

Grace Darling, the lighthouse keeper's daughter, who during a terrific storm saw a ship in distress and she took the lifeboat and rowed in that sea, a brave girl who rescued members of the crew who would otherwise certainly have drowned. This happened from the lighthouse on one of these Farne Islands. The lighthouse is manned by three keepers who do two months on and one month off and during their two-month spell they are not allowed ashore. There were at one time only two keepers but this was changed when one went mad which left all the work to one man. Now there are of course always two men on the island lighthouse. Once a week a provision boat goes out to the lighthouse.

After lunch we went into Berwick to pick up Edward who had arrived there at 3pm from Edinburgh which he had left at 1.30. We passed through Banburgh and quite close to the old castle, a lovely old place stretching down to the sea. The Castle is in pretty good preservation and practically all parts are let. Banburgh is a fashionable seaside resort where there are a number of cottages owned by the titled and rich people. Peter and Robin came along with us and they were thrilled with the old de Soto, the magic car, as they called it. The Cheviot Hills looked magnificent all covered in snow.

15th Sunday and Lorna thought she was going to have a rest from writing and have a good sleep in the afternoon but unfortunately I went for a walk down to the little harbour and met my fishing skipper of the John Wesley and he said as he was taking a few folk round the islands he would like us to join them. When I met him in the morning he was all dressed up in his Sunday best and told me he was going to church, as he was a member of the church fisherman's choir. I had a long chat and he told me all about their fishing. They go out to place their crab traps - a sort of wicker basket baited with bits of fish. He talked about the crabs walking so it may be that they study the tides and the crabs 'Walking' may be that they come in with the tide from the deeper waters. He showed me the barrels in which they pack the crabs in ice, ready for transportation to the nearest good market

Well, Lorna has had a good night's sleep and so she can go on with the story of our trip round the islands. The wind was fresh and the sea choppy, the spray coming over the side where Edward and Geoff sat and they got a bit wet but fortunately they had brought Macs. We skirted the seal island and saw hundreds of seals of all colours and sizes bobbing about in the water like a lot of old men. Their island is virtually under water at high tide and I should hate to be dropped into that lot. Sunday is the fisherman's day of rest as they do not put out the pots on that day and so he was able to take us on this trip but naturally they make a small charge to cover their expenses and a bit more. Well we passed this island quite closely but the seals took no notice of us. We next called at the lighthouse island where we went ashore and climbed the lighthouse which was bombed and badly damaged during the war, but as repairs seem to take a long time workmen were still busy repairing the damage. As already mentioned it was from here that Grace Darling made her gallant rescue of members of a stricken ship. We again stopped at a small island on which there was a small chapel, which is open during the summer months. This chapel in which there was a font and a coffin was built in 1350 and the skipper told us that if the ground under the chapel were excavated bodies of Monks would be found. There were a number of rabbits, black, grey and faun who scampered out of our way as we walked along. From the highest point of the island we looked down the cliffs and saw hundreds of kityhawks sitting on their nests and it looked as though a puff of wind would blow them into the sea below. On another island we saw Puffins, pretty little birds which looked like small parrots. They, we are told, nest in holes in the ground, probably rabbit holes. On another were millions of birds perched high up on tall pillars of rock from where we saw

Many of them/