

We wondered whether people in Newcastle ever see the sun. We drove straight along the main street which is cobble all the way and the car moves over it giving the sound of a train going through a long tunnel. We went straight on to Gosforth and stopped there for tea. Here I bought a thick skirt, the one I was wearing was too light and I also got a pair of woolly pants, which I am now wearing. The country from here seemed to change from the industrial country to softer open areas. It was raining hard all the time and so when we reached Alnwick, in Northumberland, we stopped for lunch. It is a very pretty little town and very historical with its Alnwick Castle after which one of the Union-Castle ships was named. We were rather glad of the stop for had we gone straight through, or bypassed, we should have missed Alnwick Castle, which belongs to the Duke of Northumberland and looks a very fine imposing Castle. This will be open to the public sometime in May at a charge of 2/6d each and it is surprising how much is collected in this way from various estates and gardens open to the public. The money goes into a dilapidation fund, which the owners of these Estates are allowed to draw providing the amount is used for the general repairs and upkeep. In this way places of historical interest are preserved.

We, eventually, arrived at Sea Houses, at about three. It is a delightful little fishing village and here Edward and Eileen have rented, for a year, a very nice house on the cliff, which is called 'Cliff House'. Living here Eileen says has been a year's holiday. The sea today looks stormy and dark and not far out one can see small islands and on past the dunes to the West is Banburgh Castle, which also has a Union-Castle ship, named after it. This is a delightful place and the house large and comfortable.

They have three little boys: Peter, Robin and Guy all such sweet lads which makes me quite homesick for our own sweeties.

14th April Friday and Geoff's birthday and I must admit that until I read Edith's letter a short while before breakfast I had forgotten about it and wonder Geoff had not reminded me. It has been a nice sunny day but the sun has no strength.

Eileen had suggested that we have breakfast in bed and I did not demur, as when we have visitors at home I like them to have it in bed, which keeps them out of the way, while I do my early morning chores. Yes I prefer people to be out of the way at that time as there is then always such a bustle and hustle. Geoff took the two older boys for a walk and after I had done the room followed them. This is a typical little village and reminds me of Jersey. After morning tea we went out onto the rocks and I tried a bit of sketching, the subject being Banbury Castle, now a ruin I should think, but the sketch was not a success as apart from having a child's drawing book in which the paper is inferior I tried to take in too much. The skipper of the fishing boat, John Wesley, has bud of Geoff and he very kindly, today, brought us two crabs and a lobster which have been duly cooked and we are having them for supper. The boys had great fun as these crabs got out of the pail and they had to chase them all round the kitchen.

I don't think these fishermen get a fair deal as we are told that they get 4/- a stone and there are 8 crabs to a stone, all of which have to be carefully packed in ice not to be damaged or killed. For these same crabs one, in London, has to be two to three

shillings each. We saw two children wading in the water for hours this morning, in spite of the cold, which they must have felt, collecting winkles for which they get 2/- a pound and that is their pocket money. The fishermen go out in their boats and set lobster pots baited in the sea. These are left for a day or so before being collected together with the crabs or lobsters. The crabs are lured into the wire like pots.

The islands are the Farn Islands of Grace Darling fame on which all sorts of sea birds nest amongst them: Eider Duck, Arctic Tern, Cormorants, Oyster Catchers, Plovers, Gulls, Puffins etc.

We are so close that we can watch them from our windows through

Glasses/