which
 are very low in water we
 have now had quite a run
 of sleighing for two weeks
 which is rather uncommon
 have spent a very quiet day
 in the house reading most
 of the time Miss Gertrude
 & family came in with Aggie
 from Church and took din-
 ner with us Mr Christopher
 called in for an hour this Mrs.
 Aggie was gone to Church after
 the evening and the two little
 girls with myself constitute
 our household at present

Monday Dec 11. Up early this
 morning to go to Tilsenburg
 to attend a Board meeting of
 the Ingersoll and Port Burwell
 Road Co. There was three Dever
 to go from Mr Bruntt Mr
 Brown and myself so we
 got a sleigh between us and
 a driver and all went together
 it was a long drive the weather
 was somewhat blustering and
 tedious. The road heavy and
 the snow had drifted immen-
 sely we got to Tilsenburg by eleven
 o'clock transacted our busi-
 ness and started back by
 three o'clock had a cold ride
 home reached there about
 six really glad to get around
 me, over fire side and the
 cheap paper to read it was
 much colder coming home
 than going out

Tuesday Dec 12 Had a restless
 night awoke before ten and
 had very little sleep after
 ten this A.M. the morning is
 much milder it has snowed
 a little last night but more
 the spout before have been
 in my office all day not too
 dry but cloudy a little the day
 has been much milder than
 yesterday the town looked
 quite lively with people and
 sleighs it makes a great
 difference having snow in
 the winter time over bare
 ground it seems to put life
 and motion into every thing
 there was I believe a noisy
 meeting in the Hall last
 night treating on Muni-
 cipal matters it has become
 a great force here has the
 municipal self government

Wednesday Dec 13 Got a sum
mons last evening to go to Wood
stock this morning in some of
peul case in Court at Wood
stock so I went down this am
on the 9.19 train it was a damp
soft morning between snow
and rain got up there in four
time and soon got my busi-
ness through and returned by
the first train got home in
time for dinner went to my
office a short time after
dinner and then came home
not feeling very well the wea-
ther has been undergoing quite
a change and by evening
it has become quite cold again
land down and took a short
nap before tea Miss A. O'Grady
came and took tea with us
and is stopping all night the
night is very blustering and cold

Thursday Dec 14 I quite went
again the theme of yesterday
seems completely checked and
a little more snow but on
very has been a tolerably
cold winter day and the
sleeping is excellent again
in my office all day not
at all busy had a call
this morning from Mr David
son manager of the Royal
Canadian Insurance Com-
pany the first time I have
met him a pleasant agree-
able interview though I
should think a man not
the best adapted for a man-
ager of a live company in
this age of keen competition
came home early and had
an hour of cutting wood
by way of exercise I find
it does me good

Friday, Dec 15th A very storm
 my night and four or six
 inches of snow has fallen which
 being accompanied with a high
 wind has drifted and filled
 up every place possible with
 snow we are having a real
 old fashioned winter so far
 a very great body of snow upon
 the ground and excellent sleigh
 ing but the roads North and
 South are very much blocked
 with snow have been in my
 office all day writing for
 something to turn up but
 little has developed it is two
 months to day since my dear
 wife was taken from me
 and oh the desolation at times
 seems almost unbearable
 I come home but miss the kind
 familiar face which for near
 forty years has always greeted
 me with a smile

53

Saturday Dec 16 There snow
again last ^{night} several inches has
fallen it is becoming quite
monotonous the clearing the side
walk every morning which has
had to be done all this week
the day has been fine and a
great many people in town
the streets have been quite lively
I have been in my office all
day with nothing to do or at
least next to nothing came
home early and indulged in
a little wood cutting by way
of recreation and then sat
down to read an enjoyable
one of the Murverly novels
Reverent and I will not
say I am not fascinated with
the story I think people's taste
must have undergone a
change since these tales were
as I doubt very much if the
same enthusiasm could be got up
now in their behalf as when written

Tuesday Dec 17 A little more
 snow last night and and
 then got this morning sweeping
 of the potholes it has become
 a regular morning job for the
 past week this has been a very
 fine winter day sun and
 it mostly in the house read
 ing called up at 6 hours
 when this afternoon for a
 short time then little girl
 Francis has been very poorly
 the past week suffering from
 a feverish ear which has
 been very painful she was
 rather bad again last night
 but is better to day the little
 thing has been a great deal
 fever from this cause the eve
 ning is very fine a bright
 moonlight I am alone writ
 ting up these remarks and
 it seems very quiet

Monday Dec 18 The first night
of a week past in which no
snow has fallen it has been
a very cold night the thermo-
meter 12 or 15 below zero which
is pretty cold the day has
been fine a real winter
day cold clear and keen
air has been in my office
all day busy most of the time
with Police business which has
not been worth me out to me
had a call to day from a
nephew of mine Charles Smith
also a name sake a son of my
sister a big stout burly fellow
now travelling for some shoe
establishment in Montreal
have not felt good out to day
myself low spirited and I
think a little dyspeptic oh
the lonesome weary feeling when
at home something is wanting

Tuesday Dec 19 Had a very
 poor night being quite unwell
 got up between three and four
 made the fires got a cup of tea
 but was too sick to take have
 been confined to the lounge most
 of the day think it is a bilious
 attack the day has been fine
 real winter like with capital
 sleighing have just finished
 reading Reminiscence of the War
 only and I must say I am
 surprised that such a ju-
 ven should have been created
 by the production of these no
 sets at the time they were writ-
 ten but I suppose the public
 taste changes in these things
 as well as in most others I do
 not like the style at all this
 may be a persistent taste in
 my part had a letter from
 my son Charlie this evening
 they are all well

57

Dec 20 Wednesday A fine
mild winter's day with the wind
in the South which betoken
rain and it came in the
latter part of the afternoon
continuing gently till we
went to bed. I have been very
busy in my office all day
and feeling much better
than yesterday though not
fortunate have been reading
the debates in the Local House
of Parliament which is now in
session read the Morris
this morning about four o'clock
as I could not sleep was much
pleased with his exposition
of our constitutional rights
as provided by the Confede-
ration they were very clear
and forcible and his ex-
tracts from the Act very ap-
pro to the question under debate
that Ontario's disputed territory

Thursday Dec 21 The soft
 spell of yesterday continues
 and has lasted through the
 day with more or less rain
 and making the snow very
 soft if it continues will be
 nearly affect the sleighing snow
 been in my office all day doing
 a little in fact being pretty
 well employed all day have
 felt better than I did the
 past ten days but I cannot
 sleep at night awaking
 about two o'clock every morn-
 ing and getting but little
 sleep after that hour it is
 dreary work keeping accounts
 during the dark hours of the
 night - waiting for the noon
 and another dinner break I
 find my eyes refusing to
 comply with these nightly
 demands upon them in the
 way of reading.

59

Friday Dec 22 Still soft and
mild the snow has become quite
slushy and from every ap-
pearance the sleighing is doomed
was it not for the heavy body
of snow on the ground it would
have been spoiled by this
time have been in my office
all day not at all busy at
least could have done a good
deal more business if it had
offered we have now had
near a month of good sleighing
with a very heavy body of snow
upon the ground it has made
quite a change in business
all seem in better spirits in
consequence to day has been the
nominations day for Municipal
offices and there has been a
rather a great scramble for
office most of the candidates
with the least qualifications
I did not go near it

Saturday Dec 23 I still wet
 and sloppy the thaw is going
 in apace and the roads
 are very bad the day has
 been a lively one in town by
 crowds of people being in
 the streets all apparently
 happy as the Christmas sea-
 son inspires people it is a
 season when the spirit of peace
 on earth and good will to
 men should prevail the sea-
 son no doubt has this tenden-
 cy as we see the spirit of bro-
 therly love and the milk of
 human kindness comes nearer
 to the surface than at other
 seasons and it is really grati-
 fying to see that the selfish
 spirit of the age has not en-
 tirely mastered all desires
 on the part of humanity to
 furl the man and the brother

61

Thursday Dec 24 Still with
and snowing though not so
much as yesterday have spent
all the day in the house quietly
reading without even put-
ting my shoes on this is the
day before Christmas but I
do feel as usual in this oc-
casion we have lost what
used to be the light of our
life upon all festive occa-
sions and especially at this
season her busy hands had
always been enfeebled as
witness some little tokens
of remembrance for friends
incident to the time we have
her not now among us

Monday Dec 25 Christmas
 of 1882 has come and fine
 it has been a fine melt and
 very quiet day but there has
 been a sadness attached to
 it that has made our heart
 heavy we have all been out
 to dinner and spend the day
 at Mr Christophers where we
 have had a very pleasant
 gathering I think they are
 about as fine a pair as
 I know of and as desirous
 of making other people
 happy as it is, ⁱⁿ their power
 to do we have just got
 home 1/2 past ten a beau-
 tiful moonlight night
 but little if any frost and
 the snow quite soft now
 very quiet it is to be all
 alone the rest are gone
 to bed while I am here
 writing

63

Tuesday Dec 26 The business
of another week has commenced
after the Christmas Holiday it
has been a fine mild day but
very little frost last night
but the snow has not thawed
as much to day as for several
days past have been engaged
in my office mostly with Po
lice business nothing to
profit the town must have
been very quiet yesterday
and last evening as there
was not a single police case
brought out of any excess of the
day which is a very gratifying
feature got a number of
the Byrstander this evening which
is being reviewed as a quarterly
by now instead of a monthly
as heretofore in looking over
it I think it promises to be as
very as ever

Wednesday Dec 27 How
 swiftly silently and surely
 the days weeks months and
 years pass away how short
 a time it seems since we
 first began to write 1882 and
 now we are on the verge of 83
 each year brings its various
 changes the present one has
 brought tremendous changes
 in our household it has been
 a very fine mild day again
 the sleighing is holding out
 remarkably considering
 how mild it has been for the
 past week have been in
 my office all day not busy
 at all yet doing a little
 daughter Mary and her two
 girls in to tea with us and
 Miss G. O'pady is stopping the
 night with the little girls
 are at Beuchville

65

Thursday Dec 28 Have had quite a busy day in my office fully employed up to 1/2 past nine this evening a variety on hand it has been a very fine winter day freezing considerably last evening but throwing just a little through the day the slushing is keeping remarkably good considering the mild weather of the past week have finished reading the Byrstander last night it is a masterly production as a Review of current events the world over so concise and incisive and although I cannot fall in with all his views and criticisms but I cannot help admiring his style had a meeting of the Directors of the Cemetery tomorrow in my office this evening

Friday Dec 29 How fast day
successes day and weeks
pass me hardly know what
becomes of the time this week
is so rapidly drawing to a close
and yet I cannot tell what
has become of the time the
year is also very near its
close it has been another
exceedingly fine winter
day frosty at night and
thawing in the day have
been in my office very
busy till ye past nine this
evening it is a pleasure
to work when business
crowds in upon me to
day I have been full of
work I come home this
evening and find all
fine to bed and it is so
lonesome to be all by ones
self particularly when we
cannot sleep but the night

Saturday Dec 30th The business of 1882 may be virtually said to be closed this evening it has been an eventful year in many respects particularly in our household and the reflections consequent thereon have a mercurial aspect I feel the change most sensibly have been busy in my office all till in in the evening the month in the whole has been a very good one with me I should like all to be as good this daily effort to strike out a living almost makes one feel what is the aim of life or what is it worth and yet a recognition of an ever ruling Providence reconciles one to bow to his dispensations and say with the Psalmist of old I know Oh Lord thy judgments are right as in faithfulness thou hast afflicted us

Sunday Dec 31 1882 closes
this night and resolves it
self into the history of the
past another mile is set
up to mark the passage
of time upon its surface we
may read an eventful his-
tory and from it we may
learn that one less year
remains to us of our journey
of life it behoves us to ask
ourselves as Parrot of old asked
Jacob how old art thou
the answer is a momentous
one may it teach us to think
and prepare for that great
change that must soon
overtake us it has been
colder to day have been at
the funeral of a daughter
of Mrs Hovenstein an old friend
it was a cold drive out
to the Cemetery sleeping still
pretty good

67

Monday June 1 1883 The writing of 1883 the first for the year has a significance attached to that I think we seldom stop to analyse it is one of those marks in times dead that tell us the finger of time has made another dot it comes it passes and without reflection we say another ^{year} has begun it is only when we begin to think of the past that its importance forces itself upon us and if we cannot speculate on the future we may criticise the past and humbly ask for a spiritual guidance in so much of the future as may be allotted to us This has been a very uncomfortable day for me I took a severe cold yesterday in going to that for neural and it broke out

this morning with great joy
 my leaving me up most
 of the day it has been the
 Municipal Election day
 and there has been more
 or less excitement in town
 though I believe all was
 off pretty quietly on the whole
 Christopher his wife and
 two daughters have been
 spending the day with us
 and my daughter Mrs L
 has been nursing me very
 faithfully till ten o'clock
 this evening the day has
 been rather cold with a
 little snow flying in the
 air but the fall has not
 been much Mrs Mrs L have
 just gone home and I am
 going to retire in hopes that
 I will be benefitted by some
 sleep am very miserable

69

Tuesday, Jan^y 2^d 1883 I soon got
asleep last night and slept
till near one o'clock awaking
much refreshed and feeling
so much better I did not
feel much sleep after this
have been down in my of
face all day and rather bu-
sy I did not think I should
be at all fit for business to-
day or last night - but have
got along very well it has
been rather a cold fine day
the sleeping is keeping very
poor we have now had about
five weeks sleighing and at
present to last awhile yet
I had thoughts of going to
visit the week but I think
it is uncertain now there is
to be a great but gathering there
in a day or two and I should
not to be seen among them

Wednesday June 3 This has
 been another fine winter
 day have been feeling tolera-
 bly well and in my office
 all day though not very busi-
 ness things are under questioning
 down after the election and
 the successful and defeated
 candidates began to re-lose their
 positions there has been a
 complete change in the per-
 sonal of the Council whether
 for the better or not time will
 tell it certainly cannot be
 worse my little grand daughter
 ten James Christopher and
 I are alone enjoying the fire
 side to night Affie is out
 and we are rather a quiet
 pair the house is as quiet as
 it will can be the little
 girls are not yet returned
 from Bearsville

71

Thursday June 4 Quite a change
in the temperature has been going
on all day till to night it
has become one of the coldest of
the winter a very chilly East
wind blowing that threatens
snow have been surprised
more or less all day in my of
fice some poles and other
business went up to Mr Chris
topher to dinner came home
early and worked it my
word for a time and then
came into the House to have
a good read and reading
Black Bells of Shambin and
am rather interested in it
but our cannot tell how our
like the fiction tell me get
through the work this seems
well written I need tell
towards twelve o'clock and
then went to bed to read a very
cold night

Friday Jan 5. Slept till
 quite late this am it was
 eight o'clock before I got up
 though I was awake a good
 while from about 5 o'clock
 the day has been very cold
 a sharp keen wind not
 strong but cutting has been
 in my office all day but
 little snow there was a
 little snow fell last night
 but none during the day the
 sleighing still keeps up very
 good indeed we have now
 had about six weeks of good
 sleighing it is a great help
 to business there a great deal
 of wood been brought to New
 Port yet it still keeps up a
 pretty good price we have
 had so much winter it
 makes an increase in a wood
 pile. ~~putting~~ it away just

Saturday June 6 Another week has fled the first week in the new year it has been a fine winter day not quite so cold as the two last days the town has had a good many people in it wither there has been much business done I do not know have been in my office all day but have not had much to do my business seems to come by fits and starts some days quite fully employed at other times little or nothing to do I come home and feel a degree of current that I cannot explain but which is so changed from what it used to be and has been so long the living morning and evening spent of the house is not here

Tuesday June 7 It has been
 a very quiet day have been
 indoors the whole time ex-
 cept a short call I made
 up to Mr Christopher have
 been receiving pretty steadily
 by our little grand children
 came home from Beulah
 will were they have been visit-
 ing the past ten days or so
 and we have one of our
 grand children from Mr
 Christopher stopping over
 Sunday with us so that the
 house seems more natural
 the day has been exceedingly
 by fine for winter a little
 snow fell last night so
 that the sleighing is keep-
 ing excellent - it is a great
 help to the general busi-
 ness of the country as there
 so much to do that requires sleighing

Thursday June 8 A cold night
 and a fine frosty winter day
 with a little more snow dur-
 ing the night - have been in
 my office busy writing my
 Cemetery returns all the fore-
 noon not much to do after
 dinner came home early and
 split a lot of wood when I
 sat down to have a reading
 of the daily paper we the report
 to day of the loss of one of the Steam-
 ships of the Inman Line the City
 of ~~Dorset~~ Brussels by collision
 she was carrying to in a fog in
 the Estuary of the Mersey on her
 way into Liverpool when one
 the Steamer ran into her sink-
 ing her in a very short time
 with a loss of ten lives eight of
 the crew and two passengers
 it does seem strange that
 such a collision should occur
 under such circumstances

Tuesday June 9 A fine warm
 ten day again pretty cold
 last night and all day has
 been engaged a good deal
 of the day with Police bu-
 siness a despicable case
 to settle between man and
 wife these are about as un-
 satisfactory affairs as one
 can be well engaged in
 afternoon engaged in writ-
 ting up my annual bene-
 volent Company Report came
 home not feeling very well
 joined Mr O'Grady and one
 of his daughters here they tried
 to tea here rather an un-
 comfortable head ache
 all evening but feel some-
 what better before going
 to bed the night is cold
 and frosty very fine win-
 ter weather

77

Wednesday June 10 Another
cold fine day the wind very
chilly have been in my office
during the forenoon some po-
lice business but not much
doing in the afternoon went
to Woodstock to consult the
County Attorney on some Police
business found it very cold
a rare cutting Easterly wind
blowing I did not find my
man at home so I had to
look up another Solicitor
whom I found in the person
of Beard got home after
six instead of five as I
should have done Mr M
Wulsh called in the evening
to arrange about reviewing
the Shakespear reading club
we selected and a play and
intend reorganizing with the
first reading on Friday evening

Thursday June 11 Still cold
 though very fine passed a
 very miserable night with
 very little sleep and got up
 this morning feeling very unwell
 and continued to feel very
 poorly all day have been in
 my office doing a little bu-
 siness but doing under very
 uncomfortable circumstances
 came home early and laid
 down trying to get a little sleep
 daughter Mary in a little while
 she is a great comfort to me
 when she comes her kind gen-
 tle sympathizing manner
 brings back the recollections
 of her mother whose large
 heartedness and gentle man-
 ner won the respect and
 esteem of all she came in con-
 tact with Oh how we miss
 her it seems more and more

79

Friday June 12 Still cold and
fine a clear star light night and
charming winter weather had
a rather better night but scarce
any sleep after two A.M. have
felt better to day ever yesterday
but not at all well in my of
feels all day had an unpleasant
case on hand in the Police Court
this A.M. between Man and wife
and had to send the husband
to jail to stand his trial for
not supporting her in the after
noon was very busy writing letters
on business connected with the
Dairy Association about twenty
in all came home early and
worked up a few chers in the
way of spelling word and a
few other things was to have
gone out to the Shakerpear and
ings this evening but did not
feel well enough

Saturday June 13 Another week has closed with its cares and anxieties be they more or less. There has been quite a storm of snow a gale during the night with a high wind which has lasted most of the day be very very mild and gentle very in vain but towards evening it has begun to grow colder and may be cold enough by morning have been in my office all day not at all busy yet doing a little have felt rather better to day than yesterday but still not feeling as I would like to do a good many people in town the good sleeping makes people drive about a good deal more than without it

81

Sunday July 14 I hardly know
what the day has or how it has
passed I have been engrossed
all day reading a work by
Barner Georgen Bloomfield
in reminiscences of Court and
Diplomatic life during the
reign of the present Queen
Victoria and have been much
interested in the period the
day has passed so quietly
I have hardly been aware
of it a fine bright winter
day but I have not had
my shoes on or my coat
but slippers and dressing
gown how quiet the house
has been it has therefore
gained a constant atten-
tion to the fires to keep it
warm and yet how thank
one should be that we are
so comfortably provided for

Monday June 15th A very cold
 night and sharp frosty day
 though bright and clear in
 my office till noon and then
 attended a meeting of the
 stockholders of the Superior
 Rural Cemetery Co held in
 the Council Chamber there
 was only three or four parties
 in attendance no public
 interest being taken in these
 meetings it was soon over
 after dinner went to my
 office again not much
 to do here felt better to day
 than I have done for some
 days past and hope we
 may continue to improve
 am more or less engaged
 in preparing for the coming
 Quorummen Convention which
 is to be held next month
 in this town

83

Thursday Jan 16 Another very fine winter day clear and cold have been in my office all day a little Police business in the forenoon and little to do in the afternoon have felt pretty well and would like now to have some more work to do there is a grand carnival going on to night at the skating rink and I have no doubt but that there will be a large turnout but I have lost all relish for this sort of amusement though I used to be very fond of skating the time now for this amusement has gone by with me I much prefer a quiet home fire side in the evening with an entertaining book it is cold to night though a bright moon is shining and foul sleighing

Wednesday June 17 The morn-
 ing opened up with a strong
 intermission to snow which has
 been falling in considerable
 quantities all day it has been
 mild I was called up last
 night after going to bed to
 issue a couple of warrants
 against a party in the County
 for forgery the party has
 been arrested to day and
 is to come before me tomorrow
 have been in my office all
 day not at all busy yet
 doing a little how the days
 and weeks do slip away
 we are in the latter part of
 the month when it only seems
 to have begun a day or two
 ago the winter is wearing
 away we have had now
 near upon ten months
 sleeping with a prospect
 of some months more

Thursday July 18 Has been ⁸⁵
a lovely winter day a bright
mild sun shone all day though
in several places have been
in my office all day with but
very little to do though I have
not had an unprofitable
day what with one thing and
another I would like to be as
well paid every day I have
just heard that my suit a
gainst the Municipal Coun-
cil here has been decided in
my favor the beggarly lot
will now be brought to time
and I may perhaps learn
there that they cannot have
things all their own way their
Councillors seem lose all sense
of shame and spirit to do right
when they get into the Council
they do things they would be a
shamed of as private citizens

Friday June 19 Another splen-
 did winter day rather cold
 er than yesterday and the
 sleighing is keeping excellent
 have been in my office all
 day without but very lit-
 tle to do which as far as I
 can see is the case all over
 town wool appears to be the
 stock in trade that is moving
 and although it appears to
 be coming in in shouls I
 as yet cannot find any
 one to contract with for ten
 or fifteen cents it may come
 after a time Christopher Gre-
 ham came in to tea and
 spent the evening in a gen-
 eral way and daughter Mary
 Mrs Christopher called in to
 see how we all were she is
 a jewel of a woman

Saturday June 20 There has been a
 moist sunny day a slight rain
 falling a good deal of the time
 till on in the evening when the
 wind rising it began to get
 colder have been in my office
 all day but not at all busy
 and the town has seemed
 quiet - business seems to go on
 good deal by fits and starts
 some days one is quite busy
 and then again very little to
 do this is a queer selfish age
 it is every one for himself and
 precious little consideration
 for any one else the higher as
 peritians of mens nature seem
 so engrossed in selfishness
 that the Christian maxim of St
 Paul "Look not every man on his
 own things but every also on
 the things of others" has little to do in
 influencing the action even of the
 lowliest professing Christian

Sunday July 21 A very sudden
 change in temperature
 during the night and the
 morning it is cold enough
 to almost take the skin of
 one's face could not sleep
 well last and heard the wind
 whistling a good deal have
 spent a quiet day in the
 house reaching a little
 and after dinner called
 up at Christopher's but it
 was intensely cold to go out
 Christopher came over for
 an hour or two in the eve-
 ning it is far more comfort-
 able around me, fire side
 than being out although the
 night is lovely a bright
 moon shining in a clear
 sky have to go to Woodstock
 tomorrow for a couple of
 days to avoid the accidents

89

Monday May 22 Has been I
think the coldest day of the
season so far a better night
was last night have been in
Woolstap all day busy ac-
counting the County accounts
got home a little after six in
the evening both tired and
hungry as I did not take
any dinner I had a fine
appetite by the time I got
my tea it was so cold to
day that very few people
were on the streets and then
appeared but little sleep
at times to see from the fire
as it is we can hardly keep
warm here with a roaring
fire in the stove I did not
get much sleep last night
awakening before one and
very little after that the nights
seem very long

Tuesday July 23 Another
 bitter cold day enough
 to freeze any one much
 exposed to the outside
 air went to Woodstock on
 the 9:19 train this am and
 spent the day there in
 paper in company with my
 colleague Mr Scarff in ac-
 counting the public accounts
 worked hard at them all day
 closed by invitation of Mr
 Scarff whom I have long
 known though not his fa-
 mily took tea at the O-
 Neil House and in the
 evening took the train for
 Hamlet on my way to Je-
 ronto it was a bitter cold
 night though a beautiful
 bright moon was shining the
 train was late and it was
 after nine before we reached
 Hamlet

Wednesday June 24 Staid at
 the St. Nicholas Hotel last night
 and this A.M. started by train
 at 9 for Hamilton we had a
 foul run to the City arriving there
 a little after ten A.M. it was
 a blustering stormy day a gale
 blowing with a drifting snow
 storm had some considerable
 snowing about in the City to do
 but failed to meet the party
 I came down to see so as a man
 sure had my journey so far
 as its main object was con-
 cerned for nothing started for
 home at one o'clock and got to
 Hamilton in time but there
 had to wait two hours as the
 connecting train was that
 much late got home a little
 after seven instead of five
 found all well and this was
 the much milder than the morning

Thursday June 25th A bright
 fine day cold and sharp
 though much milder than
 yesterday have been in my
 office the forenoon though
 nothing to do in the after
 noon had to go to Woodstock
 again to finish my work
 with the County accounts
 got through and returned
 home a little after five o'clock.
 I have had a good deal of rain
 very about this week and
 now hope it is over for a
 time I have considerable
 work to do get preparing
 for the Quakers Convention
 which meets here on a short
 time I find me, on a fine
 side in the evening the most
 comfortable place I know
 of and I think I really en-
 joy it the change though is
 very great

93

Friday June 26 I believe the
coldest night of the season
the Thermometer registered
below zero the day has bright
and cheerful though cold
have been in my office all
day but very little doing
the business of the town seems
quiet all over there was a
disgraceful stoppage the
other day one of the Deacons of the
Baptist Church in jail & standing
took it into his head to de-
sert his legitimate wife and
family and a good fair busi-
ness and taking another wo-
man of not the best reputa-
tion left for parts unknown
a most despicable affair
how little do we know how
weak human nature is till
it is tempted and then how
easy it falls

Saturday July 27. On laying
 awake during the night I thought
 I heard the men or see falling
 from the roof of the house and
 was much surprised on getting
 up to find that it was true
 my I had not anticipated so
 sudden a change in so short
 a time it has froze and ~~there~~
 most of the day and is very
 slippery walking have been
 in my office all day but very
 quiet there seems to be very
 little to do this week but I
 have been from home a good
 deal of the time there was
 a fair number of people
 in town in the evening last
 week and I met Ballantyne
 the President of the Dairy As-
 sociation in order to con-
 sult as to details for the
 coming Convention

95

Tuesday July 28 Awoke be-
tween two and three this A.M. feel
my very poorly got up made
a fire and after a time laid
down in the lounge feeling
wretchedly ill between my head
and stomach and Oh how
lonely it is to be thus alone
my long tried and faithful
companion who used to sym-
pathize with me in sickness
is no longer with me now in
trouble I began to feel bet-
ter towards noon have spent
a very quiet day scarce out
of the house not even having
had my shoes on the day has
been mild not thawing much
we have now had two months
of uninterrupted sleeping
and it is still as good as ever
my daughter Aggie has been
visiting to me during the
forenoon

Monday June 29 The month
 is fast drawing to a close
 the winter is progressing on
 pace time journeys are ~~not~~
 going with an increasing re-
 gularity as day by day is num-
 bered with the part it has
 been used to day a great
 thawing some little with a
 prospect of its being softer
 have been in my office all
 day but with very little to
 do though I have pursued
 away the day at something
 or other the coming day
 Convention is giving me a
 good deal of work just
 now the meeting takes place
 next week I have things
 pretty well up for it and
 hope it will be a success
 I have endeavored to do all
 in my power to make it so

Friday July 30 Has been quite a mild day the wind in the South and the snow visibly lessening it will soon affect the sleeping if it keeps in this way have been in my office all day busy as yesterday though I had two Police cases this forenoon and the afternoon was devoted to whatever I could find to do the snow is quite soft to night and there is some water in the streets the town is very quiet wood seems to be the most that is moving now a great deal has come in during the winter the wood of Carl are getting felled up yet the price keeps up as yet and does not seem likely to go down either

Wednesday June 31st. Another
 month has closed this evening
 one twelfth part of 1883 has
 gone already and one can
 scarcely recollect where it
 has gone it has been a blis-
 ting night and two or three
 inches of snow has fallen
 and it is much colder this
 morning with a high wind
 have been in my office all
 day but not at all busy
 it has been getting much
 colder during the day so
 that this evening it is quite
 cold Christopher Graham
 came in this evening and
 stayed to tea and he and
 Aggie are now playing a
 game of cards while I am
 writing have brought a little
 writing up from the office
 which I have just completed

Thursday Aug 19 31st Another
of last evening this evening
over and we have 1883 has
then very fine day we can
warm I have spent where it
of it in the house and a blank
most of the time have three
got Canon Farrow left here
Christ which I think it
be an interesting work I
want to commence it as
as I get through English
which I am disappointed
in it has not come up
all to my expectations per
haps one may have been ex
pecting too much the day
has been exceedingly good
and towards night began
to get cloudy as though
I have just finished

over
my
mind

49
July Aug 18 opened
in but there was indication
of a change the town
seem apparently quite
of a good many people
and street quite lively
we been in my office all
day but very little to do
in the afternoon it began to
cloud up as if a great storm
was pending about four in
the afternoon there was a very
dark black cloud arose in
the North West going around
and eventually denoting a
great storm in a North West
terly direction I think we
shall hear that it has been
heavy it got so dark here
that candles in the house
required between four and
five not felt
but it
here

had
frost came during the night
but I did not see any signs
of frost when I went out
I spent most of the day in
my office waiting for
something to turn up
which did not come
and many people in town
but apparently not much
business doing came in
about the middle of the af-
ternoon and laid down for
nap and a good sweat
sweat and felt better for
a very few nights but
it will be frosty the noon is
high overhead a
stage of cold