Diary written from 30th October 1895 – 20th November 1985 -
Describing a visit to America _ Florida, Pensacola, to visit Kate Waterfield (1867 – 1903) _
It is not clear who wrote it, but it appears to be one of the family – see P.9 entry for Thursday 7th November "Kate suggested it was not unlike the view from the dock at home looking towards Exmouth." "At home" would presumably be Eastdon House, Starcross_ It is not Philip's writing, though it is known he visited Kate in America _
JME

Scanned by Henry from photocopies in JME's Family Filing Cabinet
Transcribed by JTW October-November 2025

Introduction
Oh, please, future diary-writers, vary your verbs! 'I went here' and 'I went there' is not enough, even if you occasionally 'stroll' instead. And annotate some detail or other, even add in some emotion or reaction…! 'I did not think [rattlesnakes] grew to such a length' – *what* length?!

In this diary we travel from New York to the Gulf of Mexico to visit Kate, and 'we went down to the pier where we sat down and talked' – and, later, 'we had a long talk.' That's about it!

Kate has a store in Pensacola; what does she sell? We don't find out. Where is it, even, and has she been doing it long? We don't find out. She is 28 at the time of the visit. How did she end up here?

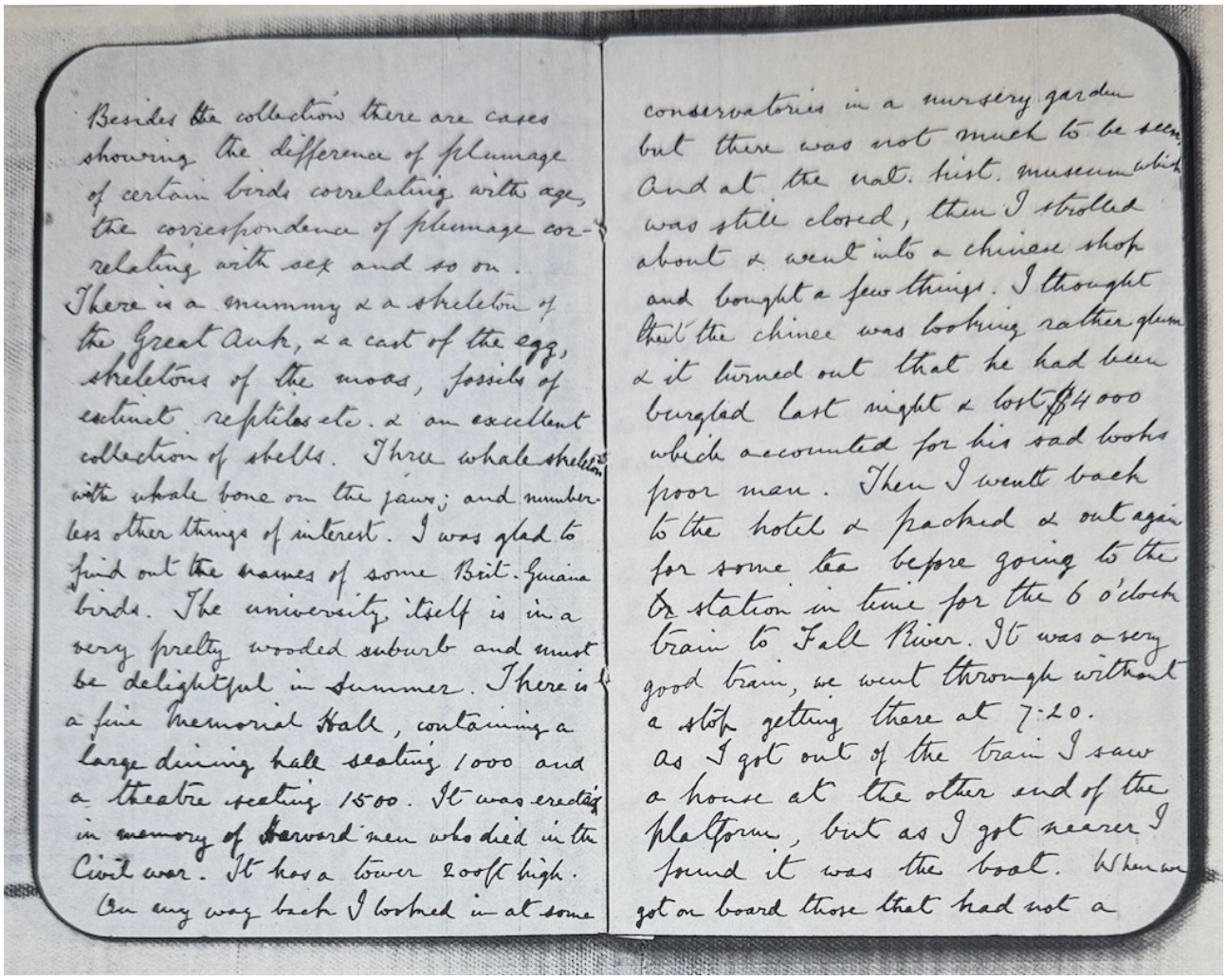
Sometimes we do things but 'don't think much of it.' The highest flights of description are quotes from a guidebook. There is some slight amount of social history here, which I have tried to bring out with the odd picture and footnote – who remembers the glories of the Fall River Line between Boston and New York? – but sorry, this is dull stuff.

Who wrote it? The presumption – supported by the reference just to 'Kate', and the common family background as pointed out by JME – is that it is a sibling. It is a man (the close quarters on the ship home are shared with other men, not to mention the freedom of unaccompanied travel), so not Violet. JME dismisses Philip on the grounds of handwriting; that leaves Edward (b 1876, and so just 19). William (b. 1886) and Alexander Percival (b. 1888) would be too young. The rather closed-in viewpoint of the writer would agree with someone young; but if Philip was known to have visited Kate in America, might JME have been wrong about the handwriting? – would trips to out-of-the-way bit of the USA (it takes the better part of three days train-journey to get from New York to Pensacola...) have been so common, even to visit family? (Philip was born in 1872, so would have been only 23 himself. Kate was the oldest.)

Other questions arise. Why does the writer 'report' to 'Mr. Dittenhoefer'?[1] What kind of an assistant is 'Biscoe' who Kate takes around with her? Where is the original diary? The section we have starts at the beginning of a notebook in Boston but there is a comparison to Canada – 'autumn appears to be much less advanced than in Canada' – which suggests an immediately preceding arc further north in an earlier part. And has all this travel been undertaken really just to have a talk to Kate, or is our young author on some sort of a gap-year type of self-educational trip, see the (new) world…?[2]

1 I conjecture, father's agent – he provides funds as well as instructions.
2 He does not appear to lack funds for smart hotels, but travels second-class, at least on board ship.

Anyway, I have transcribed it as it is, for what it's worth.[3] I have preserved the errors and recorded the scored out words and phrases (but not one-letter corrections, of which some). 'Ands' are often abbreviated, not as '&' but as a curly-+, which I have rendered with an α, which is about right – see the reproduction below. Generally the diary lacks paragraphs but where there appears to be a new subject starting after an end-of-line I have similarly provided a new line.



Besides the collection there are cases showing the difference of plumage of certain birds correlating with age, the correspondence of plumage correlating with sex and so on. There is a mummy α a skeleton of the Great Auk, α a cast of the egg, skeletons of the moas, fossils of extinct reptiles etc. α an excellent collection of shells. Three whale skeletons with whale bone on the jaws; and numberless other things of interest. I was glad to find out the names of some Brit. Guiana birds. The university itself is in a very pretty wooded suburb and must be delightful in summer. There is a fine Memorial Hall, containing a large dining hall seating 1000 and a theatre seating 1500. It was erected in memory of Harvard men who died in the Civil war. It has a tower 200ft high. On my way back I looked in at some conservatories in a nursery garden but there was not much to be seen. And at the nat. hist. museum which was still closed, then I strolled about α went into a chinese shop and bought a few things. I thought that the chinee was looking rather glum α it turned out that he had been burgled last night α lost $4000 which accounted for his sad looks poor man. Then I went back to the hotel α packed α out again for some tea before going to the Or station in time for the 6 o'clock train to Fall River. It was a very good train, we went through without a stop getting there at 7.20. As I got out of the train I saw a house at the other end of the platform, but as I got nearer I found it was the boat. When we got on board those that had not a

pages 2 and 3 of the diary: '2'

I have labelled the pages as per the photocopies/ files, so that '2' – above – is in fact pages 2 and 3 of the notebook.

Generally the handwriting is consistent and easy to read with only one or two uncertainties, and some problems with margins on page '12'.

Enjoy!

3 As easy to transcribe while reading it as not, and then perhaps of future interest. Maybe less than I hoped, though, when I started off with it!

Wednesday Oct. 30th. 1895

After breakfast I did a little shopping α then looked in at the Massachusetts historical museum and saw some tea that had washed ashore after having been thrown overboard at the 'Boston tea party'. An oak chair brought over in 'The Mayflower' was not there though the guide book said it was. Then I took a car to the Harvard museum and went through it more thoroughly than yesterday. Besides the flowers there are glass models of marine creatures jelly-fish α sich[sic], things which I have never seen before or imagined. The stuffed animals are of all sizes and kinds from an elephant camel or moose etc to a mouse, and all admirably stuffed α set up. Ditto the birds the hummingbirds especially are lovely they are poised on the wind on wires

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As I got out of the train I saw a house at the other end of the platform, but as I got nearer I found it was the boat.[5] When we got on board those that had not a

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state room went to the purser who took down our names α gave us a berth at least the number of it, mine was number 663 but I believe there is accommodation for over 1000 on board. There are four stories with berths α cabins α a promenade deck on the op. A band discoursed music for a bit but I did not think very much of it.

~~Wednesday 30th.~~
Thursday 31st Oct

I was out on deck at 7·15 just as we were passing under the Brooklyn suspension bridge,[6] a little further on was the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's island[7] we turned off to the right at some distance from it α I could not see it clearly as it was rather misty. When we got tot the wharf I sent my

4 Or thereabouts. 'A 1907 publication gives dimensions of 305 by 113 feet, with a height of 190 feet at the tower; a 2012 source gave a height of 195 feet.' It had been completed seventeen years earlier, in 1878 – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Hall_(Harvard_University)

5 "The Old Fall River Line was the premier operation and operated the most famous night boats on which four generations of New Yorkers traveled between New York and Boston." https://www.newyorksocialdiary.com/the-old-fall-river-line-night-boats-from-new-york-to-boston/ - this is travel worth the experience!

6 This is an early use of the name it came to be known by; opened only twelve years earlier in 1883, 'the span was originally called the New York and Brooklyn Bridge or the East River Bridge but was officially renamed the Brooklyn Bridge in 1915' – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn_Bridge

7 Now Liberty Island: 'Long known as Bedloe's Island, it was renamed by an act of the United States Congress in 1956' – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty_Island

baggage up by Express α took a car in Broadway to the Broadway Central Hotel[8] and secured a room. After “fixing” myself up I went out to look round: bought a guide book α had lunch (3 courses with bread α butter α coffee for 20^{c})
When I came out it was beginning to rain so I went back to my hotel just before it came down in earnest, α studied the guide book. About five though it was still raining I decided to go for a walk α went to Cook’s to enquire about my passage to England. The Cunard line only sails on Saturdays α I can’t get off very well in two days so I shall have to go by the White Star line on Wednesday. I was rather wet when I got back. So I changed α dined at the hotel.

Friday 1st November 1895
I started from Madison square α walked down 5th. Avenue, after looking at the statues α monuments in the square α at Mad. square garden which is at one corner
3

One statue is of David Farragut[9] “the popular naval hero of the Civil War”[10]
There is not much to see in this part of 5th. Avenue, beyond the First Presbyterian church α the “Judge” building at the south end is Washington square into which one passes “under the noble curve of the Centennial Arch”[11] which is rather fine; it commemorates “the centennial celebration of the inauguration of the first president of the United States.” The park at Washington Square has some fine trees in it. Then I took the Elevated railway, which is certainly an immense improvement on the underground railway, to Battery Park at the south end of the town.[12] There used to be a ~~Park~~ battery here long ago. After this the guide book gases at length about Produce, α Coffee, etc exchanges α other business associations which are very fine α large buildings but not of much interest to me
I strolled about looking at them α then went up Broadway, a short way up this is Trinity church which was originally built in 1697, was rebuilt, burnt,[13] built α torn down α finally built again 1846. A little further on is S^{t}. Pauls church, really a chapel of Trinity parish, built in 1764
Almost opposite this ~~is~~ “the motley pile of the Post office rears its huge bulk, with the City Hall in its rear” and in front a square of grass α trees, on the right are some fine buildings, the offices of various papers. I looked in at the P.O. α the City Hall, nothing much to see in either, near the latter is the prison but I could not find it α went and had some lunch after which I went back to the hotel for a rest. Then I went to the Astor library α got a book, but it closed at 4·30 so I went for a walk about the back streets α back to the
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hotel for dinner. It is worth while paying a little more to see the waiters bobbing about. I looked in at Cook’s again to day α find that the Majestic which sails on Wednesday does not take second cabin passengers so I have decided to go by the American line to Southampton. I feel rather feverish to-night owing I suppose to my wetting yesterday.

8 Aiming to be the largest hotel in America, it opened in 1870. ‘The hotel collapsed on August 3, 1973, killing four residents and injuring at least twelve’ – ‘The remains of the hotel were demolished, and New York University subsequently built a 22-story dormitory for law students on the site.’ – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Central_Hotel
9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_David_Farragut_(New_York_City)
10 ‘He is remembered in U.S. Navy tradition for his bold order at the Battle of Mobile Bay, usually abbreviated to "Damn the torpedoes ... full speed ahead."’ – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Farragut
11 This is the Washington Arch - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Square_Arch
12 ‘The Battery Place station was a station on the demolished Ninth Avenue and Sixth Avenue elevated train lines ... it was served by trains from the IRT Sixth Avenue Line and IRT Ninth Avenue Line. It opened June 5, 1883 ... It closed on June 11, 1940.’ The writer may be presumed to have used the Sixth Avenue El, boarding at 8th Street or at Bleeker Street.
13 In the Great New York City Fire of 1776 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_Church_(Manhattan)

Saturday 2nd. Nov.

A dull muggy day hailing in the morning α drizzling the rest of it. I went after breakfast to Cook α then on to 96 α called on Mr. Dittenhoefer, he had been in the country all the week α I had to wait a few minutes before he came in. Then I took a tram to the Central Park α spent most of the day at the natural history museum, a very good one, with an endless collection of birds including many groups with their nests, like those at the South Kensington Museum

They have got a Great Auk in good condition and a skeleton α some bones. There are not many animals. One floor is given up to Ethnology

I walked home to the hotel α after dinner went off to see His Excellency[14] at the Broadway. It was very amusing. They introduced some dancing α songs which I doubt very much were in the original

Sunday 3rd. November

I went to St. George's church[15] in Stuyvesant Square in the morning, ~~they~~ it is a large church with a very good organ α choir. And then went for a long walk over the Brooklyn bridge to Prospect Park[16] in Brooklyn. This is a finely wooded park with large open stretches of pasture, it reminded me

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somewhat of parts of Richmond Park.

There was a musical merry-go-round in full swing there, and in an enclosure were several deer of various kings, peacocks α white turkeys. The principal entrance is from a circular plaza in the centre of which quite separate from everything else is a 'noble memorial arch to the soldiers α sailors of the civil war,' which looks rather absurd. It was nearly 8 o'clock when I got back to the hotel fairly tired. As I came back over the bridge it was dark and the lights of the city α a nearly full moon shining on the water were very pretty. The trees in the Park were almost as full of leaf as ever, autumn appears to be much less advanced than in Canada

Monday 4th.

I went after breakfast to see Mr. Dittenhoefer α received instructions about going to Florida. ~~The~~ He was not in when I went there first, so while waiting till he came in I went up to the top of the Washington building, which is the same as far as I can make out as the Produce exchange.[17] There is a good view from there over water, it is down by the Battery, a most animated scene, directly beneath the building are wide streets with cable-cars, huge waggons and vehicles of all descriptions, rattling along over the cobbles (with which nearly all the streets in New York are paved) on the right is the elevated railroad and Battery station, and further on the water with innumerable tugs, ferrys, steam boats, sailing vessels etc etc going to α fro

at some distance on the right is the Statue of Liberty, and on the left the Brooklyn bridge

Then I went down to the wharfs to see where the American line starts from but I went to the south side instead

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Washington Building as at time of visit

14 Comic opera by W.S.Gilbert (music by F. Osmond Carr), first performed 1894, Broadway run of 88 performances from 14 October 1895: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/His_Excellency_(opera).

15 St George's Episcopal Church is CofE; part of the Parish of Calvary and St George's, its sister church Calvary has rather more history attached to it, as well as being the setting for *The Age of Innocence* – see 'Our Story' on https://www.calvarystgeorges.org/muhlenberg-fund

16 This is about six miles just to get to it.

of the North by mistake. Then back to Mr. D. who was in but busy α I had to wait some time. And then to Cook's to transfer my steamer ticket α get my railway one. I had intended to start South to-night but find I can go cheaper to-morrow, and it is just as well as I am feverish to-night.

Tuesday 5th.

I went to bed directly after supper last night α have got rid of the fever, with the help of quinine. I walked down to the docks on the North side in the morning α then back to the hotel to pack, after going to the post office for a stamp but it was closed (Election day[18]). And left N.Y at 2·10. Crossing to Jersey City by ferry we found the train waiting for us there. The train was a fairly good one. The country through which we passed was chiefly arable and there were shocks[19] of something that looked like Indian corn in the fields. I saw two parties of sportsmen shooting over dogs. Changed at Washington into a sleeping car.

Wednesday 6th.

I had to leave the sleeping car, which was very comfortable, at Hamlet at 8·30 we had breakfast at Monroe about 10, and finally got to Atlanta about 5·45 by their time, 6·45 by Eastern time, at any rate 40 minutes late α I missed to connection to Montgomery and had to wait about till 11·15. Atlanta is a wretched hole at least it appeared so by night; the exhibition is 3 miles from the station; the station is very badly managed, for some reason they took the baggage about ¼ mile down the line again instead of putting it out at the station.
There was a small waiting room there packed with people, I think one train was despatched between 7 α 11 α then they sent off 6 at once. I got some supper α strolled about looking at the shops and whiled away the time somehow till the train started. I took a sleeper
7

to Montgomery which we reached on

Thursday 7th.

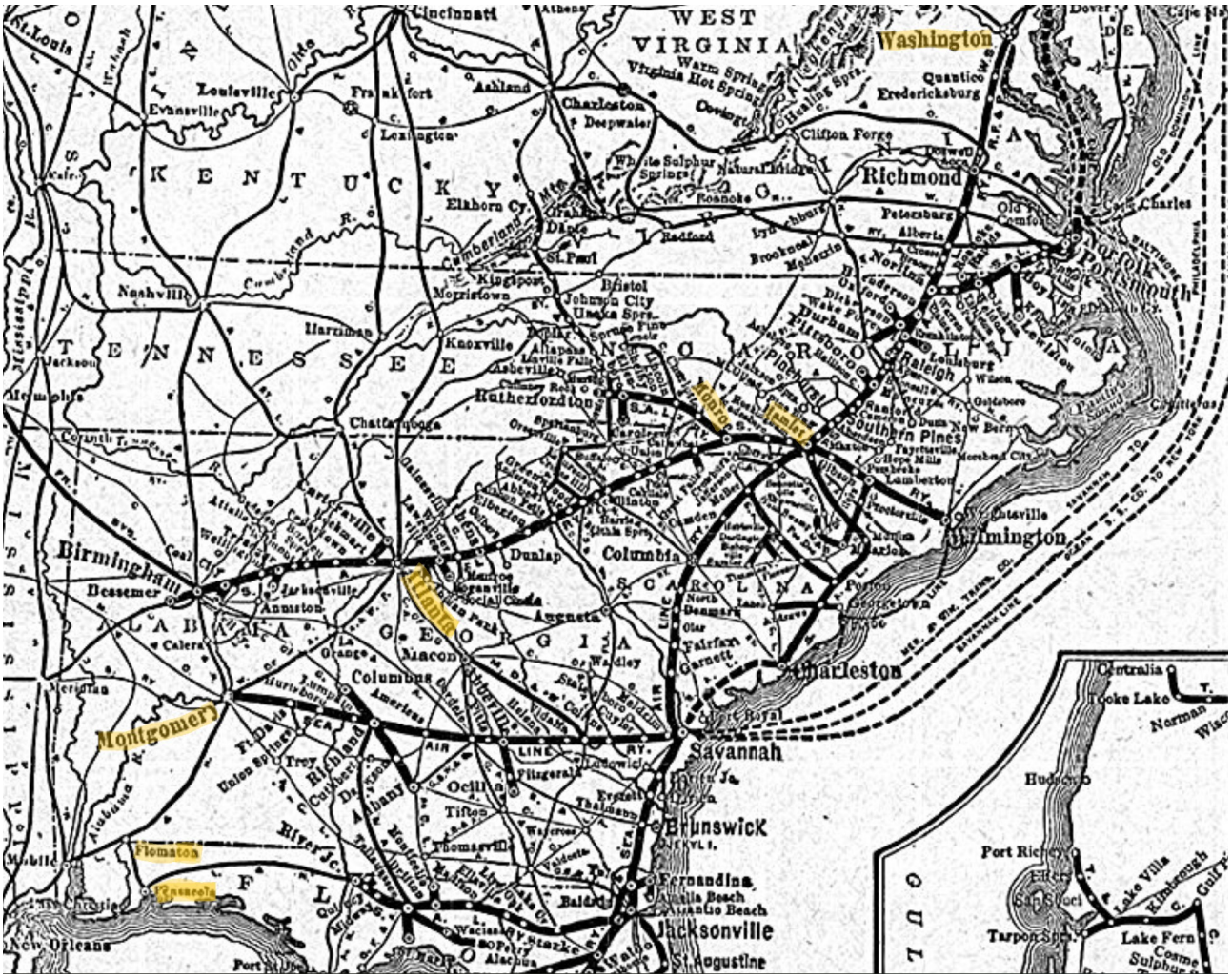
At 6·30 α had to change.

There was a train on at 7·30 which took me as far as Flomaton where I had to change again. I was standing about the station after the train had gone on when the station master told me that the Pensacola train was just going to start. I went where he directed α found a goods train, but on further inspection there proved to be a vestibule car on the end of it. I got in and found 4 other passengers there α we set off
I fancy it was a special as we did not stop anywhere except at one place where we had to wait ¾ hour for another train to pass
After that I went to sleep α woke up just as were getting to Pensacola at 2·45. The country since yesterday morning has been most uninteresting except where there were cotton fields, [cont on p9]

17 It has had many names, now simply '1 Broadway'; it had recently been extended to 13 or 14 floors (depending on how they were counted!) – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_Broadway#Washington_Building

18 'In New York's tenth District, Republican Andrew J. Campbell defeated the incumbent Republican on November 6, 1894, but died before taking office on March 4. His Democratic successor was elected November 5, 1895… Amos J. Cummings (Democratic) 56.59%; Robert A. Greaben (Republican) 37.83%; William J. Browne (Empire State Dem.) 2.97%; Charles G. Teche (Socialist Labor) 1.67%; George Wetham (Prohibition) 0.69%; Edward D. Foote (Populist) 0.26%.' – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1895_United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections

19 'stooks' is intended



Seaboard Air Line Railroad

My route lies through New York – New York to New Jersey – Jersey City to Pennsylvania – Delaware, to ~~Maryland Baltimore~~ Delaware – Wilmington, to Maryland – Baltimore to Washington,??[20] to Virginia Richmond, to N. Carolina – Raleigh and Monroe, to S. Caroline – Abbeyville, to Georgia – Athens α Atlanta, to Alabama Opelika, Montgomery α Flomerton, to Florida – <u>Pensacola</u>.

New York
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Delaware
Maryland
Washington?
Virginia
N α S Carolina
Georgia
Alabama and Florida

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20 The writer is obviously puzzled by the capital ‘Washington’, thinking it ought to be the state too, even clearer from the second list of just-the-states.

I got a boy to carry my bag α show me the way to the Merchants' Hotel,[21] which is about the centre of the town α very comfortable, then I had a wash α brush up α went out to try α cash a cheque but was not successful, so I went to the post office to enquire the way, α then left a note at Kate's address as she was not at home, and went back to the hotel, where she joined me in time for supper. After that we went round to her store where she introduced me to her assistant a very nice young fellow named Biscoe. He joined us in our walk α we went down to the pier where we sat down and talked. It was a fine starlight night, α the water was quite smooth α reflected the lights of several ships anchored in a row at a little distance from the shore; as Kate suggested it was not unlike the view from the docks at home looking towards Exmouth.

The town is situated on the shores of an inland lake with a narrow entrance from the sea. The lake is about 9 miles wide I believe at one place. The two is a pretty rather a nice little place not of much importance in itself but it ships a lot of timber.



The Gilbert Hotel 1939 (formerly Merchants' Hotel)



Corner of Government and Palafox streets, now a parking lot

Friday 8th.

I woke up with a most abominable cold and have been sneezing all day. Kate took a holiday and came round after breakfast to the hotel. We went first to a bank to cash my

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cheque but they would not do it unless it was endorsed by a townsman and they did not know Kate; so we went to her lawyer Mr. Jones, and he would not endorse it but kindly accompanied us to the bank where he knew the clerk α testified to Kate's being a store keeper in the town. It was stupid of Mr. Dittenhoefer to give me such a cheque. Then we went to a harness maker α I had a strap mended α then we went to the only thing there is to see in the town, a monument to combatants in the civil war.[22] It is situated in a sort of square of long coarse grass, at the top of a small hill from which one can see over part of the country round. We sat down on a seat and enjoyed (I did) the warmth, it was like a summerday at home, rather different from New York. After some time we strolled back through the town down to the pier α watched the shipping. I only noticed one decent garden in the place, that was small but bright with chrysanthemums α roses. There were two standard peach trees in the back yard of the hotel. Facing the hotel on one side is the post-office a large white stone building α on the other a square of coarse grass surrounded by low trees. There was a small fishing

21 Until the construction of the San Carlos in 1910 the Merchants' Hotel was the pre-eminent hotel in Pensacola, on the corner of Government and Palafox streets. The building was demolished in 1970 and is now a parking lot.

22 See https://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/Lee_Square: "The monument was dedicated to Jefferson Davis, Stephen R. Mallory, Edward Aylesworth Perry, and "the Uncrowned Heroes of the Southern Confederacy." It was later removed in 2020" and the place reverted to its previous name Florida Square.

boat at the pier with a good sized fish marked liked[sic] a tabby-cat, I think it is appropriately named Catshead. We went back to the hotel for dinner, and then decided to go to the Naval Yard.[23] So we called for Biscoe α went to the track where the train was waiting. The engine was decorated with flags α there was a crowd of gentlemen waiting to board the train. It turned out that there was going to be what they called a 'free chowder' at
10

the yard i.e. a special[24] meeting with soup handed round to commemorate the establishment of a direct line of steamships to Liverpool. Finally we set off amidst cheers α excitement. The track runs along the sea beach most of the way, sometimes through the prevailing scraggy pine woods where golden-rod is in a blaze just now. After about 7 or 8 miles we came to the yard α got off. We thought of following the other people in α getting some chowder but concluded that it would be too ignominious if we were chucked out so proceeded to inspect the yard. It was decidedly feeble, but was protected on all sides by a high stone-wall as if they thought a lot of it. In a dry dock at present full of water there were a lot of mullet visible in the clear water α some small oysters
[bottom line lost on original – also some edge words on next section, though some guessable]
and shell α shot lying about. At another place were anchors of all sizes from the Irishman's pick downwards, and at another buoys of various descriptions, bell, whistling, etc There were a lot of good sized buildings which appear to be empty and some rather neat little houses occupied by the captain in charge α other officials, at one a tame squirrel was jumping about. Then we strolled back to the gate which was car[edge lost] locked so we examined a park of guns which I suppose were for firing a salute. I don't they would be much use for aught else. At last they opened the gate α we went back to town getting in at dusk and went to the hotel for supper. After that we went for a stroll about the place, went to the store where they gave me some books, α then back to the hotel where Kate α I had a long talk
[bottom line lost on original]
11

round soon after 10 and they walked up with me to the station to see me off.

Saturday 9th.

I took a sleeper as far as Montgomery ~~where we had breakfast~~ α then changed to a vestibule car, and arrived at Atlanta about 12. I left my bags in the cloak-room α had some lunch α then took a tram to the exhibition, or exposition as they call it, of the cotton states. Of course there was a lot of cotton, the chief other exhibit was fruit of which there were some very fine specimens, mostly pickled. I paid attention to the West Florida exhibit at Kate's request, it was prettily festooned with a moss which grows on trees α kills them if allowed to.[25] Besides the usual fruit α grain there were some stuffed alligators α a rattlesnake skin, α I did not know they grew to such a length. There was such a jolly little crabdog there, coon they call it,[26] just the size of mine, and quite tame, he came up α [illeg], he let me pat him α me.[27] There weere some interesting exhibits in machinery, locomotives α rolling stock, I like the English engines better, woods, marbles α stones etc, and the usual side-shows including a ferris wheel. ~~My~~ I was feeling rather ill with my cold etc. They lighted up when it got dark it was very pretty, whole rows of lights suddenly sprang out along the outlines of the various buildings. There were going to be fireworks later on but I could not wait for them α went back to town had some tea α caught my train on at 7·45.

23 See https://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/Pensacola_Navy_Yard
24 This could be 'speech'.
25 This is presumably Spanish Moss, and its tree-killing nature has been reconsidered: https://www.homesandgardens.com/gardens/does-spanish-moss-kill-trees
26 I think this is a 'crab-eating racoon', see https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Procyon_cancrivorus/
27 'came up α [illeg]' has been marked to be before the patting, but the whole sentence is unfixed.

12

Sunday 10th November

A dull day raining most of the time α much colder as we get north; we stopped three times for 20 mins. for meals. I miscalculated I was reckoning on getting to New York at 6·35 this evening

Monday 11th.

We reached N.Y. at 8 and I went up to the Broadway Central for a change then got some breakfast α went to see Mr. Dittenhoefer and reported to him. Then to Cooks to see about my ticket after which I did not do much more as I was not feeling well

Tuesday 12th.

I went to breakfast α then started to walk up Fifth Avenue but I felt too ill α went back to the hotel. In the afternoon I went out α got some books α expressed them α my heavy baggage
Then I went to the elevated railway α travelled up α down it till tea time.

Wednesday 13th - 20th

I was down at the dock by a quarter to nine α for the next hour was rushing about looking for baggage. At last about it[sic] 10 o'clock it strolled in in a cart by itself though I had expressed it on Tuesday afternoon, I suppose it had been forgotten. Then I rushed up to the post office α back to the steamer α we finally started about 11·15, one tug butting α one hauling us out from the wharf. We passed rather close to the statue of Liberty, leaving Brooklyn on the left. We began to pitch up α down almost immediately with the usual result. I have rather close quarters, 3 others in the cabin a Swiss, a Frenchman α a German. There are a good many foreigners on board, one
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Swede sits opposite me at table who is rather comical, he does not know much English α studies the menu with the aid of a dictionary; he uses his knife as I should a spoon α hasn't cut himself yet I believe. He plays a very fair game of whist.
We began to roll on Saturday, one man opposite me got a milk jug into his lap. Sunday morning was sunny α the sea looked very fine, the huge rollers tipped with white foam α the sun shining on them. There was service in the first saloon in the morning conducted by the captain. Tuesday we began to roll a little less α Wednesday is comparatively smooth, we were off the Scillys at 2 and Land'send at 3·20.
There are about 70 second class passengers α 87 first. The second class is very comfortable α the food very good. We have breakfast at 8 dinner at 1 α meat tea at 5·30.
Biscuits α cheese in the evening. The
last two or three days there has been singing in the evening in the saloon. This is not very first rate as a rule
On Tuesday there was a concert in the first saloon which was very good. One man recited remarkably well. We are going to have one in the second saloon this evening. There is one awful ass on board who imagines he is a really first class singer α delights in obliging the company, which delights in urging him to make an exhibition of himself. He does not know a note, but keeps on without appearing to notice the catcalls α cheers which resound through the room. There have been gulls following the steamer all the way, sometimes quite a flock of them, they come up quite close. We have averaged 417 miles for the days run, and gain about 40 mins a day
14

Illustrations:

pages 2 and 3 of the diary: '2'

Washington Building as at time of visit
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_Broadway

Seaboard Air Line Railroad
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0e/SAL_map_1916.jpg

The Gilbert Hotel 1939 (formerly Merchants' Hotel)
https://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/Merchants%27_Hotel

Corner of Government and Palafox streets, now a parking lot
Google Streetview, Pensacola