

Thames we packed everything ready to disembark at Tilbury landing stage. It was too short a trip to really enjoy it to the full. However the workers have had a very jolly time and would have much to talk about for many, although they work for a shipping firm have never even been aboard a Company ship before. We eventually docked at Tilbury and were taken by bus to Fenchurch Street where we all debussed and the workers no doubt returned to their desks etc.

Lorna and I took a taxi and returned to the Regent Palace where we had reserved accommodation.

Lorna now carries on. "It was a lovely bright room. We have the childrens photos with us and while I unpacked Geoff went out and bought a vase and some daffodils and with our beige curtains or rather beige and gold curtains and bedspreads and dark brown carpet our room looks charming. Geoff is at present sitting in an easy chair reading the morning paper and I am sitting at the desk writing. The heaters are on and with that and soft music on the wireless all most pleasant.

I took old Colonel Ellenbergers to be rebristled by the jewellers in Regent Street. Mapin and Web. Grandad as we call him ~~was~~ is a retired ~~Major~~ Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland but retired in 1927. (he died early this year 1974 at the good old age of 102 having been pensioned for longer than he worked, A grand old man with a wonderful memory - Geoff). From the jewellers we got the story of the brush as it had been bought from them years ago. 'The Joshua Reynolds Choir'. Was made in Birmingham in 1905 and Hall Marked in Cheshire this was all revealed from the markings on the brush. I suppose these jewellers have their private codes. Originally a couple of years before 1905 the things were made in Chester of a heavier and more solid silver. Grandad will get a shock when he hears the price £3-15- but as it is of sentimental value I am sure he will not mind. Lorna continues about her shopping which I am sure she enjoys. "I have been to all the shops Peter Robinson, Swan and Edgar, Libertys etc to buy a costume. I am alarmed as I am always led to the section for the fuller figure but although they were very persevering I bought nothing, but I enjoyed myself and finally decided to leave it till later. While Geoff was away seeing the A.A. about planning a trip for- we using our own car of course- I saw in a shop in ~~St. Pauls~~ <sup>St. Pauls</sup>bury Avenue the very dress I wanted but unfortunately it was too small. The proprietor was very kind and phoned the factory but they cannot do me one in the same cloth but are sending patterns and samples which I can see tomorrow. The blow is that one has to pay dearly for a fuller figure. The smaller one was £7-17-6 and if one is made for you of great bulk the cost is as much as £11 or £12. Geoff and I are most unfortunate in being so large and although Geoff takes great care of his clothes they get shabby and we have to pay much more than sylph like beings do!"

Lorna having had her say I will carry on for a while. and say of the thing time I had hanging round the shops looking at ~~these~~ dresses and womens good in which I was not very interested. The worst was in the hat department where there was a sale of hats and there were hundreds. I watched women walking round trying on hats but one had to be careful not to leave your own too handy for some person to fancy it is one of the sale hats and you hat would vanish. This reminds me of the story the manager of an East London-S.A.- told me of an experience they had during a sale of shoes, ladies. The women would sit down and be handed a couple of boxes of shoes to try on. Well later they were going through their stock and found several boxes with old shoes in. Apparently a lady would decide that there was nothing to suit and hand back two boxes in one her old shoes

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